

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
January 8, 2024, 12:00 Noon
Utah Retirement Office
Hybrid Meeting**

Council Members Participating in Person:

Mr. Marty Peterson, Chair, Professional Firefighters of Utah
Ms. Amy Ehresman, Vice-Chair, Utah School Employees' Association
Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' Association
Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:

Ms. Heather Anderson, Utah Association of Special Service Districts
Mr. Jamie Davidson, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Ms. Sheri Dearden, Utah Association of Counties
Mr. Rod Hurd, Utah Education Association
Ms. Anna Lewin, Utah Education Association
Ms. Sandy Gustaveson, Utah Public Employees' Association
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council

Guests Participating in Person:

Mr. Jason Putman, Professional Firefighters of Utah

Excused: Mr. Brad Hardesty, Utah Association of Retired Public Employees
Ms. Tina McMullin, Utah Education Association
Mr. Scott Wilberger, Utah Peace Officers' Association

Staff Participating in Person:

Mr. Dan Andersen, Executive Director
Mr. Ryan Ashcraft, Retirement Planning Director
Mr. Daniel Boster, Savings Plan 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. Stacey Nielsen, Retirement Benefits Director
Ms. Stacie Petersen, Executive Assistant

Staff Participating via Video Conferencing:

Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:

Ms. Debra Valentine, State Division of Human Resource Management
Mr. Brandon Wolf, Utah School Employees' Association

Welcome

Chair Marty Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Peterson asked for approval of the December 4, 2023, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Amy Ehresman moved, seconded by Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023, Membership Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Member Organizations

Chair Marty Peterson asked Council members to provide a report from their organizations. He stated the Professional Firefighters of Utah have talked about reemployment efforts and have expressed concerns. They are participating in Firefighter Cancer Awareness this month.

Ms. Heather Anderson reported the Association of Special Districts Board of Trustees is meeting on Thursday. Of concern is Senate Bill 34 which in part states public safety employees will not receive credit toward their retirement if they are on modified duty. She asked for URS' clarification, and Mr. Dee Larsen stated the new language is consolidation and clarification on existing law – not a change in law.

Ms. Sheri Dearden stated counties, like cities, are watching financial issues with that being their main concern.

Mr. Rod Hurd reported their biggest concern with the upcoming legislative session is payroll deductions.

Ms. Anna Lewin reported that Mr. Kory Cox presented to their presidents, where they learned how to help their new members on Tier 2 questions.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme reported the Utah School Board Association state conference and business administrators met with post-retirement employment still being something they are advocating for.

Ms. Sandy Gustaveson gave an account of a member getting close to retirement that attended an hour-long retirement planning meeting and felt it was not long enough to cover her questions. Mr. Ryan Ashcraft said she could sign up for more than one one-hour long session for additional help.

Mr. Jamie Davidson reported that the perceived tightening of the economy is driving some concern within respective cities this year. They are watching legislation this year that will have significant fiscal notes tied to them and are trying to determine how legislation will impact them financially.

2024 Legislation Report

Mr. Dee Larsen reported the legislative session runs from January 16 – March 1, 2024. There are only two retirement bills that are numbered - Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 60.

Discussion continues on post-retirement reemployment exceptions. Mr. Dee Larsen reminded everyone that as we get into the legislative session and questions come up to reach out before the next meeting.

Director's Report

Mr. Dan Andersen reported that between 2022 and 2023, retirement applications decreased from 4,300 to 3,600. Why is that happening? There have been some significant increases in salary, and the retirement benefit is calculated on the three highest years' salary. During Covid there was basically no increase in salaries, and people may be waiting to retire to put more money in their individual retirement accounts. With the hybrid or telecommuting environment, people may be happier with their jobs. All these things are happening outside of retirement but impact when people choose to retire and/or what benefits to take.

DC Savings Plans Year-End Review

Mr. Daniel Boster gave a 2023 year-end review of the Defined Contribution Savings Plans, including the following items:

- Savings Plan – Total Assets
- Contribution and Withdrawal Summary
- Changes in Investment Fund Balances
- Assets by Investment Options
- Net Rates of Return
- 2023 Contribution Limits
- Tier 2 Elections
- Changes that happened in 2023
 - Mr. Craige Stone retired
 - Actuarial rate changes to Tier 2 Public Employees
 - SECURE 2.0 signed into law
 - December 2023 URS administrative fees reduced from 12 bps to 10 bps

Other Business

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme asked about the percentage of people investing in the Charles Schwab account brokerage window fund, which is about 3.6%. That fund tended to not perform as well as the target date funds. He also stated he had talked to Mr. Chet Loftis regarding PEHP administering an HSA account instead of using an outside entity. URS and PEHP determined it is more beneficial and cost effective to maintain a contract with Health Equity.

Adjournment

ACTION: Mr. Larry Millward moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Amy Ehresman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be on February 5, 2024, at noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.