

## North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

June 26, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education met on June 26, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. CT., Lake Region State College, 1801 College Dr. North, Ag Building, Devils Lake, ND 58301.

### Roll Call

SBHE Members

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tim Mihalick, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Danita Bye, Vice Chair (via Teams 11:40 a.m. – 1:03 p.m.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Kevin Black         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Casey Ryan  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Jeffry Volk         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller (via Teams)                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Michael Linnell, Staff Advisor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor                         |

Incoming SBHE Members: Pat Sogard, Levi Bachmeier, and Anna Kinney.

Institutions

**BSC** Interim President Leingang, **DCB** Dean Simone, **DSU** President Molander, **LRSC** President Darling, Mr. Lloyd Halvorson, **MaSU** President Van Horn, **MISU** President Shirley, **NDSCS** President Flanigan, **NDSU** Mr. Jace Beehler, Ms. Stephanie Wawers, **UND** President Armacost, Mr. Namil Choi, Mr. Matthew Kibbon, **VCSU** President LaFave, **WSC** President Hirning.

System Office/Guests

**NDUS** Interim Chancellor Sanford, VC Lisa Johnson, VC David Krebsbach, VC Jerry Rostad, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Dina Cashman, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Caitlin Magilke, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, **CTS** VC Tom Danford, Mr. Corey Quirk, Mr. Dirk Huggett, **Assistant Attorney General** Ms. Meredith Larson.

Chair Mihalick called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. CT.

1. Agenda

Ryan moved, Black seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Board Consent (items 2 – 17)

2. [May 29, 2025](#), Meeting Minutes

SBHE BFC Committee

3. NDSU Request to [change Music Education Building Name](#)
4. WSC request to [transfer Tier II and III](#) funds
5. NDSCS request to [transfer Tier II and III](#) funds
6. DSU request to [transfer Tier II](#) funds
7. [DSU Bond Reimbursement Resolution](#) for \$12.5 million in bonding authority authorized by the SBHE on June 25, 2024, and September 24, 2024, and the 69th Legislative Assembly

The North Dakota University System is governed by the State Board of Higher Education and includes:

Bismarck State College • Dakota College at Bottineau • Dickinson State University • Lake Region State College • Mayville State University • Minot State University • North Dakota State College of Science • North Dakota State University • University of North Dakota • Valley City State University • Williston State College

10. [NDSU Seim Hall Renovation Project Authorization Increase Request](#)
11. UND to fundraise for and begin construction on a [Health Professions Facility](#)
12. [Biennial budget for SBHE, NDUS Office, and CTS](#)

#### SBHE Audit Committee

13. [NDUS Internal Audit Strategic Plan](#)
14. [NDUS FY26 Audit Plan](#)
15. [Audit Independent Confirmation](#)
16. Compliance [Independent Confirmation](#)
17. [Compliance Plan](#) and Report

Member Volk requested to remove item 11, UND to fundraise for and begin construction on a [Health Professions Facility](#) from the consent agenda; there was no opposition.

Ryan moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the amended consent agenda, items 2-10 and 12 – 17; further move item 11, the UND to fundraise for and begin construction on a [Health Professions Facility](#), to Board Business.

Campbell, Eriksrud, Volk, Ryan, Black, Biller, and Chair Mihalick voted yes. Bye absent. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Board Business

18. President Emeritus

Chair Mihalick presented the request from LRSC to bestow President Emeritus status on Dr. Doug Darling. Chair Mihalick read a summary of Dr. Darling's career, highlighting his service since 1988, leadership roles, and numerous state and national awards, including the Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award and recognition as District 5 Pacesetter of the Year. Dr. Darling's contributions included major campus improvements and visionary leadership.

Ryan moved, Biller seconded, to bestow President Emeritus status upon Dr. Doug Darling.

Approved unanimously by voice vote.

19. [Post-tenure Reviews](#)
  - a. [Option 1](#)
  - b. [Options 2](#)

Vice Chancellor Johnson presented the agenda item, outlining the request for clarification on the implementation timeline for post-tenure faculty reviews, referencing recent board policy and legislative requirements.

Two options were presented:

Option 1: Complete the first round of post-tenure reviews for all tenured faculty within three years, with approximately one-third completed each year, ensuring data is available for the next legislative session.

Option 2: Allow a longer, five-year implementation window, aligning with the steady-state review cycle and reducing annual workload.

Board members and campus representatives discussed the implications, workload, and legislative expectations for each option. Concerns were raised regarding workload and the need for flexibility, but also recognized the importance of demonstrating accountability to the legislature.

Ryan moved, Volk seconded, to approve Option 1, as presented.

