

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
March 4, 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. Amy Ehresman, Vice-Chair, Utah School Employees' Association
Ms. Jenny Gravier, Utah Education Association
Mr. Rodney Hurd, Utah Education Association
Ms. Anna Lewin, Utah Education Association
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council

Excused:

Mr. Jamie Davidson, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Ms. Sheri Dearden, Utah Association of Counties
Ms. Sandy Gustaveson, Utah Public Employees' Association
Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' 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 Plans Director
Mr. Mark Cain, Deputy Executive Director
Mr. Kory Cox, Director of Legislative and Government Affairs
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:

Mr. Rob Dolphin, Chief Financial Officer

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 12:02 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guests. He also welcomed new Membership Council member Ms. Jenny Gravier representing the Utah Education Association.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Peterson asked for approval of the February 5, 2024, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

ACTION: Mr. Brad Hardesty moved, seconded by Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 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. From the Firefighters perspective, they felt the legislative session went very well. They felt listened to and had good support from legislators and URS staff.

Ms. Heather Anderson reported the Utah Association of Special Service Districts felt it was a good session by and large. They would have preferred to have S.B. 140 pass but are possibly looking at increasing salaries to cover the employee's portion.

Mr. Rodney Hurd stated the Utah Education Association Board meeting is this weekend. They are relieved H.B. 285 did not pass and are happy with URS and their direction. He welcomed Ms. Jenny Graviet to the Council.

Ms. Anna Lewin, also with the Utah Education Association, echoed Mr. Rodney Hurd's comments on H.B. 285. She has concerns about S.B. 140 that did not pass to allow employer pickups. She also welcomed Ms. Jenny Graviet to the Council.

Mr. Brad Hardesty stated that the retirees, for the most part, are happy with what happened in the legislative session.

Ms. Jenny Graviet introduced herself to the council, including her experience as the UEA President of the Weber Education Association for the past 3 years and being a teacher for 29 years. She reported she is excited to participate on the council.

Mr. Brandon Wolf echoed his gratitude that H.B. 285 did not pass.

Ms. Debra Valentine is disappointed S.B. 140 did not pass. However, her understanding at this point is there is going to be a salary enhancement instead of a pickup for state employees.

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
- H.B. 513, Public Employees 401k Match Amendments
- 1st Sub S.B. 34, Utah State Retirement Systems Revisions
- S.B. 140, Utah Retirement System Amendments
- S.J.R. 16, Joint Resolution Regarding Local Government Employee Compensation

Mr. Dee Larsen also reported there were 591 bills passed, which was a record-breaking session.

Director's Report

Mr. Dan Andersen gave a report on public pension sources of revenue and displayed a graph reflecting investment revenues, employer contributions, and employee contributions. URS is now entering the employee contribution stage. On average, the employee contribution rate is 6.3% with URS 0.7% being significantly lower.

Spring Workshop Overview

Mr. Kory Cox reviewed two proposed agendas for the May 10, 2024, Spring Workshop. After discussion, the Council Members decided on the preferred topics. Mr. Kory Cox will finalize the agenda and distribute it to the Council members for their input.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

ACTION: Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be the hybrid Spring Workshop on May 10, 2024, at 9 a.m.