

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 2022, 12:00 Noon
Utah Retirement Office
Hybrid Meeting**

Council Members Participating in Person:

Mr. Marty Peterson, Chairperson, Professional Firefighters of Utah
Mr. Jamie Davidson, Utah League of Cities & Towns
Ms. Amy Ehresman, Vice Chairperson, Utah School 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. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:

Ms. Sandy Gustaveson, Utah Public Employees' Association
Mr. Rod Hurd, Utah Education Association
Mr. Dan Jessen, Utah Association of Counties
Ms. Sheri Nelson, Utah Public Employees' Association

Excused: Mr. LeGrand Bitter, Utah Association of Special Service Districts
Ms. Tina McMullin, Utah Education Association
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council

Staff Participating in Person:

Mr. Dan Andersen, Executive 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
Ms. LuAnn Miskin, Executive Assistant
Ms. Stacey Nielsen, Retirement Benefits Director

Staff Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. Craige Stone, Defined Contribution Director

Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. Jason Putman, Professional Firefighters of Utah

Welcome

Chairperson Marty Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guest.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Marty Peterson asked for approval of the November 7, 2022, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

ACTION: Ms. Amy Ehresman moved, seconded by Mr. Brad Hardesty, to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2022, Membership Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Member Organizations

Chairperson Marty Peterson asked the Council members for a report from their organizations. Firefighters are not pushing any pension legislation. They are supporting their committee approved bill regarding cancer.

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

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

Ms. Sheri Nelson stated that they are trying to keep people happy with working mandatory overtime.

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

Mr. Larry Millward stated that he had some questions from retirees regarding divorce. Do the courts send URS a copy of the DRO? The answer is no. When is a non-member divorced spouse eligible for retirement pension benefits? The answer is when the member spouse retires, and a separate application is received by URS. Members are encouraged to call the Retirement Benefits and the Savings Plans departments with retirement and savings plans questions. He also asked about news reports of prisons having a hard time recruiting employees and rumors that they may start recruiting retirees.

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

Mr. Dan Jessen stated that he had nothing to report. However, he has taken a new job and this meeting, or the next, will be his last.

Ms. Sandy Gustaveson stated that she had nothing to report.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme stated that he had nothing to report regarding pension items. He recently visited with some northern Utah superintendents about postretirement reemployment issues. He realized that there is a great need for on-going education, specifically for postretirement reemployment, and retirement in general.

Mr. Jamie Davidson stated that they are focused on recruitment and retention and being an advocate for local governments to have the means to hire and provide benefits to employees today.

2023 Legislation Preview

Mr. Dee Larsen and Mr. Kory Cox reviewed some of the items discussed at the November 15, 2022, Retirement and Independent Entities Interim Committee meeting. The URS technical amendment bill was reviewed and unanimously approved. The Committee also discussed a proposed rule change allowing the committee to meet past November. A report titled, *Costs for Potential 2023 Retirement (Defined Benefit/Pension) Reform Bills* was prepared by URS at the request of the Committee to answer questions about policy changes and resulting costs.

Director's Report

Mr. Dan Andersen followed up on Mr. Woolstenhulme's comments about the extreme need to educate on retirement issues, especially postretirement reemployment. He expressed appreciation for the Council members and their efforts to take information back to their associations, employers, and employees. He reminded Council members that URS has employees whose specific duties include one-on-one and group presentations and education for members and stakeholders.

Self-Funded, Self-Administered Life Insurance Program

Mr. Mark Cain reviewed Board Resolution #2022-02 Self-Funded, Self-Administered Life Insurance Program for Retirees and Their Spouses that was approved by the Board on November 10, 2022 and will be effective on January 1, 2023. This resolution increases the insurance coverage amounts from \$3,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000 to \$5,000, \$15,000, and \$25,000 with a reduced benefit if death occurs within three years. No medical questions or physical examinations are required for this life insurance program.

Other Business

Sr. Trooper Arlow Hancock discussed how employers can encourage employees to postpone their retirement. How do employers incentivize people to stay? Retention is a real issue. Discussion followed.

Adjournment

ACTION: Mr. Larry Millward moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be January 9, 2023, at noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.