

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
February 5, 2024, 12:00 Noon
Utah Retirement Office
Hybrid Meeting**

Council Members Participating in Person:

Mr. Marty Peterson, Chair, Professional Firefighters of Utah
Ms. Heather Anderson, Utah Association of Special Service Districts
Mr. Brad Hardesty, Utah Association of Retired Public Employees
Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:

Ms. Sheri Dearden, Utah Association of Counties
Ms. Sandy Gustaveson, Utah Public Employees' Association
Mr. Rod Hurd, Utah Education Association
Ms. Anna Lewin, Utah Education Association

Guests Participating in Person:

Excused: Mr. Jamie Davidson, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Ms. Amy Ehresman, Vice-Chair, Utah School Employees' Association
Ms. Tina McMullin, Utah Education Association
Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' Association
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council
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 Plans 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. Jessica Bruner, Utah Public Employees' Association
Mr. Jason Putman, Professional Firefighters of Utah
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 12:03 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Peterson asked for approval of the January 8, 2024, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

ACTION: Mr. Brad Hardesty moved, seconded by Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, Membership Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Member Organizations

Chair Marty Peterson asked Council members and guests to provide a report from their organizations. He stated today was the Annual Fire Caucus Luncheon where firefighters across the state meet with their legislators. The Professional Firefighters of Utah are still opposed to changes in the law that would make it hard for employees to pay union or association dues through payroll deductions. They are in support of retirement legislation. He also discussed a bill that proposes to have CO2 detectors in every building.

Ms. Heather Anderson reported the Utah Association of Special Service Districts are following around 200 bills. She stated that her members are comfortable with URS bills and thanked URS for the education they provide.

Mr. Rodney Hurd reported on a bill that requires having safety officers in every school, but the issues are finding well trained safety officers and funding. They are following H.B. 285 closely.

Ms. Anna Lewin stated that every Friday UEA has the option to attend Educator Day on the Hill. They are closely watching H.B. 285 and other bills that affect education.

Mr. Brandon Wolf stated they are watching H.B. 285 closely and are hopeful it will not pass.

Mr. Jason Putman said they too are closely watching H.B. 285 and H.B. 251.

There were no other legislative reports from the Council Members.

2024 Legislation Report

Mr. Dee Larsen and Mr. Kory Cox reviewed the "2024 URS Legislative Tracker" that was distributed to the Council Members prior to the meeting.

- H.B. 60, Phased Retirement Extension
- H.B. 251, Postretirement Reemployment Restrictions Amendments
- 1st Sub S.B. 34, Utah State Retirement Systems Revisions
- S.B. 140, Utah Retirement Systems Amendments
- H.C.R. 2, Concurrent Resolution for State Health Plan Benefit Changes

2023 Hearing Officer Decisions Affecting Retirement Benefits

Mr. Dee Larsen provided a summary of the two decisions made by the hearing officer in 2023 affecting retirement benefits. He reviewed the appeal process, circumstances, and decisions of each case.

- Case No. 20-12R
- Case No. 21-08R

Director's Report

Mr. Dan Andersen gave a report on the funded ratio tracks from 2016-2023 of the 100 largest public pension plans, and consistently, URS has outperformed these funds. The last few years have been quite volatile, and he is hoping the next 3-5 years will be a bit calmer.

Spring Workshop Date & Agenda Discussion

Mr. Kory Cox discussed possible Spring Workshop dates and asked for feedback for possible agenda items. It was decided to schedule the Spring Workshop for Friday, May 10, 2024, from 9 am - 2 pm. Mr. Kory Cox will make a list of possible agenda topics, circulate it to the council members, and the agenda will be finalized at the March meeting. He will also send out information regarding the upcoming annual NCPERS conference.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

ACTION: Mr. Rodney Hurd moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be on March 4, 2024, at noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.