

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
February 3, 2025, 12:00 Noon
Utah Retirement Office
Hybrid Meeting**

Council Members Participating in Person:

Mr. Marty Peterson, Chair, Professional Firefighters of Utah
Mr. Rod Hurd, Vice Chair, Utah Education Association
Mr. JJ Allen, Utah League of Cities and Towns
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. Jenny Gravier, Utah Education Association
Ms. Anna Lewin, Utah Education Association
Ms. Lisa Nance, Utah Public Employees' Association
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council
Mr. Scott Wilberger, Utah Peace Officers' Association
Mr. Brandon Wolf, Utah School Employees' Association

Excused: Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' 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, 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
Mr. Dustin Seely, Retirement Director

Staff Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. Rob Dolphin, Chief Financial Officer

Guests Participating in Person:

Mr. Donovan Minutes, Professional Firefighters of Utah

Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:

Ms. Debra Valentine, State Division of Human Resource Management

Welcome

Chair Marty Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Peterson asked for approval of the January 6, 2025, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

ACTION: Mr. JJ Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Brad Hardesty, to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025, 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 there are a few bills they are watching. One is the presumptive cancer bill and cancer screening bill. They have concerns over HB 267.

Ms. Anna Lewin reported that they are watching the union bill and other items related to schools, including school safety. She is looking forward to updates on URS related bills.

Ms. Jenny Gravier echoed Ms. Lewin's remarks as well as thanked Mr. Russ Bulloch for his retirement presentation to the Weber School District.

Most Membership Council members stated they were watching the legislative session, especially HB 267. There were no other legislative reports from the Council Members.

2025 Legislation Report

Mr. Dee Larsen and Mr. Kory Cox reviewed a summary of the 2025 Retirement Bills that was distributed to Council Members prior to the meeting. Mr. Larsen stated that SB 20, Utah Retirement Systems Amendments, sponsored by Senator Harper has not moved from the Senate Rules Committee yet but that does not mean it won't pass. Senator Harper reported to them that this bill is included in legislative leadership discussions of total compensation that are resolved near the end of the Session. Mr. Marty Peterson reiterated for the Council to actively contact their legislators for support in helping pass this bill. He also asked if the Council wanted to make a formal motion in support of this bill. Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme moved, seconded by Ms. Anna Lewin, for the Membership Council to support SB 20. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dee Larsen discussed three changes to HB 267, Public Sector Labor Union Amendments, that are direct retirement issues under the latest 3rd Substitute version of the bill: (1) the Governor would now appoint one educator and one public employee to the Utah State Retirement Board without having three names for a position submitted from the associations prior to the appointment; (2) URS would now select the 11 Council Members from the public employee or retiree associations instead of those associations each selecting their own representatives; (3) "Public employee associations" (currently UEA, UniServes, and USEA) would need to withdraw as URS participating employers under a "soft freeze" before July 1, 2027. This means that their current employees would be "grandfathered" and could continue to accrue URS retirement benefits, but new public employee association employees hired after July 1, 2027, would not be allowed to participate in URS and receive retirement benefits. Mr. Larsen reported that some rumors were going around that all association members would have their

URS benefits affected, but he reported that this is not true under HB 267 except for public employee association future hires. He also briefly explained some of the bill provisions that affect public employee associations but are not directly related to URS or retirement issues.

Mr. Marty Peterson asked if the council wanted to make a formal motion in opposition of HB 267. Mr. JJ Allen and Judge Kara Pettit expressed concerns that some parts of this bill do not impact all Membership Council organizations. It was suggested to divide the motions into two parts. Mr. Rod Hurd moved, seconded by Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, to oppose HB 267 because of the changes in Utah State Retirement Board membership, Membership Council selection process, and the mandated soft freeze withdrawal of the public employee associations from URS participation. Discussion was held regarding this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A second motion was then raised regarding HB 267 to the following: Mr. Rod Hurd moved, seconded by Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, for opposition against HB 267 because of the long-term ramifications on employment and the long-term implications of the URS system and its stakeholders. The motion passed with one member opposing and Judge Kara Pettit abstaining.

Mr. Dee Larsen ended this discussion by stating that all the other URS-related bills that the Council has previously discussed have been moving through the legislative process and are expected to have final passage soon.

2024 Hearing Officer Decisions Affecting Retirement Benefits

Mr. Dee Larsen reported that there were no retirement benefit cases with a hearing officer decision in 2024.

Director's Report

Mr. Dan Andersen announced that Mr. Mark Cain has accepted a position as the Executive Director at my529 and is leaving URS after 24 years of service. The council wished him well and thanked him for his service.

Spring Workshop Date & Agenda Discussion

Mr. Kory Cox discussed possible Spring Workshop dates in April or May and asked for feedback for possible agenda items. It was decided to schedule the Spring Workshop for May 9, 2025, 9 am - 2 pm. Possible agenda items will be discussed at the next Membership Council meeting in March.

Other Business

Mr. Brad Hardesty asked if there has been any continuing discussion regarding removing the Social Security tax for retirees. Mr. Marty Peterson recently saw that leadership

was moving away from removing taxes specifically just on retiree's Social Security and is discussing reducing taxes for everyone.

Adjournment

ACTION: Mr. Rod Hurd moved, seconded by Mr. Brad Hardesty, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be on March 10, 2025, at 12 Noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.