Volk, Campbell, Black, Biller, Ryan, Eriksrud, and Chair Mihalick voted yes. Bye absent. Motion passed 7 – 0.

## 20. SBHE Self-assessment

- [SBHE Self-Assessment Report 2025](#)
- [SBHE Self-Assessment Data 2025](#)
- [SBHE Self-Assessment trend data 2022-25](#)

Mr. Pieske presented the SBHE Self-Assessment Report for 2025, including current year data and trend data from 2022 to 2025, based on the Qualtrics survey.

Board members discussed participation rates, noting 90% completion and the importance of full board member engagement in future assessments.

Mr. Pieske explained that one member was unable to participate due to personal reasons and a short survey window.

Chair Mihalick and Member Ryan highlighted significant improvements in board members avoiding representation of particular campuses or constituencies, as shown in the trend data.

Member Ryan commented on the importance of trust within the board and with campus presidents, suggesting further discussion on this issue.

Mr. Pieske noted that the Research Governance Committee will use the report to set priorities for the coming year, which will be brought to the board for approval.

Ryan moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the SBHE Self-Assessment Report 2025, as presented.

Black, Eriksrud, Volk, Campbell, Ryan, Biller, and Chair Mihalick voted yes. Bye absent. Motion passed 7-0.

## 21. Approval of Assignment of Institution Finance Staff to Higher Education Funding Review Committee study, as directed in SB2003:

- Mr. Bruce Bollinger
- Ms. Karla Mongeon-Stewart
- Ms. Erica Buchholz
- Ms. Krista Lambrecht
- Ms. Rebecca Collins

- Mr. Keith Johnson

Interim Chancellor Sanford presented the proposed slate of finance staff assignments for the Higher Education Funding Review Committee, as directed by Senate Bill 2003. The slate included Erica Buchholz (VCSU), Krista Lambrecht (Minot State), Rebecca Collins (Bismarck State), and Keith Johnson (School of Science), joining Bruce Bollinger and Karla Mongeon-Stewart, who were named in the bill.

Black moved, Ryan seconded, to approve the assignments as presented.

Discussion included concerns from presidents about representation balance between larger and smaller two-year institutions. Suggestions were made to consider replacing Keith Johnson with Joann Kitchens (LRSC) to better represent smaller campuses.

Eriksrud moved, Ryan seconded an amendment to the motion to include the replacement of Keith Johnson with Joann Kitchens.

After further discussion, it was clarified that nominations had been received from all campuses and the slate was vetted with legislators. Krista Lambrecht's experience at both small and large institutions was noted as valuable for balanced representation.

Eriksrud and Ryan withdrew their proposed amendment.

The original motion Black moved, Ryan seconded, to approve the assignments as presented.

Ryan, Biller, Black, Eriksrud, Volk, Campbell, and Chair Mihalick voted yes. Bye absent. Motion passed 7-0.

## 22. [Executive Compensation](#) Plan

Member Black introduced the Executive Compensation Plan, acknowledging Member Campbell and Ms. Grinde for their work on the compensation study and spreadsheet, which was endorsed by the Budget and Finance Committee.

The plan aims to bring all presidents to the 50th percentile (median) of market compensation over three years, emphasizing the importance of retaining talent and addressing disparities in compensation and housing across campuses.

Discussion included the need to consider performance-based compensation and housing solutions in future years.

Member Ryan advocated for longer-term contracts (minimum three years) for successful presidents to ensure retention and fairness, noting the high cost of presidential turnover.

Member Volk raised concerns about the quality and robustness of the compensation data used, especially for positions with small comparison groups, and suggested this issue be addressed in future studies.

Chair Mihalick noted that the data source had been used for several years and was considered reliable by the committee.

No action taken.

23. Executive Session – Presidential Contracts

Volk moved, Black seconded, to enter Executive Session to (1) consider the appointment, re-appointment, renewal contracts, and any new contract terms for Presidents of NDUS institutions and (2) limit the executive session to voting board members, nonvoting advisers, Chancellor, selected NDUS Office Staff, board counsel, and appointed board members to begin July 1, 2025. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section 15-10-17(1)(d).

Volk, Black, Biller, Eriksrud, Ryan, Campbell, and Chair Mihalick. Bye absent. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Executive session began at 9:47 a.m. CT.

Present:

SBHE Members

Mr. Tim Mihalick, Chair

Ms. Danita Bye, Vice Chair

Mr. Kevin Black

Dr. Casey Ryan

Mr. Jeffrey Volk

Mr. Curtis Biller

Mr. Max Eriksrud

Mr. DJ Campbell

Mr. Michael Linnell, Staff Advisor

Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor

Incoming SBHE Members: Pat Sogard, Levi Bachmeier, and Anna Kinney.

