

**MINUTES OF THE  
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
September 12, 2022, 12:00 Noon  
Utah Retirement Office  
Hybrid Meeting**

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**Council Members Participating in Person:**

Ms. Sheri Nelson, Chairperson, Utah Public Employees' Association  
Ms. Amy Ehresman, Utah School Employees' Association  
Ms. Sandy Gustaveson, Utah Public Employees' Association  
Sr. Trooper Arlow Hancock, Utah Peace Officers' Association  
Mr. Brad Hardesty, Utah Association of Retired Public Employees  
Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' Association  
Mr. Marty Peterson, Professional Firefighters of Utah

**Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:**

Mr. Rod Hurd, Utah Education Association  
Mr. Dan Jessen, Utah Association of Counties  
Ms. Tina McMullin, Utah Education Association  
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council

**Excused:**

Mr. LeGrand Bitter, Utah Association of Special Service Districts  
Mr. Jamie Davidson, Vice Chairperson, Utah League of Cities & Towns  
Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

**Staff Participating in Person:**

Mr. Dan Andersen, Executive Director  
Mr. Ryan Ashcraft, Retirement Planning Director  
Mr. Mark Cain, Deputy Executive Director  
Mr. Kory Cox, URS Association and Stakeholder Liaison  
Ms. Liza Eves, Senior Associate General Counsel  
Mr. James Hammer, Employer Services Director  
Mr. Dee Larsen, General Counsel  
Mr. Chet Loftis, PEHP Director  
Ms. LuAnn Miskin, Executive Assistant  
Ms. Stacey Nielsen, Retirement Benefits Director  
Mr. Craige Stone, Defined Contribution Director

**Staff Participating via Video Conferencing:**

Mr. Chet Loftis, PEHP Director

**Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:**

Jason Putnam, Professional Firefighters of Utah

**Welcome**

Chairperson Sheri Nelson called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and welcomed Council members and staff. New Council member, Sandy Gustaveson, representing UPEA, introduced herself.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Sheri Nelson asked for approval of the May 13, 2022, Membership Council Spring Workshop minutes.

**ACTION:** Mr. Brad Hardesty moved, seconded by Mr. Larry Millward, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2022, Membership Council Spring Workshop. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Report from Member Organizations**

Chairperson Sheri Nelson asked the Council members for a report from their organizations or employers.

Chairperson Sheri Nelson stated that she had nothing to report but mentioned that she has heard of some federal interest on retirement issues.

Sr. Trooper Arlow Hancock stated that he had nothing to report.

Mr. Rod Hurd stated that he had nothing to report.

Ms. Amy Ehresman stated that she had nothing to report.

Mr. Dan Jessen stated that he had nothing to report.

Mr. Marty Peterson reported that they have had some meetings with URS staff over the summer months.

Ms. Tina McMullin stated that she had nothing to report.

Mr. Brad Hardesty stated that he had nothing to report.

Mr. Larry Millward stated that he had nothing to report but asked about what the percentage of retirees were for each retirement option. Mr. Mark Cain responded that he would show Mr. Millward where that information is found in the financial reports.

Judge Kara Pettit stated that she had nothing to report.

## **Election of Officers**

Chairperson Sheri Nelson opened the floor for nominations for election of officers.

Mr. Larry Millward nominated Mr. Marty Peterson as Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Brad Hardesty. Mr. Larry Millward moved nominations cease and Mr. Peterson be appointed by acclamation. The motion passed.

Mr. Marty Peterson nominated Ms. Amy Ehresman as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Arlow Hancock. Mr. Larry Millward moved nominations cease and Ms. Ehresman be appointed by acclamation. The motion passed.

Mr. Larry Millward, Mr. Arlow Hancock, and Mr. Brad Hardesty expressed interested and willingness to serve on the Executive Committee. Mr. Marty Peterson moved that all three be appointed by acclamation. The motion passed.

The new Executive Committee consists of Mr. Marty Peterson, Ms. Amy Ehresman, Mr. Larry Millward, Mr. Arlow Hancock, and Mr. Brad Hardesty.

## **2023 Legislation Preview**

Mr. Dee Larsen briefly addressed federal retirement tax bills affecting WEP, RMD, public safety and firefighter retirees. He then reviewed the annual URS Amendment bill and reported on some of the discussion items from the stakeholder group that he and Mr. Kory Cox were a part of during the summer.

- Public Employees system
  - Tier 2 enhancement to increase the multiplier up to 1.72%. This proposal would allow retirees to receive a retirement benefit of 60% of final average salary with 35 years of service.
- PS/FF possible enhancements
  - All FF's in Tier 1
  - DB death benefits for members without a spouse
  - Gap time between start of Tier 2 and 2020 when the multiplier was changed to 2%
  - Retirees return to work restriction changes
  - Exception to 10% cap on annual wage increases
  - Employer supplemental benefits
  - Emergency medical service providers in PS/FF retirement

## **Preliminary Contribution Rates for July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024**

Mr. Dan Andersen reviewed the process of setting contribution rates, next year's contribution rates, and preliminary contribution rates for the 2023-2024 fiscal year that were approved by the URS Board of Directors on August 11, 2022. The 2022-2023 contribution rates will be the same as this year. With the upcoming experience study, it is possible that the assumed rate of return will be decreased. This would affect Tier 2 employees across the systems and would require some portion of the contribution rates to be paid out of pocket.

## **Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Mr. Larry Millward moved, seconded by Mr. Brad Hardesty to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be October 3, 2022, at noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.