

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on July 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

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|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Kevin Black | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, faculty advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell | |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

SBSC Interim President Leingang, Ms. Kaylyn Bondy, Ms. Alicia Uhde, **DCB** Interim Dean Mr. Corey Gorder, Ms. Kayla O'Toole, **DSU** Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC** Interim President Simone, Mr. Lloyd Halvorson, Mr. Casey Zehrer, **MaSU** Dr. Brian Huschle, **MISU** President Shirley, Dr. Laurie Geller, Ms. Katherine McCarville, Dr. Bryan Schmidt, Mr. Nigel George, Mr. Darren Seifert, **NDSCS** Dr. Lisa Karch, **NDSU** Dr. David Bertolini, Ms. Larua Oster-Aaland, **UND** Dr. Eric Link, **VCSU** Mr. Larry Brooks, **WSC** President Hirning, Dr. Zahi Atallah, Ms. Megan Kasner

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS Chancellor Sanford, VC. Lisa Johnson, VC. David Krebsbach, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Mr. Chris Pieske, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Bethany Kadrmaz, **CTS** Mr. Corey Quirk, **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson.

Call to Order

1. Agenda

Member Biller requested item 3(d) be moved before item 3(a) due to a scheduling conflict.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as amended. Black absent.

Approved by consensus.

2. Meeting Minutes

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the June 17, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented. Black absent.

Approved by consensus.

Committee Business

3. New Academic Program Request (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)

MOVED

- d. [Minot State University](#)
 - i. [B.S. in Innovation Engineering](#)

Dr. Geller, Mr. George, and Mr. Seifert briefed MiSU's request for a B.S. in Innovation Engineering, explaining that the program was developed in response to industry needs, featuring a 2+2 structure: the first two years align with traditional engineering curricula to facilitate transfer to other institutions, while the final two years focus on industry-driven micro-credentials. Questions were raised by committee members and Dr. Link about the use of "engineering" in the program title, given the intention not to pursue ABET accreditation. Mr. George clarified that the curriculum meets ABET educational standards, though not the staffing requirements, and that graduates would still be eligible for professional engineering licensure, albeit with a longer experience requirement. The term "innovation engineering" was chosen to attract a broader range of students and meet local workforce demands. Chair Biller acknowledged the program's potential as a feeder to more specialized engineering degrees and its alignment with regional industry needs.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve new program request, item 3(d)(i) as presented.

Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Black absent. Motion passed 3-0.

MOVED

- d. [Minot State University](#)
 - ii. [M.S. in Mental Health and Substance Use Counseling](#)

Member Eriksrud raised a question about the delivery format (on campus, hybrid, or full distance) for the M.S. in Mental Health and Substance Use Counseling. Dr. Geller responded that the program will use a mixture of face-to-face, online, and online synchronous formats, but it will not be a full distance program or offered at another site; it will be delivered at the main location or online.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve new program request, item 3(d)(ii) as presented.

Eriksrud, Campbell, and Biller voted yes. Black absent. Motion passed 3-0.

- a. [Bismarck State College](#)
 - i. [B.A.S. in Organizational Management and Leadership](#)

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve new program request, item 3(a)(i) as presented.

Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Black absent. Motion passed 3-0.

- b. [Dakota College at Bottineau](#)
 - i. [A.A.S. in Medical Laboratory Technician](#)

ii. [UG Certificate and A.A.S. in Medical Surgical Technology](#)

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve new program request, item 3(b)(i-ii) as presented.

Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Black absent. Motion passed 3-0.

c. [Dickinson State University](#)

i. [B.S. in Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence](#)

Member Eriksrud posed a question about anticipated student enrollment and faculty hiring needs. Dr. Gruhlke indicated that new faculty were needed and had already been hired specifically for the B.S. in Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence program, mentioning that the new hires are recent graduates and enthusiastic about developing the program.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve new program request, item 3(c)(i) as presented.

Eriksrud, Campbell, and Biller voted yes. Black absent. Motion passed 3-0.

Concluding Discussion

At the end of the meeting, Member Biller shared upcoming focus areas for ASAC, including finalizing the Tenure review process, exploring reduced credit degrees and dual credit, streamlining new program development and expansion, clarifying institutional missions and degree offerings, and fostering collaboration between community, technical, and four-year institutions. Member Eriksrud suggested reviewing general education requirements, Vice Chancellor Johnson suggested exploring strategies to attract individuals with some college but no credential, and Member Campbell suggested ensuring academic programs align with the North Dakota's in-demand job list. Member Biller noted these topics will be refined and assigned for further work in the coming months.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 1:48 CDT.

Approved September 16, 2025.