

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH STATE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
March 9, 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. Zane Woolstenhulme, Utah Association of School Business Officials

Council Members Participating via Video Conferencing:

Mr. JJ Allen, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Ms. Heather Anderson, Utah Association of Special Service Districts
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
Mr. Reed Wood, Utah Public Employees' Association

Excused: Ms. Cinda Allen, Utah Education Association
Mr. Larry Millward, Utah Retired School Employees' Association
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. Dan Andersen, Executive Director
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
Mr. Chet Loftis, PEHP Director
Ms. Stacie Petersen, Executive Assistant
Mr. Kendall Rima, Managing Director – Retirement
Mr. Dustin Seely, Retirement Director

Guests Participating via Video Conferencing:

Ms. Taylor Hooton, State Division of Human Resource Management
Mr. Andrew Hercules, Fraternal Order of Police
Mr. Scott Stephenson, Fraternal Order of Police

Welcome

Chair Marty Peterson called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and welcomed Council members, staff, and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Marty Petersen asked for approval of the February 2, 2026, Membership Council Meeting minutes.

ACTION: Mr. Rod Hurd moved, seconded by Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 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. Firefighters are reasonably pleased with the legislative session.

Mr. Zane Woolstenhulme discussed the AUREUS issues affecting school districts, noting that data conversion changes mean employers—not URS—will now be responsible for correcting adjustments and fixing errors. Mr. Kendall Rima and Mr. James Hammer then clarified specific reporting and adjustment requirements and stated that support for employers will be available at launch.

Mr. Rod Hurd expressed relief that the legislative session has concluded. He echoed concerns about the new system coming online and its potential challenges. He noted they are spending significant time educating employees about their benefits.

Ms. Anna Lewin has been encouraging employees to log in and locate their new URS number. She asked how employees will receive these numbers, and Mr. Rima explained they will appear on annual statements and be mailed in a letter but will not be given out over the phone. He stressed keeping email addresses current. She also expressed relief that the legislative session has ended.

Ms. Taylor Hooton reported they are pleased that SB 229 State Employee Benefits Amendments passed as they believe it benefits employees. Although often referred to as the PTO bill, it includes broader changes. The final version allows current employees to keep their existing sick and annual leave or convert to PTO. It also shifts the short-term disability program from employee-paid to employer-paid, with an RFP currently out for bid.

Ms. Heather Anderson noted that many bills this session affected local government. She said firefighters are pleased with certain retirement system changes and improved funding. She also mentioned she will be reaching out to Mr. Kory Cox for assistance with a presentation later this month.

Mr. Andrew Hercules stated there was some concern from the UHP trooper level regarding combining sick/annual into PTO.

Mr. Scott Stephenson reported he received many questions and concerns related to HB 229. Senator Harper ran a bill to increase the number of troopers, which should pass. There were two bills that were concerning him, HB 605 and HB 606. It was a relatively benign session for law enforcement.

Ms. Sheri Dearden reported significant activity around property tax issues, with many ongoing discussions. She felt the outcome on land use was satisfactory and hopes the AUREUS transition goes smoothly.

Judge Kara Pettit reported there were many questions surrounding SB 229.

Mr. Reed Wood echoed receiving many questions regarding SB 229 but believes that as more information becomes available, employees will feel comfortable with the changes.

There were no other legislative reports from the Council Members.

2026 Legislation Report

Mr. Dee Larsen and Mr. Kory Cox reviewed a summary of the 2026 Retirement Bills that was distributed to Council Members prior to the meeting. It included the following:

- HB0250 Utah Retirement Plan Exchange
- HB0409 Legislator Leave Amendments
- HB0416 Firefighter Cancer Amendments
- HB0496 Forestry and Fire Amendments
- SB0025 Retirement Modifications
- SB0151 Public Safety Funding Amendments
- SB0229 State Employee Benefits Amendments

A good discussion was held between URS employees and Membership Council members regarding details of the bills.

Director's Report

Mr. Dan Andersen provided an AUREUS update with Mr. Kendall Rima reminding those of important upcoming dates to remember and the status of the launch.

Spring Workshop Overview

Mr. Kory Cox discussed possible agenda items for the Spring Workshop. A discussion was held regarding those topics. Mr. Cox will send out an agenda to the Executive Committee for final approval.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

The next Membership Council Meeting will be the Spring Workshop on May 8, 2026, at 9 a.m. This will be a hybrid meeting.