Others Present:

Interim Chancellor Sanford, Ms. Jane Grinde, Ms. Meredith Larson, Ms. Kristie Hetzler.

Executive session adjourned at 11:04 a.m. CT.

24. Reconvene in Open Meeting to take action regarding the appointment, reappointment, renewal contracts, and any new contract terms for Presidents of NDUS institutions.

Reconvened open session at 11:08 a.m. CT.

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to authorize the Chair of the State Board of Higher Education to execute the contracts per the recommendation of the Chancellor.

Ryan, Biller, Black, Volk, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Chair Mihalick. Bye absent. Motion passed 7 – 0.

25. Executive Session

Volk moved, Ryan seconded, to enter Executive Session to (1) consider the appointment of, and contract terms for, the next Interim Dean and Chief Executive Officer at Dakota College at Bottineau; ~~(2) to discuss negotiating strategy and provide~~

~~negotiating instructions to its counsel and/or negotiators related to the same;~~ and (3) limit the executive session to voting board members, nonvoting advisors, the chancellor, invited NDUSO staff, board counsel, and appointed board members to begin July 1, 2025. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 15-10-17(1)(a), 44-04-19.1(9) and 44-04-19.2.

Black, Biller, Ryan, Volk, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Chair Mihalick. Bye absent. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Executive session began at 11:14 a.m. CT.

Present:

SBHE Members

Mr. Tim Mihalick, Chair

Ms. Danita Bye, Vice Chair

Mr. Kevin Black

Dr. Casey Ryan

Mr. Jeffry Volk

Mr. Curtis Biller

Mr. Max Eriksrud

Mr. DJ Campbell

Mr. Michael Linnell, Staff Advisor

Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor

Incoming SBHE Members: Pat Sogard, Levi Bachmeier, and Anna Kinney.

Others Present:

Interim Chancellor Sanford, Ms. Meredith Larson, Ms. Kristie Hetzler.

Executive session adjourned at 11:27 a.m. CT.

## 26. Reconvene in Open Meeting

Reconvened open session at 11:29 a.m. CT.

Black moved, Ryan seconded, to appoint Corey Gorder as the Interim Dean and Chief Executive Officer at Dakota College at Bottineau.

Volk, Eriksrud, Biller, Campbell, Ryan, Black, and Chair Mihalick. Bye absent. Motion passed 7-0.

## MOVED: 11. UND to fundraise for and begin construction on a [Health Professions Facility](#)

Member Volk noted that the recommended motion in the packet differed from what was approved at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting. He clarified that Budget and Finance Committee supported the project but had concerns about authorizing both fundraising and beginning construction at this stage.

Volk moved, Biller seconded, to authorize UND to begin fundraising and to expend the \$5,000,000 appropriated by the legislature for planning the Health Professions Facility, with the requirement that preliminary plans be brought back to the State Board of Higher Education for further consideration before the next budget approval process.

Black, Biller, Ryan, Eriksrud, Campbell, Volk, and Chair Mihalick voted yes. Bye absent. Motion passed 7 – 0.

## # SBHE Policy

1<sup>st</sup> Read

### 27. Policy 510 [Rights of Students Called to Active Military Service](#)

Vice Chancellor Johnson presented amendments to Policy 510 to align with federal law regarding refunds for students called to active military service. No suggested edits were received from financial aid or student records groups.

Ryan moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve first reading, waive second reading, and final adoption of Policy [510](#), as presented.

Eriksrud, Ryan, Campbell, Volk, Biller, Black, and Chair Mihalick. Bye absent. Motion passed 7 – 0.

### 28. Policy 803.1 [Purchasing](#)

Mr. Huggett outlined changes to Policy 803.1, primarily driven by recent legislation (House Bill 1122 and Senate Bill 2072), including new authority for NDUS to enter into multi-campus contracts and clarifications on procurement procedures.

Ryan moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve first reading, waive second reading, and final adoption of Policy [803.1](#), as presented.

Black, Ryan, Eriksrud, Volk, Biller, Campbell, and Chair Mihalick. Bye absent. Motion passed 7 – 0.

### 29. Policy 840 [Contract Review](#)

Mr. Huggett presented a minor change to Policy 840, raising the contract review threshold to \$20,000 in line with Senate Bill 2072.

Ryan moved, Black seconded, to approve first reading, waive second reading, and final adoption of Policy [840](#), as presented.

Ryan, Eriksrud, Volk, Black, Biller, Campbell, and Chair Mihalick. Bye absent. Motion passed 7 – 0.

