

**Minutes**  
**PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL**  
**March 3, 2021**  
**8:00 am via Zoom**

**PRESENT (via Zoom Meeting):**

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President

Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology

Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Services

Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Assistant Vice President for Diversity

Ms. Sherri Cox, Executive Assistant to the President

Dr. Timothy Herzog, Faculty Senate Chair

Mr. Luke Jenkins, Staff Advisory Council Chair

Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Mr. Rich Hill, General Counsel

Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel

Mr. Hark Halverson, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Campus Planning

Dr. Jessica Oyler, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources

Meeting Minutes  
Approval (Feb. 3, 2021)

BRT Virtual Drive-Thru

1. The meeting convened at 8:00 a.m. President Brad Mortensen welcomed attendees. He acknowledged the passing of Desiree Cooper-Larsen, a faculty member in Professional Sales, on Feb. 28, 2021 due to complications of COVID-19. The sadness over her death will be felt across the university and the community.
2. President's Council members approved minutes from the February 3, 2021, meeting.
3. Mr. Mark Halverson, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Campus Planning gave a presentation on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Construction on campus. Homes are being torn down near campus and on Country Hills Drive, along with superstructures, including the old marquee that is no longer in use. A virtual tour of the route the bus will take on campus was shown, along with changes that will take place with the landscape. The BRT will take over shuttles on campus by August, 2022 for the start of the fall semester. A second stop will be added near the new Outdoor Adventure and Welcome Center. There will be a charging station at the Dee Events Center, and three campus stops total: the Dee Events Center to the Wildcat Village/Outdoor Adventure & Welcome Center, and the Browning Center/Shepherd Union Building stop. The BRT rout will then exit campus onto Harrison just south of the Public Safety Building and then proceed to FrontRunner Station at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wall Ave. All alternate needs will be taken care of up front. UTA has a website with information people can be referred to. Communication will go out to campus with details.

The A2 parking lot is under construction. Solar covered canopies are being installed and 200 or so ground source wells will be located there. Work will be done over the summer to drill the wells and set up the ground source field. We are continuously working to support sustainability goals and are now operating on two boilers from a previous four. This is exponentially lowering the burning of the fossil fuels. The rugby field will remain rather than a parking lot extension of A1 due to funding constraints.

Policy Items	4. Provost Ravi Krovi presented the following policy items to the President's Council for review and approval:
PPM 3-5a	a. PPM 3-5a, Employment of Persons with Criminal Records. Dr. Jessica Oyler, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources discussed changes to this policy including: background checks, modified language, and basic edits to meet the state's guidelines. FBI's Rap Back program is being incorporated for background checks.
Approval	PPM 3-5a, Employment of Persons with Criminal Records was approved by SAC and Faculty Senate, along with President's Council and will move to the Board of Trustees.
PPM 1-17	b. PPM 1-17, Selection and Evaluation of Academic Deans was discussed by Provost Krovi. The policy proposal elicited feedback related to other parts of the policy which was considered with Faculty Senate, including term limits and the addition of a diversity search advocate to attend meetings for candidate searches and the formal addition of a staff member and dean to search committees.
Approval	PPM 1-17, Selection and Evaluation of Academic Deans was approved to move to the Board of Trustees. The addition of a staff representative and a dean representative to search committees was supported by all but it was determined that the proposed revision could be reviewed by APAFT in the fall and could be operationalized until that time. SAC representative, Mr. Luke Jenkins, disapproved of the decision to not add a staff member to dean search committees to the current policy proposal.
PPM 4-19	c. PPM 4-19, Grading Policies was discussed by Provost Krovi. Changes included grading policies and minor language clarification regarding incomplete grades, allowing faculty further discretion in making the determination regarding percentage of work completed. It was discussed that incomplete work by students should be completed within 12 months and resolved 45 days prior to

	graduation.
Approval	PPM 4-19, Grading Policies was approved to move to the Board of Trustees and will be presented by the Personnel & Academic Policy Committee.
Tenure Documents	5. EAST Tenure & Post Tenure Documents were discussed by Provost Krovi. Changes have been recommended by APAFT and Faculty Senate including: 1-Early promotion requirements of exceptional teaching, research and service. 2- Innovation and changes in non-proficiencies. 3- Faculty evaluations will not be compared to other groups or faculty members. Digital files with credentials are available for review.
Approval	EAST Tenure & Post Tenure Documents were approved to move to the Board of Trustees for approval.
Curriculum Proposals	6. The following Curriculum Proposals were presented by Provost Krovi:
Web & User Experience, Full Stack Web Development Emphasis	a. BS in Web & User Experience, Full Stack Web Development Emphasis.
Web & User Experience, User Experience Design Emphasis	b. BS in Web & User Experience, User Experience Design Emphasis. Both are great new programs in IT Development.
Approval	BS in Web & User Experience, Full Stack Web Development Emphasis and BS in Web & User Experience, User Experience Design Emphasis were approved to move to the Board of Trustees for approval.
Minor in Queer Studies	c. Minor in Queer Studies is a new program that gives education and training for students on understanding LGBTQ culture as more individuals are identifying as such. Provost Krovi recommended the minor for approval.
Approval	The Minor in Queer Studies was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.
AAS in Physical Science	d. AAS in Physical Science was presented by Provost Krovi. This program meets the demands for physical science technicians and provides broad skills in this field. It stacks well into other programs.

Approval

The AAS in Physical Science was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

AS in Sound Production and Recording

- e. AS in Sound Production and Recording was recommended by Provost Krovi for approval. This program teaches basic principles of audio, sound and tech. This is another good stackable program and there is high market demand and student interest in this area. There are new sound and tech rooms in the Browning Center to compliment these programs with new staff to facilitate it.

