



UTAH STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

Zoom Meeting

<https://usu.zoom.us/j/83660265690?pwd=bmfPRHgvFo4KUEiiagmh3naLS3tnC.1>

Meeting ID: 836 6026 5690

Passcode: 679249

March 6, 2026 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Mission: The mission and purpose of the Utah Student Association (USA) is to:

- Represent the interests and preserve the rights of the students of higher education in the State of Utah.
- Work with various government entities to initiate positive changes and be a voice for the students.
- Foster the educational goals and promote citizenship and civic responsibilities among students.
- Advocate for the students!

Term Vision: One Utah. One Voice is a united effort to increase visibility, promote transparency, and strengthen student unity across every college campus in Utah.

9:00 AM

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

9:00 AM - 9:05 AM

1. Welcome (5 min)

- 1.1 Call to Order: President Sorensen
- 1.2 Vocal Roll Call: Chief of Staff Ward
- 1.3 Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

9:05 AM - 9:15 AM

2. USHE Report (15 min)

- Garrett Largent - If needed

9:15 AM

3. Public Forum

4. New Business

- Capitol Visit Discussion (Day on the Hill recap)
- USHE Student Fee Topic

9:30 AM - 9:50 AM

5. Committee Updates (15 min)

- 4.1 Vice Chair
 - Presenter: Kyle Cullimore
 - 4.1.1 Budget Report - Unchanged
 - 4.1.2 Utah Higher Ed Roundtable
- 4.2 Statewide Initiatives Subcommittee
 - Student Fee Project - If not covered in New Business
- 4.3 Student Communications Subcommittee
- 4.4 Government Relations Subcommittee
 - Legislative & Policy Updates if not covered in NB

9:50 AM - 10:00 AM

6. Old Business

- Reminders USA Officer Transition/Training
 - **April 7th-8th (Mandatory Dates)**
 - Incoming/Outgoing Presidents (Transition Material)
 - USHE Student Board Member Interviews
 - Review and Rank UBHE Student Applicants

-- Adjournment --

Follow up on campus cup - voter turnout competition for student government elections

USA Presidents Meeting Minutes

Date: Not specified in transcript

Location: Virtual Meeting

Chair: Brandon Sorensen

Minutes Recorded By: Brooklyn Ward

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brandon Sorensen.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Brooklyn Ward.

Present:

- BYU – Caleb Rogers
- Snow College – Carson Hadley
- University of Utah – Spencer Poll
- Utah State University – Brandon Sorensen
- Utah Tech University – Shellsea R.F.
- Utah Valley University – Kyle Cullimore
- Weber State University – Mia Foster
- Westminster University – Max Gutierrez

Not Present:

- Salt Lake Community College

Additional attendees included Garrett Largent.

3. USHE Report

Presented by: Garrett Largent

Key updates included:

- An acting president for Utah Valley University has been named.
- The current president will begin transitioning responsibilities to the acting president, with a full transition expected by May 1.
- Discussion around regional horizontal and vertical integration legislation sponsored by Representative Karen Peterson, which was strongly supported by the Board of Higher Education and the Commissioner.
- The legislative session is nearing its conclusion, with activity expected to settle down soon.

No questions were raised following the report.

4. New Business

Capitol Visit Discussion

The body discussed feedback regarding the Day on the Hill / Capitol Visit.

Positive Feedback

Members highlighted several successful aspects:

- Valuable relationship-building with legislators and the Governor's office.
- Strong opportunity for student body presidents to engage with government relations staff.
- One-on-one meetings with representatives and senators were beneficial.
- Lunch discussion with the Commissioner and Representative Peterson provided valuable insight.

Suggestions for Improvement

Recommendations for future events included:

- Distributing pre-reading materials earlier, particularly legislative audits.
- Providing clear talking points in advance.
- Ensuring earlier coordination with government relations staff.
- Scheduling meetings with legislators earlier to avoid last-minute scheduling challenges.
- Continued involvement of the Commissioner's Office in planning future visits.

Overall, the event was viewed as a successful initiative that should continue annually.

5. Student Fee Report (USHE Topic)

Presented by: Carson Hadley and Brandon Sorensen

A report comparing student fees across institutions was presented.

Key Points

- A compiled spreadsheet and bar chart report analyzed student fee structures across institutions.
- Utah State showed the largest decrease, due to two major fees being moved into tuition.
- Comparisons were provided between:
 - 2025–2026 current fees
 - 2026–2027 proposed fees

Fee Categories Analyzed

The report included breakdowns for:

- Student Activities / Programs Fees
- Athletics Fees
- Campus Recreation Fees
- Arts Fees

Institutional Update

- Weber State indicated their final student fee increase has not yet been finalized, with possible increases between 2.5%–3.3% pending legislative decisions.

The report will be distributed to presidents once updates are finalized.

6. Truth in Tuition Discussions

Members shared experiences from their respective Truth in Tuition hearings.

Common Observations

- Student attendance was generally low across institutions.
- Many students initially expressed confusion about tuition increases.

Common Student Concerns

Students questioned:

- The necessity of tuition increases
- Funding allocations
- Athletic fee increases

After explanations regarding legislative matching requirements and employee benefit costs, many students were more understanding.

Engagement Strategies Discussed

Ideas for improving participation included:

- Social media promotion
 - Campus marketing campaigns
 - Livestreaming the hearing
 - Creating dedicated websites with:
 - recordings
 - meeting minutes
 - feedback submission forms
 - Hosting additional hearings if students felt they were not adequately informed
 - Tabling events with giveaways to spark conversations
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7. Committee Updates

Budget Update

Presented by: Kyle Cullimore

- No changes to the budget.
 - All accounts remain balanced and accounted for.
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8. Higher Education Roundtable

Officer Compensation Discussion

Carson Hadley asked how student government officers are compensated across institutions.

Responses included:

- Student fees funding stipends or scholarships
- Tuition waivers
- Hybrid compensation structures

Utah State noted that:

- Most officer funding comes from student fees
 - The student body president position is funded by the President's Office
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9. Transition Planning Discussion

Members shared strategies for ensuring continuity during leadership transitions.

Suggested Practices

- Creating transition binders with key processes and institutional knowledge
- Hosting transition retreats for incoming and outgoing officers
- Developing training modules (e.g., Canvas modules) covering:
 - financial procedures
 - legislation writing
 - leadership responsibilities
- Including incoming leaders in meetings with administrators before their term begins
- Providing both documentation and personal mentorship

These strategies help preserve institutional knowledge and reduce disruptions during leadership turnover.

10. Old Business

USA Officer Training & Transition

- Scheduled for April 7–8.
- Attendance is mandatory for current and incoming presidents.

Student Regent Board Member Interviews

Members were reminded to:

- Review applicant materials sent by Taylor Adams
- Submit preliminary ratings by the specified deadline

Rooming Assignments

Presidents were asked to submit the gender of incoming presidents to assist with hotel room assignments for the training event.

11. Student Election Engagement Discussion

Carson Hadley asked about tracking student voter turnout in campus elections.

Discussion included:

- Possible comparison of student government election turnout across institutions
- Mention of the Governor's Office Campus Cup, which tracks registered voter participation in statewide elections.

Members expressed interest in exploring ways to increase student engagement in campus elections.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Kyle Cullimore

Second: Mia Foster

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.
