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North Dakota Higher Education Challenge Fund  
February 20, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

The North Dakota Higher Education Challenge Fund Committee met on Thursday, February 20 at 8:00 a.m. CST., via a hybrid meeting option: Microsoft Teams/face-to-face in the North Dakota University System Conference Room, 10th floor, Bismarck State Capitol, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505.

Committee Chair Maria Neset called the meeting to order at 7:59 a.m. CT.

1) **Roll Call**

Committee Members present:

Chair, Maria Neset  
Senator Randy Burckhard  
Senator Ronald Sorvaag  
Representative Bob Martinson  
Representative Emily O'Brien  
Mr. Jeffry Volk  
Mr. Kevin Black  
Mr. Rick Burgum

Institutions and Institution Foundation representatives:

BSC: Ms. Kari Knudson, Ashli Engen  
DCB: Dean Carmen Simone  
DSU: Mr. Ty Orton  
LRSC: President Darling, Ms. Ashlee Collison, Ms. Erin Wood  
MaSU: Mr. Lon Jorgensen  
MiSU: Mr. Rick Hedberg  
NDSCS: Ms. Kim Nelson  
NDSU: Mr. John Glover  
UND: Ms. DeAnna Carlson Zink  
VCSU: Mr. Cory Anderson  
WSC: President Hirning, Mr. Hunter Berg

North Dakota University System Office and Guests:

Chancellor Mark Hagerott  
Ms. Jamie Wilke  
Ms. Mindy Sturn  
Mr. David Krebsbach  
Mr. Mark Gorenflo  
Ms. Bethany Kadrmas  
Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer  
Ms. Caitlin Magilke

2) **Approval of Agenda**

Sorvaag moved, O'Brien seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Approved by consensus.

3) **Approval of October 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Sorvaag moved, O'Brien seconded, to approve the minutes, as presented.

Approved by consensus.

4) **Challenge Grant Fund Balances-Regular Applications**

Ms. Mindy Sturn provided an update on the Challenge Grant Fund balances with a total of approximately \$1.2 million in regular fund applications, with nearly every campus requesting their full allocation for the biennium. This left a remaining amount of \$269,109 for pooled funding.

**Regular Scope & Funding Application Approvals:**

5) **VCSU State Request: \$748,913**

b) VCSU Fish & Wildlife Science Research, Technology and Educational Infrastructure-Scope

Mr. Corey Anderson presented VCSU's request.

Martinson moved, Burgum seconded, to approve VCSU's request, item 5b, as presented.

Martinson, O'Brien, Volk, Black, Burgum, Burckhard, Sorvaag, and Chair Neset voted yes. Spelhaug absent. Motion passed 8 – 0.

**VCSU continued:**

a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only

- c) VCSU Fish & Wildlife Science Research, Technology and Educational Infrastructure-Application
- d) Fund Application Support-VCSU Fish & Wildlife Science Research, Technology and Educational Infrastructure
- e) VCSU Endowed Scholarship Program-Application
- f) Fund Application Support-Endowed Scholarship Program
- g) VCSU Academic Scholarship Program-Application
- h) Fund Application Support-Academic Scholarship Program

Volk moved, Burgum seconded, to approve VCSU's request, items 5c – h, as presented.

Black, Burgum, Burckhard, Sorvaag, O'Brien, Martinson, Volk, and Chair Neset voted yes. Spelhaug absent. Motion passed 8 – 0.

6) **NDSCS State Request: \$125,538**

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) Buchholtz Herbert F & Ruth E Endowment-Application
- c) Family Scholarship Endowments-Application
- d) Scholarship Endowments-Application
- e) Skills USA Endowment-Application
- f) Performing Arts Program-Application
- g) Science of Leadership Scholarship-Application
- h) Fund Application Support Document-All Applications

Ms. Kim Nelson presented NDSCS's request.

Burckhard moved, Volk seconded, to approve NDSCS's request, items 6b – h, as presented.

O'Brien, Volk, Black, Burgum, Burckhard, Sorvaag, Martinson, and Chair Neset voted yes. Spelhaug absent. Motion passed 8 – 0.

7) **LRSC State Request: \$138,586**

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) Endowed Scholarship Support-Application
- c) Endowed Program Support-Application
- d) Academic Scholarship Support-Application
- e) Fund Application Support Document-All Applications

Ms. Erin Wood presented LRSC's request.

O'Brien moved, Sorvaag seconded, to approve LRCS's request, items 7b – e, as presented.

Volk, Black, Burgum, Burckhard, Sorvaag, O'Brien, Martinson, and Chair Neset voted yes. Spelhaug absent. Motion passed 8 – 0.

- 8) **DSU State Request: \$92,648**
- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
  - b) College on the Hill Endowment-Application
  - c) Cornerstone Traditions Scholarship-Application
  - d) Fund Application Support Document-All Applications

President Orton presented DSU's request.

Martinson moved, Black seconded, to approve DSU's request, items 8b – d, as presented.

Black, Burgum, Burckhard, Sorvaag, O'Brien, Martinson, Volk, and Chair Neset voted yes. Spelhaug absent. Motion passed 8 – 0.

- 9) **DCB State Request: \$86,571**
- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
  - b) Dakota College at Bottineau General Scholarship Campaign-Application
  - c) Fund Application Support Document

Dean Simone presented DCB's request.

O'Brien moved, Burckhard seconded, to approve DCB's request, items 9b – c, as presented.

Burgum, Burckhard, Sorvaag, O'Brien, Martinson, Volk, Black, and Committee Chair Neset. Spelhaug absent. Motion passed 8 – 0.

### **Pooled Scope & Funding Application Approvals**

Ms. Mindy Sturn provided an update on the pooled funding round, noting that \$269,109 was available for Dakota College at Bottineau and Williston State College to request.

- 10) **WSC State Request: \$242,913**
- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
  - b) Endowed Scholarships-Healthcare-Application
  - c) Endowed Scholarships-Education-Application
  - d) Fund Application Support Document

Mr. Hunter Berg presented WSC's request.

O'Brien moved, Burckhard seconded, to approve WSC's request, items 10b – d, as presented.

Burckhard, Sorvaag, O'Brien, Martinson, Volk, Black, Burgum, and Chair Neset voted yes. Spelhaug absent. Motion passed 8 – 0.

11) **DCB State Request: \$26,196**

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) DCB General Scholarship Campaign-Application
- c) Fund Application Support Document

Dean Simone presented DCB's request.

Martinson moved, Burckhard seconded, to approve DCB's request, items 10b – c, as presented.

Burckhard, Sorvaag, O'Brien, Martinson, Volk, Black, Burgum, and Chair Neset voted yes. Spelhaug absent. Motion passed 8 – 0.

**Other Committee Business**

12) Open Discussion

No topics were raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 a.m. CST.

Approved September 23, 2025