### 30. Policy 1203.1 [Digital Accessibility](#)

Mr. Pieske presented revisions to Policy 1203.1 to comply with new Department of Justice regulations on digital accessibility, clarifying that the regulations apply only to public-facing content.

Ryan moved, Campbell seconded, to approve first reading of Policy [1203.1](#), as presented.

Ryan, Biller, Black, Eriksrud, Bye, Volk, Campbell, and Chair Mihalick. Motion passed 8 – 0.

2<sup>nd</sup> Read

31. Policy 470 [State Authorization](#)

a. State Authorization [Fees](#)

Vice Chancellor Johnson presented Policy 470 for second reading, implementing new state statute for out-of-state higher education providers. The policy incorporated most feedback from external stakeholders, including a new definition for adverse action.

Campbell moved, Ryan seconded, to approve second reading, and final adoption of Policy [470](#), as presented.

Eriksrud, Volk, Bye, Campbell, Ryan, Biller, Black, and Chair Mihalick. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Vice Chancellor Johnson recommended adopting a sliding scale for state authorization fees based on FTE enrollment, as endorsed by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the State Authorization [Fees](#), as presented.

Campbell, Eriksrud, Volk, Ryan, Black, Bye, Biller, and Chair Mihalick. Motion passed 8 – 0.

**SBHE Committee Reports/Updates/Discussions**

32. July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, SBHE Committee Assignments

a. July Committee Meetings

Incoming Chair Black announced committee assignments for the upcoming year.

He emphasized a strategic focus for committees, encouraging chairs to prioritize key items and streamline agendas.

33. SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Member Biller reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on June 17. The committee approved several new certificates for various institutions. Other business addressed by the committee was covered in the current meeting, specifically the review of Policies 510 and 470.

34. SBHE Budget and Finance Committee

Member Black reported on the recent Budget and Finance Committee meeting. The main focus was the Executive Compensation Plan. The committee also reviewed and approved biennial budgets for the State Board of Higher Education, NDUS Office, and CTS.

35. SBHE Audit Committee

Member Volk reported that the Audit Committee met on June 17. All action items from the Audit Committee were included in the consent agenda for the current meeting.

Member Volk congratulated Bismarck's Finance team for achieving a clean audit in the North Dakota State audit.

### 36. SBHE Research and Governance Committee

Member Ryan reported on the Research and Governance Committee meeting held on June 17.

The research portion focused on recent developments, with Member Ryan noting positive collaboration between UND and NDSU on research initiatives.

It was highlighted that there was disappointment regarding the lack of state funding for research through the EDRF this year.

The governance portion addressed post-tenure review and the State Board Self-Assessment, both of which were covered in detail earlier in the main meeting.

Member Bye acknowledged Chancellor Sanford's vision and observations on research as important for future progress.

### 37. Ad Hoc RFP Committee

Mr. Gorenflo and Ms. Larson provided an overview and timeline of the committee's work. The committee was formed in January 2025 to create a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to assist with listening sessions and a task force on NDUS roles and responsibilities.

The committee met twice, in January and February, and worked with procurement officers Dirk Huggett and Pam Nielson to develop the initial draft. In February, the Board tabled the RFP, and the work was paused until May, when the Board resumed discussion and decided to issue an open RFP.

The committee then made several edits, including splitting the scope of work into three deliverables and setting a budget cap for the first deliverable. Member Volk's suggested changes prompted a discussion, clarifying that the total contract value would likely exceed \$100,000, requiring a Level 4 procurement process. The committee also discussed concerns about the timeline and the need for new members to be appointed since the co-chairs are leaving the board.

After a discussion about whether to proceed with the RFP or conduct an internal review, the committee reached a consensus to continue with the current plan. Member Black will appoint new committee members, and an internal review may proceed in parallel. Staff requested clear direction on which edits to follow, as changes had been made outside of formal committee meetings. No formal motions were made to stop or alter the RFP process, and the committee agreed to move forward as planned.

### **Other Reports**

38. NDSA by Mr. Max Eriksrud.

39. CCF by Dr. Lisa Montplaisir.

40. Staff Senate by Incoming SBHE Staff Advisor, Ms. Anna Kinney.
41. Present Recognition Plaques  
Chair Mihalick presented plaques to outgoing members Volk and Ryan.
42. Welcome New SBHE Members
  - a. Mr. Pat Sogard (SBHE Board Member)
  - b. Mr. Levi Bachmeier (SBHE Board Member)
  - c. Ms. Anna Kinney (SBHE staff advisor)Chair Mihalick welcomed the incoming board members.
43. Assessment of Meeting and Future Agenda Items
44. Public Comment

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m. CT

Approved September 23, 2025.