

**MINUTES OF THE  
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
September 9, 2024, 12:00 Noon  
Utah Retirement Office  
Hybrid Meeting**

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**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. Rod Hurd, Utah Education Association  
Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' Association  
Ms. Lisa Nance, Utah Public Employees' Association  
Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

**Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:**

Ms. Jenny Gravier, Utah Education Association  
Ms. Anna Lewin, Utah Education Association

**Excused:** Ms. Amy Ehresman, Vice Chair, Utah School Employees' Association  
Mr. Jamie Davidson, Utah League of Cities and Towns  
Ms. Sheri Dearden, Utah Association of Counties  
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, Defined Contribution Director  
Mr. Mark Cain, Deputy Executive Director  
Mr. Kory Cox, Director of Legislative & Government Affairs  
Ms. Liza Eves, Senior Associate General Counsel  
Mr. James Hammer, Employer Services Director  
Mr. Dee Larsen, General Counsel  
Ms. Stacie Petersen, Executive Assistant

**Staff Participating via Video Conferencing:**

Mr. Dustin Seely, Retirement Benefits Director

**Guests Participating in Person:**

Mr. Brian Davidson, Professional Firefighters of Utah  
Mr. Matt Davy, Professional Firefighters of Utah

**Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:**

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 12:04 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guests.

## Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Peterson asked for approval of the May 10, 2024, Membership Council Spring Workshop minutes.

**ACTION:** Mr. Brad Hardesty moved, seconded by Mr. Larry Millward, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2024, Membership Council Spring Workshop. The motion passed unanimously.

## Report from Member Organizations

Chair Marty Peterson asked staff, guests, and Council members to introduce themselves and the Council Members provide a report from their organizations. Mr. Peterson stated they are watching what changes may happen with the second year of Tier 2 employee contributions.

Ms. Anna Lewin reported that her school district offered no incentives for employees with the new Tier 2 required contributions. She asked council members to remind the people they represent to log into URS.org and check their information. She is looking forward to the new legislative session and hopeful for changes to allow Tier 2 employer pickups.

Mr. Rodney Hurd stated his biggest concerns in the upcoming legislative session are constitutional amendments A and D. He is also looking forward to the upcoming legislative session regarding funding and Tier 2 requirements.

Ms. Heather Anderson reported they have received many calls regarding Tier 2 employee pickups, and they are hopeful a bill gets approved to allow employers to pick up this requirement. The trend for their employees has been giving bonuses instead of pay raises. Mr. Kory Cox added information regarding the IRS rules regarding pickups.

Ms. Jenny Gravier wanted to know what other school districts were doing regarding Tier 2 pickups. Aside from not doing anything, Mr. Kory Cox stated the two most common were either a pay raise or a 401K contribution equal to the 0.7% employee required contribution.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme agreed that Tier 2 is still a topic of conversation, and he is optimistic for changes in the legislative session regarding employer pickups. That being said, he hasn't heard any complaints from employees regarding Tier 2 employee contributions.

Mr. Larry Millward agreed with Mr. Hurd's concern on the proposed amendments, especially amendment A.

Mr. Brandon Wolf is also concerned about the constitutional amendments. They are seeing what they can do to get benefits carved out for part-time people that won't trigger participation in URS.

There were no other legislative reports from the Council Members.

## **2025 Legislation Preview**

Mr. Dee Larsen and Mr. Kory Cox previewed the 2025 legislative session including Tier 2 employer pickups, issues surrounding volunteer firefighters, PEHP Long-Term Disability program changes, possible changes in the defined contribution vesting requirement for active-duty military spouses, and benefit allowance for part-time employees.

## **Valuation and Contribution Rates**

Mr. Dan Andersen reviewed the following items related to the actuarial valuation report and the preliminary 2025-2026 contribution rates including:

- 2023 Salary Increases Were Greater than Assumed
- Summary of Certified Contribution Rates – Enactment of Prior Year's CRMP Results

## **Election of Officers**

Chair Marty Peterson opened the floor for nominations for election of officers. He discussed the various ways nominations can be made and clarified that appointments are for one year.

Mr. Rodney Hurd nominated Mr. Marty Peterson to remain as Chair, seconded by Ms. Heather Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Larry Millward nominated Mr. Rodney Hurd as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Brad Hardesty. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Larry Millward moved that Mr. Brad Hardesty be reinstated. Mr. Marty Peterson declared Mr. Hardesty a member of the Executive Committee by acclamation. Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme motioned to replace him with Ms. Heather Anderson and retain Mr. Larry Millward. Mr. Marty Peterson declared by acclamation that Mr. Millward and Ms. Anderson be Executive Committee members.

The new Executive Committee consists of Mr. Marty Peterson, Mr. Rodney Hurd, Mr. Brad Hardesty, Mr. Larry Millward, and Ms. Heather Anderson.

Mr. Marty Peterson reminded membership council representatives that if they cannot attend a meeting to try to find a replacement.

## **Other Business**

Mr. Larry Millward asked Mr. Dan Andersen how URS adapts to changing markets regarding investments. Mr. Andersen reported that long-term investments are the goal.

Mr. Matt Davy relayed a concern regarding a situation surrounding the death of a Tier 1 firefighter and the benefit paid to his children. Mr. Dee Larsen stated that those benefits are set in statute.

## **Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Mr. Larry Millward moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be on October 7, 2024, at 12 noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.