



**Board of Trustees
BUSINESS MEETING**

Saturday, February 21, 2026
9:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. MDT
Gaylord Hall – Worner Campus Center

MINUTES

Trustees Present: Kari Alldredge, Buck Blessing, Ed Bowditch, Heather Carroll, Ed Casias, Lilly Chen, Jerome DeHerrera, Eric Duran, Frieda Ekotto, Joe Ellis, Jane Franke, Landon Hartman, Jena Hausmann, Ryan Haygood, Amy Louis, Liza Malott Pohle, Andrew Masterman, Dan Porterfield, So Yong Park, Kyle Samuel, Laila Scott, R. Thayer Tutt Jr., Mike Ukropina, Chester White, and Alan Woo.

Trustees Excused: Carolyn Cullen, Jeff Keller, Mary Naphtal, Jen Rodi Hoglin John Troubh, and Lauren Watel.

Staff & Faculty Present: Pedro de Araujo, Johanna Blickenstaff, Molly Bodnar, Tony Cabasco, Tracy Coleman, Khaleel Gathers, Samilja Heim, Monica Indrebo, Lesley Irvine, Lacy Karpilo, Beth Malmskog, Rosalie Rodriguez, Lori Seager, and Ryan Simmons.

I. **Welcome.....** **Kyle Samuel** **Information Approval**

a. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2025

Board Chair Samuel called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. MDT. Chair Samuel recommended minutes from November 7, 2025 for approval. Trustee Ellis motioned for approval, the motion was seconded by Trustee White. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

II. **Faculty Executive Committee, Co-Chair Report.....** **Beth Malmskog & Tracy Coleman** **Information**

Faculty Executive Committee Co-chairs, Beth Malmskog and Tracy Coleman, thanked the Board and provided an oral report. They shared updates on faculty subcommittees' work which included revising faculty evaluations for tenure and promotion, positive reception of the new election system, continued investment and additional funding received for the faculty and staff Building Bridges Program, and continued engagement with faculty to voice concerns.

The co-chairs shared that there are concerns among faculty regarding the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on current and future students' ability to learn and write, particularly in the

Humanities and Social Sciences. There are also variances in use of AI among faculty. Other concerns among faculty include continuous support of academic freedom. The Board discussed these concerns and impacts with the co-chairs in depth.

III. President’s Update..... Manya Whitaker Information

a. ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Strategic Plan

President Whitaker reviewed the conceptualization of the strategic plan and highlighted the institutional priorities that anchor the plan, which include Institutional Strength, Reclaiming the Liberal Arts, Deepening Engagement and Excellence in Outcomes.

In further detail, President Whitaker identified the current challenges that each institutional priority will address. Institutional Strength will address financial, technological, and cultural challenges through the Institutional Review, fundraising campaigns, data governance, deferred maintenance allocation, a wellness strategic plan and more. Reclaiming the Liberal Arts will support student academic needs, faculty professional development and flexibility, and messaging framework for the institution. Deepening Engagement will focus on alumni engagement, Fine Arts Center reimagining, community engagement, and peer institution support. Excellence in Outcomes will address student success issues through career readiness, and enhanced support programs for student wellbeing and retention.

President Whitaker recommended for approval the strategic plan. Trustee Chester White motioned for approval. Trustee Eric Duran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Board Chair Update..... Kyle Samuel Information

Board Chair Samuel provided an update to the Board and thanked President Whitaker and the Cabinet for their work. Chair Samuel shared that a Strategic Project Team will be established to define the scope, role and charter for a new standing committee of the Board, focused on alumni engagement and advancement. Chair Samuel reinforced the importance of committee attendance and shared that Board giving reached participation goals for the year.

V. Break

The Board took a recess from 10:35 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

VI. Committee Updates & Action Items..... Committee Chairs

a. Buildings, Grounds & Infrastructure Committee Chester White Information

Committee Chair White thanked the Board for their recent engagement with the Science Building Project and shared updates. Core messaging for the Science Building Project will be refined to make a case for investment. College leadership and the architect team will bring forward a cost/timeline proposal for the schematic design process and seek committee and full Board approval as soon as possible, so momentum is not lost. Committee Chair White reviewed deferred maintenance and the strategic approach to managing deferred maintenance, noting the institutional review and campus master plan compliment this work. There are no action items from the committee.

b. **Budget & Finance Committee..... Eric Duran Approval**

i. **Action Item: Recommendation of Comprehensive Fee**

Committee Chair Duran thanked Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Lori Seager, for her work with the committee. Committee Chair Duran reviewed the committee’s recent work and discussion on the comprehensive fee proposal, and highlighted the budget variance report and projections for the fiscal year 2025-26 that show the College is in a favorable financial position and, despite enrollment below target, is on track for break-even results in FY2026. The committee will focus on the 2026-27 detailed budget process next, and this will come for Board approval in June.

Committee Chair Duran recommended that the Board approve the proposed FY2026-27 comprehensive fee increase of 3.73% and the contributing elements within that fee. Trustee Jena Hausmann motioned for approval, the motion was seconded by Trustee Jerome DeHerrera. Trustee Mike Ukropina and Trustee So Yong Park opposed the motion, there were no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

c. **Audit Subcommittee..... Jena Hausmann Approval**

i. **Action Item: Recommendation of Restrict Gifts Eligibility Language**

Subcommittee Chair Hausmann reported on recent work by the subcommittee including receipt of a high-level update on the legal landscape of higher education and legal activity against the College, provided by external counsel, and review of an annual report on insurance contributing to the subcommittee’s confidence in the appropriateness of the College’s levels of coverage. The subcommittee affirmed the College’s continued partnership with Moss Adams/Baker Tilly for audit and tax services as it moves into its second year of a three-year contract.

