

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
February 2, 2026, 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. Sheri Dearden, Utah Association of Counties
Ms. Sheri Nelson, Utah Association of Retired Public Employees
Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:

Ms. Cinda Allen, Utah Education Association
Ms. Anna Lewin, Utah Education Association
Ms. Lisa Nance, Utah Public Employees' Association
Judge Kara Pettit, Utah Judicial Council
Mr. Brandon Wolf, Utah School Employees' Association
Mr. Reed Wood, Utah Public Employees' Association

Excused: Ms. Heather Anderson, Utah Association of Special Service Districts
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. 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. Kendall Rima, Managing Director – Retirement

Staff Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. Ryan Ashcraft, Retirement Planning Director
Mr. Chet Loftis, PEHP Director
Mr. Dustin Seely, Retirement Director

Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. Jason Putman, Professional Firefighters of Utah
Ms. Debra Valentine, State Division of Human Resource Management

Guests Participating in Person:

Mr. Andrew Hercules, Fraternal Order of Police
Mr. Donovan Minutes, Professional Firefighters of Utah

Welcome

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Petersen asked for approval of the January 5, 2026, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

ACTION: Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme moved, seconded by Mr. Rod Hurd, to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026, 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 noted firefighters' top concern is HB 79, which extends governmental immunity to paramedics. There is a case pending where paramedics were sued when a patient died after treatment. They are also monitoring SB 151, which reallocates surplus fire premium tax funds to hire more patrol troopers. Firefighters want these funds for cancer prevention. HB 416 would create a trust fund to help firefighters monetarily for cancer access treatment sooner by covering expenses before Workers' Compensation (which typically takes a year) kicks in.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme said numerous bills affecting school districts are being introduced, but he has yet to see one he supports. The bulk of these measures create more administrative red tape.

Mr. JJ Allen reported they are closely monitoring revenue sources, particularly property tax, as well as transportation and utility fees. They are also tracking HB 355, SB 211, and SB 64, along with a bill proposing changes to UTA governance and several housing and land-use bills, none of which appear problematic currently.

Ms. Sheri Dearden agreed with Mr. JJ Allen's concern regarding property taxes and also the expansion of energy development in rural counties.

Ms. Sheri Nelson stated they are monitoring SB 229 – State Employee Benefits Amendments, which remains a significant concern for public employees. One item of the bill proposes combining sick and annual leave into a single PTO pool. The suggested addition of short-term disability and increased 401K match to offset the loss of 52 hours annually has not alleviated employee concerns.

Ms. Debra Valentine reported significant feedback on SB 229, particularly regarding the PTO provision. She noted efforts to improve the 401(k) match and highlighted positive aspects of the bill, such as job architecture updates that better align with market standards and allow quicker salary range adjustments. While concerns about PTO dominate discussion, provisions like adding short-term disability and preserving existing sick leave balances may help address employee concerns. She welcomed feedback and questions on the bill.

Ms. Lisa Nance expressed enthusiasm for HB 329, which enhances maternity and parental leave benefits.

Ms. Anna Lewin stated that her primary concern is education funding. Her school district was unable to pass any bonds, and the State denied truth-in-taxation efforts. She remains hopeful that additional funding will be secured to support student education.

Ms. Cinda Allen agreed with concerns about education funding and expressed disappointment with the Social and Emotional Learning bill.

There were no other legislative reports from the Council Members.

2026 Legislation Preview

Mr. Dee Larsen and Mr. Kory Cox briefly reviewed the following retirement and benefits bills introduced so far in the 2026 General Session:

- HB 409, Legislator Leave Amendments, Rep. Okerlund
- HB 416, Firefighter Cancer Amendments, Rep. Teuscher
- SB 25, Retirement Modifications, Sen. Harper
- SB 151S1, Public Safety Funding Amendments, Sen. Harper
- SB 166, Line-of-Duty Death Benefit Amendments, Sen. Owens
- SB 229, State Employee Benefits Amendments, Sen. Fillmore

Discussion continued regarding the potential change to the Tier 2 retirement plan default, shifting from the hybrid option to the 401(k) option. A study will be conducted to evaluate the impact of this change. Mr. Cox shared documents detailing URS economic impacts by district for both the House and Senate and will provide members with a link to access these materials.

Firefighters are monitoring healthcare legislation related to ambulance billing. Changes in Medicare billing at the federal level would require corresponding adjustments at the state level. Additionally, there is a proposal for each fire department to have a pharmacist oversee medication use; however, they prefer a single state pharmacist to serve all departments. Mr. Chet Loftis noted that the ambulance bill has full consensus and appreciated the report of the pharmacist proposal for PEHP.

2025 Hearing Officer Decisions Affecting Retirement Benefits

Mr. Dee Larsen reported that there were no retirement benefit cases with a hearing officer decision in 2025.

Director's Report

Mr. Dan Andersen reminded Council members of the new pension administration system's (AUREUS) launch date of March 30. He also discussed ways in which they will be receiving communication, the requirement of a new member number and account login, the

upcoming blackout period for transactions, and asked them to communicate to their constituents about these upcoming changes.

Spring Workshop Date & Agenda

Mr. Kory Cox discussed possible Spring Workshop dates in April or May and asked for feedback on possible agenda items. It was decided to schedule the Spring Workshop for May 8, 2026 from 9 am - 2 pm. Possible agenda items will be discussed at the next Membership Council meeting in March.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be on March 9, 2026, at 12 noon. This will be a hybrid meeting.