

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
October 6, 2025, 12:00 Noon
Utah Retirement Office
Hybrid Meeting**

Council Members Participating in Person:

Mr. Marty Peterson, Chair, Professional Firefighters of Utah
Ms. Cinda Allen, Utah Education Association
Mr. JJ Allen, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Ms. Heather Anderson, Utah Association of Special Service Districts
Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' Association
Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. Rod Hurd, Vice Chair, Utah Education Association
Ms. Sheri Dearden, Utah Association of Counties
Ms. Anna Lewin, Utah Education Association
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council
Mr. Brandon Wolf, Utah School Employees' Association

Excused: Ms. Lisa Nance, Utah Public Employees' Association
Ms. Sheri Nelson, Utah Association of Retired Public Employees
Mr. Scott Wilberger, Utah Peace Officers' Association

Staff Participating in Person:

Mr. Ryan Ashcraft, Retirement Planning Director
Mr. Daniel Boster, Savings Plans 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

Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:

Ms. Brittney Miller, State Division of Human Resource Management
Mr. Donavan Minutes, Professional Firefighters of Utah

Welcome

Chair Marty Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Peterson asked for approval of the September 8, 2025, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

ACTION: Mr. Larry Millward moved, seconded by Ms. Heather Anderson, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025, Membership Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from Member Organizations

Chair Marty Peterson asked the Council members to provide a report from their organizations. He stated the firefighters support team was involved with the UVU shooting and mental health counseling. Firefighters did have most of their cancer lawsuits dismissed across the country. There are concerns about training and hazmat money that has been removed from the budget, but some of that money has been reinstated.

Mr. Larry Millward reported their organization awarded \$10,000 in scholarship grants to four elementary and four secondary teachers to help improve classroom skills and instructional abilities.

Mr. JJ Allen stated their annual convention was held, and the attention continues to be on the housing crisis and affordability. Also, the truth and taxation issue was discussed and continues to be challenging.

Ms. Heather Anderson reported that most are coming to terms that the Tier 2 pickup option will not be allowed. Firefighters are concerned with the increase in worker's comp insurance.

Ms. Anna Lewin said the funding for schools for truth and taxation was denied. The UEA is looking forward to the legislative session and will invite senators and local representatives to meet with teachers before that session, so they know what they are interested in.

There were no other legislative reports from the Council Members.

2026 Legislation Preview

Mr. Dee Larsen and Mr. Kory Cox provided an update on the 2026 Legislative Session. URS reported improvements in processing retirement applications and highlighted the two peak retirement periods—end and beginning of the retirement year—with teacher retirements being the busiest. Mr. Larsen reviewed the URS legislative bill, which has already been presented, and noted that no new issues have emerged since the last meeting. There have also been discussions regarding the discontinuation of additional State firefighter retirement funding due to the fully funded status of the Tier 1 Firefighters' Retirement System. Another key topic that is sometimes raised is whether Utah should continue offering both pension and 401(k) options, as some states have eliminated pensions. URS employees clearly explain the Tier 2 options, which are funded equally by employers. There is sometimes also talk of a Tier 3 retirement plan, which may be a 401(k)-only plan or to others may be intended for enhancements to the current Tier 2 plans, but the question that needs to be asked is if there a problem that needs solving. Mr. Cox mentioned there is also some discussion on the proposed change to make the 2.0% multiplier for Tier 2 police and firefighters also apply to service between 2011 and 2020. Ms. Heather Anderson asked if the pension/401(k) issue should be discussed with legislators, and Mr. Larsen agreed it might be helpful if the issue gains traction.

Introduction to URS Employer Services

Mr. James Hammer provided an overview of the Employer Services Department, including the following:

- URS Employer Services Teams
 - Account Services Team
 - Business Process Team
 - Compliance Team
 - Employer Support Team
- Utah Code 49-11-604 – Compliance Audits of Participating Employers
 - Supported by Utah Code
 - Conducted every 3-5 Years
 - Testing Encompasses All Elements of Utah Code
 - In-Person and Virtual Audits
 - Follow-Up Audits for Critical Findings
- Educational Opportunities
 - One-On-One Training
 - Live Employer Training Sessions
 - Webinars and How-To-Videos
- Employer Resources
 - Online Employer Guide
 - AUREUS Support Staff
 - Online Message Center
 - Employer Services ACD Phone Line

During the presentation, Mr. Marty Peterson urged the Membership Council members to remind people from their organizations to check their annual statements and make sure their information is correct, i.e., years of service, annual salary, etc. If there are questions, the best course of action is to directly contact Utah Retirement Systems.

Other Business

Mr. Marty Peterson asked if there are any complications with rising insurance costs for PEHP. Mr. Dee Larsen stated that industry wide insurance costs are rising. Medicare supplements are having some dramatic shifts that PEHP is navigating.

Worker's Compensation is opening a cancer screening clinic on the 15th and will try to screen every firefighter on a 3-year rotating schedule.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be on November 3, 2025, at 12 noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.