Subcommittee Chair Hausmann reviewed recommended language on two restricted scholarships and requested the Board vote on each scholarship separately.

Subcommittee Chair Hausmann moved approval of revised eligibility language of the David W. and Ann B. Armstrong endowed scholarship. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jerome DeHerrera and Student Trustee Landon Hartman abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Chair Hausmann motioned with proposed language for the approval of the Amos and Vesta Showalter endowed scholarship revision. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jerome DeHerrera and Student Trustee Landon Hartman abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Investment Committee..... John Troubh Information

Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Lori Seager, reported out on the committee’s work on behalf of Committee Chair, John Troubh. The Investment Committee recently reviewed reports from Partner’s Capital on the outperformance of the College’s endowment investment returns compared to relevant NACUBO peer groups, and calendar year 2025 and fiscal year 2025-26 to date endowment returns. The Outsourced Chief Investment Officer (OCIO) firm expressed some caution on private debt. A report on the College’s deferred giving arrangements was reviewed, and emphasis was given to monitoring the outside trustees and ensuring these funds are properly used in accordance with restrictions. There are no action items from the committee at this time.

e. Governance Committee..... Carolyn Cullen Approval

i. Action Item: Recommendation of Governance Committee Charter

The Board Vice Chair, Amy Louis, reported on behalf of the Governance Committee Chair. The recent promotion of the Student Trustee position had low applicants, so it will be promoted again with process changes that improve student access. The terms of the following Charter Trustees are up for renewal this year; Lilly Chen, Eric Duran, Frieda Ekotto, Jane Franke, So Yong Park and Alan Woo. The Governance Committee Chair will meet with these Trustees to discuss their interest in renewing for a second term. Lastly, the committee is in the process of recruiting a Young Alum Charter Trustee. Candidates have been identified and will be queried on their interest in joining the Board.

Board Vice Chair Louis recommended the Governance Committee Charter for approval. Trustee Jena Hausmann motioned for approval, the motion was seconded by Trustee Jerome DeHerra. The motion passes unanimously.

f. Student Success Committee..... Dan Porterfield Approval

i. Action Item: Recommendation of Student Success Charter

Chair of the Student Success Committee, Dan Porterfield, reported the committee has met twice and thanked Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students, Lacy Karpilo, for her support of the committee. The committee charter was revised after careful consideration of how the committee could be of service to the College. Recent committee meetings have included engagement in dialogue on CC student support and high impact practices, along with a deep dive into faculty and student research.

Committee Chair Porterfield recommended for approval the committee charter. Trustee Heather Carroll motioned for approval, the motion was seconded by Trustee Chester White. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Board Business.....

a. Faculty Tenure Promotions..... Dean of the Faculty Approval

Dean of Faculty, Emily Chan, motioned for approval the following 5 candidates for tenure and promotion to associate professors: Liliana Carrizo, Assistant Professor of Music, Chantal Figueroa, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Cayce Hughes, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Adam Light, Assistant Professor of Physics, and Brandon Shimoda, Assistant Professor of English. Trustee Jerome DeHerrera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Faculty & Staff Emeritus Honorary Designation..... Dean of the Faculty Approval

Dean of the Faculty, Emily Chan, motioned for approval the following candidates for honorary Emeritus Designation: Rick Furtak, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Claire Oberon Garcia, Dean and Professor of English, Eve Grace, Associate Professor of Political Science, Hong Jiang, Professor of Chinese, Jonathan Scott Lee, Professor of Philosophy, Dwanna McKay, Associate Professor of Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Studies - in memoriam, Carol Neel, Professor of History, Patricia Waters, Professor of Psychology, and Shawn Womack, Professor of Theatre and Dance. Trustee Heather Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Honorary Degree Nominations..... Approval

The Board discussed the Honorary Degree nominees and the process of nominations. Trustee Jerome DeHerrera motions for approval of nominee Christopher Benoit for an honorary degree. The motion is seconded by Buck Blessing. Two Trustees object, two Trustees abstain. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair Kyle notes the Honorary Degree process will be reviewed by the Executive Committee for refinement.

VIII. Executive Session (Trustees Only) Kyle Samuel Discussion

The Board entered Executive Session at 11: 40 a.m.

IX. Adjourn

The Board adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

WRITTEN REPORTS ONLY (X. THROUGH XIII.)*

X.	Mid-Year Reports	
	a. President’s Office.....	Manya Whitaker
	b. Advancement.....	Molly Bodnar
	c. Athletics & Recreation.....	Lesley Irvine
	d. Communications & Marketing	Johanna Blickenstaff
	e. Dean of the College/ Chief Operating Officer.....	Pedro de Araujo
	f. Enrollment	Tony Cabasco
	g. Faculty, Dean of.....	Emily Chan
	h. Finance & Administration.....	Lori Seager
	i. Human resources.....	Ryan Simmons
	j. Information Technology.....	Khaleel Gathers
	k. Institutional Equity & Belonging.....	Rosalie Rodriguez
	l. Student Life.....	Lacy Karpilo
XI.	Faculty Executive Committee.....	Beth Malmskog
XII.	Staff Council.....	Co-Chairs
XIII.	Student Government Association.....	Royce Hinojosa ’26
XIV.	Dashboards.....	Ben Moffit

*Corresponding reports posted in BoardEffect