



**Utah Board of Higher Education  
Virtual Meeting  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present**

Amanda Covington, Chair  
Steve Neeleman, Vice Chair  
Javier Chávez Jr.  
Jon Cox  
Sharon Eubank  
Danny Ipson  
Tina Marriott  
Cydni Tetro

**Board Members Absent**

Aaron Skonnard  
Muskan Walia

**Office of the Commissioner**

Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner  
Alison Adams, General Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Higher Education  
Brynn Fronk, Executive Assistant to the Utah Board of Higher Education  
Katie Mazzie, Assistant Commissioner of Strategic and Government Affairs  
Angie Stallings, Deputy Commissioner and COO  
Nate Talley, Deputy Commissioner and CFO

**Other**

Al Smith, Professor and Dean, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services, Utah State University

Chair Amanda Covington called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Committee of the Whole**

*Utah State University Update*

Chair Covington thanked President Cantwell for her service to Utah State University. She shared that the Board plans to appoint a search committee in the coming days to start a process to find USU's next leader. The hope is to appoint someone later this summer, but the Board will take the time necessary to ensure the right person is found. **Board member Cox moved to appoint Al Smith as interim president of Utah State University. Board member Eubank seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.** Interim President Smith thanked the Board for the opportunity. Chair Covington thanked the Board for their swift action in appointing an interim president.

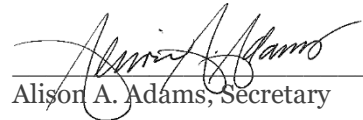
**Board member Ipson moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; impending litigation; or the sale of real property. Board member Marriott seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

### **Closed Session**

**Vice Chair Neeleman moved to end closed session. Board member Cox seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

**Vice Chair Neeleman moved to adjourn. Board member Eubank seconded the motion, and the Board members in attendance voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

  
Alison A. Adams, Secretary

Date Approved: