

From: President Smeed <president@utahtech.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 11:32 AM
To: UT Official
Subject: Cabinet Updates



Dear Campus Community,

I hope this message finds you enjoying your summer. As always, I want to thank you for your dedication to Utah Tech University. As part of my ongoing commitment to communicate to you with clarity, transparency, and timeliness, today I am pleased to share several exciting personnel and structural updates to our cabinet leadership team. Several of our colleagues are stepping into new or expanded roles, and I want to take a moment to lift up their contributions and express my support as they take on these responsibilities.

First, after an extensive national search, I have selected **Natalie Nelson** as Utah Tech University's next General Counsel. Natalie brings exceptional legal acumen and institutional knowledge to this role. Her career includes service as a Deputy Washington County Attorney and, most recently, as the Education Division Director for the Utah Attorney General's Office. In that capacity, she led the public and higher education legal teams and served as Utah Tech's designated Assistant Attorney General, gaining deep familiarity with our campus. Her understanding of higher education law, combined with her commitment to service, makes her an ideal fit for this critical position.

Second, I'm pleased to announce that **Brad Last** has accepted a new role as Special Assistant to the President for Government and Community Relations. In this part-time role, Brad will draw upon his extensive public service experience to strengthen our relationships with local, state, and federal partners, including representing Utah Tech during the 2026 general legislative session. As part of this transition, Brad



will be stepping down from his current position as Vice President for University Advancement. I want to express my appreciation for Brad's leadership over the past 12 years. During this time, Utah Tech has significantly expanded its fundraising and alumni relations footprint. In total, giving has increased each of the past five years and has doubled since 2020—an extraordinary achievement. Beyond his contributions to fundraising, Brad's influence has been vital to the university's success. His steady leadership and infectious personality have transformed our campus and its people. We will immediately launch a national search for the next Vice President for University Advancement, and Brad will move into his new role once that individual is selected.

Third, I have appointed **Henrie Walton** as Utah Tech University's next Chief of Staff. Henrie will lead the President's Office team and serve as Secretary to the Board of Trustees. He has served in the interim role since January 2024 while also leading our government and community relations efforts. I'm grateful for his steady leadership and advocacy on behalf of Utah Tech. During his tenure as Assistant to the President for Government and Community Relations, Henrie helped secure critical funding for new academic programs, faculty and staff positions and compensation increases, and major infrastructure projects. As part of this transition, our talented team at the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, which had previously been housed in the President's Office, will now be part of the Administrative Affairs Division. I look forward to Henrie's continued leadership in this expanded role.

In alignment with my commitment to our people and culture, I have also decided to elevate the previously open position of Executive Director of Human Resources to a cabinet-level role. This position will now be titled **Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO)** and will report directly to the President. I want to thank Travis Rosenberg for his dedicated and exemplary service as Executive Director over the past decade and Paul Morris for his stewardship of the department. As we look ahead to our upcoming strategic plan, the elevation of this role signals that developing talent and building a culture of respect and collaboration will be a central focus.

I'm excited to work alongside Natalie, Brad, and Henrie in their new capacities. As I've shared before, people and culture are paramount to our success—and I believe these personnel and structural adjustments reflect our continued commitment to both. Please be on the lookout for additional positive organizational developments in the coming weeks and months. Together, we will advance Utah Tech's mission while fostering a workplace culture grounded in excellence, respect, and trust.

Sincerely,



President Shane Smeed

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