

## Snow College Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2025

Meeting held at River Oak Golf Course

**Members in Attendance:** Rob Behunin, Ali Fenlon, Romney Stewart, Russell Buttars, Stacey McIlff, Cameron Brooks, Tim Tingey, Meche Mellor, Jeff Kahn, Kay Christensen, Mark Howard, Mike Carlston, Kelsey Berg

**Members in Attendance Online:** Travis Nielsen, Gail Albrecht, Greg Lambourne

**Absent:** Brent Thorne, Randy Cox, Roger Thompson, Joe Strain, Jim Tatton, Corey Shelley

**Call to Order and Welcome:** Rob Behunin

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from 5-14-2025 approved

### **President's Institutional Report & Questions:**

8-13 yearly staff meeting, will be sharing update of reallocation

8-20 school starts

Statistics: 70% of our first time freshmen graduate with an associate's degree, (National avg 40%) 27.5% receive a certificate, 2.5% graduate with a Bachelors degree, 72% low income, 60% from rural areas, 44% 1<sup>st</sup> generation college students.

We remain the most affordable in Utah higher education – for both degrees and Tech ed

New mission statement: We empower each student with a personalized path to success through comprehensive education, advanced technical training, and the confidence to create a thriving future.

Strategic direction for the next 3 years: Badger 140 plan (Snow College will turn 140 years old in 3 years). These are goals we would like to accomplish for the college. Details being built out, but the broad categories are:

1. Enrollment, student success, completion. Our avg age student is 21. We have a 16,000 square mile service area (almost 20% of state's land mass), we are looking at the population that doesn't fall into that average.
2. Workforce readiness - general education that measures skills and not just knowledge. Problem solving, getting along with people, showing up on time to class (employers are saying that these are gaps for students coming out of all colleges) Year 3 we will start a student run enterprise i.e. creamery like aggie ice cream where students are the managers,

accountants, marketers, operations people, buyers- a hands-on workforce readiness program. There are several other pieces, but those are just 2 highlights of this category

3. Institutional operational excellence. Making sure our resources align with our strategic priorities.

We will send the Badger 140 plan out to board when it is finalized.

Core values – rooted in tradition and focused on the future, our values shape how we teach, serve and lead: Personalization, accessibility/affordability, engagement, future ready, resourceful

New board members introduced: Jeff Kahn, Ali Fenlon-link to alumni council, Corey Shelley, Travis Nielsen

Reallocation- all Utah degree granting institutions - mandatory 10% budget reallocation - first cut then reallocate- \$1.67 million for Snow College. Our presentation was made to the Higher Education board, and it was approved. This was mostly through early retirements and natural attrition - probably the only institution without layoffs or involuntary dismissals. We must go through 3 approvals. In 2 weeks, we will present to Higher Ed Appropriations. In October to the Executive appropriations.

We hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Adventure Day – appx 60 attended. Speaker Schultz had good things to say about Snow and what we are doing.

### **Board Project updates:**

**Rural Scholarship:** extension of fundraising deadline to Dec 31 instead of FY that ends in June. We have raised \$60,000 specifically for rural this year, goal \$250K. Some are also donating to other opportunities. The Foundation Board has raised and contributed \$190,000 in donations this year (including the \$60,000)

### **Capital Projects:**

*Washburn* - architect selected, revitalize and create a more enhanced campus atmosphere. It will harmonize the architectural styles of all the buildings. In planning phases now, should be in construction phase sometime next year.

*Social Science Building* - state funding received, in the process of meeting with architect and contractor – Layton Construction, est. \$32 million project 45,000 sq ft bldg. located south of library. It will house the: education, home and family studies, social sciences, social work, & criminal justice programs. Construction to begin Spring 2026 and complete by Fall 2028. Greenwood hall will be torn down this fall. We have a rendering of

new building from the front. It ties in nicely with Noyes and library. There was much faculty input on the committee.

*Urgent Care Building* - Negotiating a new lease with Gunnison Valley Hospital in their new building on Ephraim Main Street – 2,000 square feet for our wellness center. We should be in by October.

*Richfield Housing* – We will need some partners. We need to raise \$7.5 million privately. We met with Miller Family Foundation and received good feedback. We made a paper presentation and submitted and asked for 3 million. Eccles cannot this year, but maybe next. We are approaching other foundations such as Clark, Kahlert.

Discussion about approaching the Daniels Fund, they want to do more in Utah.

Discussion about if we fall into an opportunity zone under the Big Beautiful Bill.

