

**MINUTES OF THE  
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
March 7, 2022, 12:00 Noon  
Utah Retirement Office  
Hybrid Meeting**

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**Council Members Participating in Person:**

Ms. Sheri Nelson, Chairperson, Utah Public Employees' Association  
Mr. LeGrand Bitter, Utah Association of Special Service Districts  
Mr. Mike Harman, Utah Education Association  
Mr. Dan Jessen, Utah Association of Counties  
Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

**Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:**

Mr. Jamie Davidson, Vice Chairperson, Utah League of Cities & Towns  
Ms. Amy Ehresman, Utah School Employees' Association  
Mr. Tyler Jensen, Utah Education Association  
Ms. Tina McMullin, Utah Education Association  
Mr. Marty Peterson, Professional Firefighters of Utah

**Excused:**

Ms. Taylee Foulger, Utah Public 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  
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council

**Staff Participating in Person:**

Mr. Dan Andersen, Executive Director  
Mr. Ryan Ashcraft, Retirement Planning Director  
Mr. Mark Cain, Deputy Executive Director  
Mr. Kory Cox, URS Association and Stakeholder Liaison  
Ms. Liza Eves, Senior Associate General Counsel  
Mr. Dee Larsen, General Counsel  
Mr. Chet Loftis, PEHP Director  
Ms. LuAnn Miskin, Executive Assistant  
Ms. Stacey Nielsen, Retirement Benefits Director  
Mr. Craige Stone, Defined Contribution Director

**Staff Participating via Video Conferencing:**

Mr. James Hammer, Employer Services Director

**Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:**

Ms. Debra Valentine, State Department of Human Resource Management

**Welcome**

Chairperson Sheri Nelson called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guest.

## Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Sheri Nelson asked for approval of the February 7, 2022, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme moved, seconded by Mr. LeGrand Bitter, to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2022, Membership Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## Report from Member Organizations

Chairperson Sheri Nelson asked the Council members for a report from their organizations or employers.

Chairperson Sheri Nelson stated that she had nothing to report.

Mr. Mike Harman stated that he had nothing to report.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme stated that he had nothing to report.

Mr. LeGrand Bitter stated that he had nothing to report.

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

Mr. Dan Jessen stated he had nothing to report.

Mr. Marty Peterson stated that firefighters were disappointed that Tier 2 retirement enhancement bills didn't pass. The association will be working on legislation for next year.

Mr. Jamie Davidson stated that he had nothing to report.

Ms. Debra Valentine stated that he had nothing to report.

Ms. Tina McMullin stated that he had nothing to report.

## 2022 Legislation Report

Mr. Dee Larsen reviewed the "2022 General Session: Summary of Selected URS-Related Bills" that was distributed to the Council Members prior to the meeting.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute S.B. 24, Utah Retirement Systems Revisions
- S.C.R. 1, Concurrent Resolution Authorizing State Pick up of Public Safety and Firefighter Employee Retirement Contributions
- H.B. 12, Public Safety Retirement Amendments
- 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute H.B. 12, Public Safety Retirement Amendments
- H.B. 61, Postretirement Reemployment Amendments
- 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute, H.B. 61, Postretirement Reemployment Amendments

- H.B. 70, Public Safety Disability Benefits Amendments
- 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute H.B. 70, Public Safety Disability Benefits Amendments
- 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute, H.B. 75, Retirement System Transparency Amendments
- 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute H.B. 233, Disability Benefit Amendments
- H.B. 348, Educator Retirement Amendments
- 1<sup>st</sup> Substitute H.B. 348, Public Employees Retirement Amendments
- H.B. 370, Mental Health Professional Amendments
- H.B. 460, State Employee Retirement Amendments
- S.B. 253, Licensed Clinical Therapist Retirement Amendments

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Dan Andersen reported that the legislative session was challenging for various reasons, including the state-wide challenge of attracting and retaining new employees, limited communications during the previous session, and the removal of the standing Retirement and Independent Entities Committee. He asked Council members to let URS know if there are opportunities for URS to better communicate with their organizations and have a more open and robust relationship with stakeholders.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme asked if there is any statistical data to validate the pulling back of retiree separation from work. He has not seen that any proactive steps have been made by employers to reach out to retirees to come back to work. Mr. Andersen replied if you relax the rules, many employees will take advantage of the rules by retiring earlier than they otherwise would have, and then return to work with enhanced compensation. This dynamic does not lead to increasing the number of employees available to employers as much as many believe and costs the system more money.

### **Spring Workshop Overview**

Mr. Kory Cox reviewed two proposed agendas for the May 13, 2022, Membership Council Spring Workshop.

### **Other Business**

None.

### **Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Mr. Dan Jessen moved, seconded by Mr. Mike Harman to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be the Spring Workshop on May 13, 2022, from 9 am to noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.