Approval

AS in Sound Production and Recording was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

BA in Geography

- f. Provost Krovi discussed a BA in Geography. The focus on this program is to attract more students who have foreign languages in the arts. No new faculty requirements are needed to facilitate the program.

Approval

The BA in Geography was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Program Reviews

7. Provost Krovi discussed the following Program Reviews:

Chemistry & Biochemistry

- a. Chemistry and Biochemistry – This program received a 5 year review. There are 13 full time faculty employed, with growth in programs. There is some concern about the high number of electives, and there could be more lab support. Help with HIEE undergraduate research may be needed. Part of the strategic plan is to promote these activities and figure out ways to make this happen. The program review went well with a recommendation to review again in 7 years.

Approval

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Program Review was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Computer Science

- b. Computer Sciences - Provost Krovi discussed the program review and mentioned it is a specialized ABET accreditation board for engineering and technology. The program has 22 full time faculty, with approximately 145 baccalaureate degrees awarded each year with 900+ majors. This is a

	<p>strong and large program with market demand and allows students to work at their own pace. This may cause a challenge for faculty to meet the demands of students at different levels. ABET recommended a course in computing and culture which would enrich the tech students. The review was very good and will be revisited in 2026.</p>
Approval	<p>The Computer Sciences Program Review was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.</p>
Honors	<p>c. Honors – Provost Krovi indicated that this is the first time for this review, and it was done as an external program. It is widely successful. There are three types of honors: university honors, general honors for associates degrees, and department honors, which allows students to complete a certain number of courses with an honors designation. There are 42+ faculty teaching in this program. Recommendations came back from the external group to focus on ways to include underrepresented students in the honors program. The program may be at a turning point. Review will take place again in five years.</p>
Approval	<p>The Honors Program Review was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.</p>
Network Management	<p>d. Network Management – Provost Krovi discussed this program review from the School of Computing, which went through specialized ABET accreditation review for the first time. This is a smaller program with 2 full time faculty, 562+ majors, but growth and potential of the program is great. One concern is faculty resources with growth. Discussion took place regarding adding a cybersecurity cyber range to the university.</p>
Approval	<p>The Network Management Program Review was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.</p>
Teaching & Information Services	<p>e. Teaching &amp; Information Services - Provost Krovi presented a review of this relatively new department. The library has been undergoing some changes including construction and renovation. The goal of the department is to offer curriculum to</p>

	<p>promote literacy skills. The department has been innovative in trying to integrate the information literacy course. Provost Krovi would like to see this course implemented university-wide to fit the context of programs in each college. Review will take place again in five years.</p>
Approval	<p>The Teaching &amp; Information Services Program Review was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.</p>
Department Chair Recommendations	<p>8. Provost Krovi discussed Department Chair Recommendations. There are 16 recommendations that require 2/3 majority of faculty votes. This is a three-year appointment. Eleven are being reappointed, one is an interim, and the rest are new. PPM 1-19 addresses chair appointments for reference.</p>
Approval	<p>The Department Chair Recommendations were approved to move to the Board of Trustees.</p>
Board of Trustees Draft Agenda (March 16, 2021)	<p>9. President Mortensen discussed the Board of Trustees Draft Agenda for the March 16, 2021 meeting. Meetings will start at 9:00 am due to the large agenda, and operating under new Utah Board of Higher Education delegated authority. Tuition and fees levels will be reviewed, along with the need to have a budget in place. A 2% increase will be recommended to trustees to cover mandatory needs to keep programs and scholarships in place plus cover the mandated faculty/staff increase. A separate agenda item will be added to cover the 5 year review. We will start alternating the order of the Business Committee and Personnel &amp; Academic Policy Committee on the agenda moving forward with the Business Committee presenting first in the March meeting.</p>
Other	<p>10. Other items for discussion by the President's Council Included:</p> <p>a. Senate Bill 172 –The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health has passed and we will jointly operate the center with the UofU. There are many details to work through concerning operations, curriculum, finances, etc. This will allow WSU to step up in a more state-wide way and work with industry on occupational</p>

health and safety. This will be a positive move for our students and university.

- b. Another senate bill, SB 107, was amended that will dictate how many face to face courses will be required this fall. More discussion is taking place concerning the percentage of courses that will be required. There may be some exceptions to allow flexibility to allow us to adapt as needed.
- c. Vaccines may be available for all faculty and staff by July 1. We will wait to hear more, but that is the latest report, unless this happens sooner.
- d. The state auditor is trying to create a bill concerning student fees that would mandate a report on every tuition, course fee, student feed dollar in eleven subcategories collected over the last three years and how it was collected, who benefitted from it and how it was spent.
- e. Big budget bills in the legislature still need to be passed.
- f. Funding for the transfer of the USTAR/Sparrowhawk Building at Falcon Hill has been approved by the Executive Appropriations Committee, including \$267,000 ongoing for operations and maintenance and about \$2.1 million to pre-pay some obligations. An additional \$600,000 to renovate and brand the facility does not appear to be included.
- g. Sylvia Mendez, keynote speaker, has had a health crisis and will not be able to be a guest speaker. The diversity office is hoping to have a backup speaker by the end of the week.
- h. Commencement plans are to hold the main ceremony virtually on the evening of April 29, with convocations to be held separately on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1.
- i. One time funding has been approved for enhancing our articulation and syncing enrollment with local technical colleges. Marketing website development



and communication tools will be coming.

- j. The legislative report will be given on Friday, March 5. The hope is that things will be solidified by then to report to faculty and staff along with updates for all things COVID, including the town hall Q&A before spring break.
- k. Preparation and fine tuning of strategic planning for trustees needs to take place.

Upcoming Events

- 11. Upcoming Events were included in the packet without discussion.

Meeting Adjourn

- 12. Without any further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.