*Sevier Valley Center* – visited with UCCU to discuss partnerships, visited both campuses, we have an opportunity for corporate sponsorship, we brought up the housing project, looking for a corporate partnership and apply some funds to it? Preparing a letter of interest to send to the community to see who would be interested in a sponsorship opportunity. We want to make sure that anyone interested can bid on this opportunity, too.

*Nephi* – CNA and EMT program in the hospital we cannot build a campus alone, but we could partner with school district, maybe Mountainland and UVU. The catalyst center legislation regarding career and Technical Education (CTE) for high school students may provide an opportunity. When the application comes out, we will likely put together a proposal with the school districts.

### **Top 100/Athletics:**

- Miller Family – already discussed
- Cindy Gilbert – Rob is a contact with Cindy. She made her first gift-started a scholarship
- Mark Stoddard continues to give. He is very generous.
- Garret Bolles – Feb event at Snow College. June we attended his foundation's golf tournament. We went to their fundraising dinner at Thanksgiving Point. He has indicated that he will make a contribution to Snow.
- We want to reconnect/re-engage former SC athletes such as Josh Heupel, Brett Kiesel with Snow. We are not looking for phone number to solicit, but bring them back to Snow and allow them to remember their experience, build relationship, and we don't have to ask. They ask, what can I do for Snow College. We want them to come back and speak to students, and help our students see what they could accomplish.
- We are starting to systematize our relationships while students are at Snow College. Our new Athletic Director, Karen Johnson, will begin attending these meetings and

keep us abreast of what is happening with athletics. 17 of our football players are going on to division 1 schools this year, we had a number 1 basketball team this year. We need to keep our connections going with our Alumni. Have Alumni, Athletics and Advancement working together. Karen also will know what projects need to be done i.e. Football turf needs to be replaced in the next 3 years, soccer fence, Softball field – naming opportunities for donors.

- We should consider highlighting/recognizing athletes who have donated so that current athletes can be thinking about their future connection with Snow after they have gone on.

### **Investment Portfolio/Financial Report:**

Handout with summary of endowment and investment update

Endowment is critical for proceeds and investments to help with scholarship opportunities for students. See document

June FY2024 donations over \$800,000 added to endowment

Clearbrook is managing our investments, East Coast office, contract until 2026, focused effort to look at alternatives and turn elsewhere when it ends if needed

Discussion of possible conflicts and appropriate remedies.

Brighton Wealth Management suggested as an alternative because it is local.

Tim will research ending date of contract and ask legal counsel about conflict of interest. He will report at the next meeting

Current returns are in the acceptable range; we are conservative in our approach.

Discussions about funds and returns.

We should be getting quarterly report and are only getting annual.

### **New Business:**

Asking for suggestions/nominations for Distinguished Alumni and other alumni awards to be awarded at Homecoming. Information in packet about the awards. – Threesa will get the nomination form to the board when it is ready.

### **Follow-up & Upcoming Events:**

Alumni Night at the Bees Game – great success despite poor weather. There was a good turn-out

Legislative Adventure Days – appx 15 legislators that had never participated before, others were returning. The speaker and Majority leader were there. Next year will be in Fishlake depending on the results of the current wildfire. Discussion about what board members experienced who came. Legislators enjoyed the invitation, and the interaction with other business people in the community allows for the forging of relationships. It creates future value. Snow College is coming to be known by our legislators. Suggestion made to invite legislators to attend the Homecoming Game.

Mention of a new resort being built in Fairview “Snowland”. It is non-profit. Tim has been on the board.

Alumni Golf Tournament – best one yet, Alumni Council did great

Wrestling Golf Tournament– September 5, 11 teams signed up now – need 10 more

Snow College Benefit Dinner – in Richfield for all Snow College students, donor pays for food as a donation, and that donation allows all sign-ups to go to scholarships. We had 300 attending last year. We would like 400-450 this year.

Homecoming – Oct 11 – next board meeting on the Friday before Homecoming, we want the board on campus, time not set yet afternoon likely the best time. They can ride in the parade.

Homecoming is a great time to invite alumni back to campus. It is an opportunity for them to remember Snow and its influence in their lives.

Do we invite past honoraries, etc. to homecoming? Ali will take that to the Alumni Council.

Discussion about the effect of FSJ on enrollment in the future and how to track it. We have between 6,000-10,000 FSJ attendees each year. We give them a T-shirt if they want it.

We need to find a way to track better to see if FSJ affected their decision to come to Snow.

Discussion about whether there are there any Olympians that are Snow Alumni? Or someone from the 6-county area?

**Adjournment:** at 4:25 pm

**Next Foundation Board meetings:**

November 5 - Ephraim

February – Snow Day on the Hill