NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
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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 September 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CT.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

☒ Mr. Curtis Biller, Chair
☒ Mr. Kevin Black (left at 1:55 p.m.)
☒ Mr. DJ Campbell
☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud
☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, faculty advisor

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC, Ms. Alicia Uhde, **DCB,** Interim Dean Corey Gorder, **DSU,** President Molander, Ms. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC,** Interim President Simone, **MaSU,** President Van Horn, Mr. Brian Huschle, Ms. Rhonda Nelson, **MiSU,** Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS,** Dr. Lisa Karch, Ms. Melissa Johnson, **NDSU,** Dr. David Bertolini, **UND,** Dr. Eric Link, Ms. Cassie Gerhardt, Ms. Blaize Morris, **VCSU,** Mr. Larry Brooks, Mr. Mark Nelson, **WSC,** President Hirning, Dr. Zahi Atallah.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS, Vice Chancellor Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor David Krebsbach, Vice Chancellor Meredith Larson, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Ms. Mindy Sturn.

Call to Order

1. Agenda
   Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

   Approved by consensus.

2. July 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes

3. September 4, 2025, Meeting Minutes

   Campbell moved, Black seconded, to approve the July 22, 2025 and September 4, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented.

   Approved by consensus.

Committee Business

4. New Academic Program Request (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
   a. Bismarck State College
      i. B.A.S. in Sports & Digital Broadcasting

Ms. Uhde provided an overview of the proposed B.A.S. degree in Sports & Digital Broadcasting. The program aims to support students pursuing careers in sports media and digital content production, combining mass communication with hands-on training in digital broadcasting and streaming technologies. She noted the existing infrastructure to expand this B.A.S. degree and potential industry partnerships.

Vice Chancellor Johnson mentioned concerns which were raised by UND and MiSU regarding the overlap with their existing programs and their significant investments.

Dr. Link raised a concern regarding the summary presented during the meeting. He pointed out that the cover sheet erroneously indicated that the AAC had approved the proposal with two dissenting votes, whereas the measure was actually tabled and no vote was taken.

The committee members discussed the need for clarity on the distinction between B.A.S. and B.A./B.S. degrees.

The committee members expressed their support for the program, emphasizing the importance of providing students with the skills needed to thrive in the rapidly evolving field of sports and digital broadcasting.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to place item 4(a)(i) on October's SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee agenda.

Eriksrud, Black, Campbell, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

b. Mayville State University
    i. B.A.S. in Healthcare Informatics
    Note: The reduced credit bachelor's degree (96-120 credits) will be reviewed after approval of Policy 409 Degree Offered.
    ii. B.S. in Healthcare Informatics

President Van Horn introduced the proposed B.A.S. in Healthcare Informatics and B.S. in Healthcare Informatics. The B.A.S. degree is designed primarily for transfer students to MaSU, with a variance in degree hours from 96 to 120 credits depending on the student's prior coursework. The B.S. degree is intended for students who start and complete their education at MaSU.

Dr. Huschle provided further details on the curriculum, emphasizing that the B.A.S. degree would serve students with an associate degree in nursing or other healthcare-related fields. The program aims to prepare students to do analytics of health outcomes for individuals receiving healthcare and to help facilities providers improve the outcomes for their patients by combining a background in healthcare or health information with a more technical computer science or information science.

Committee members raised questions about the distinction between the B.A.S. and B.S. degrees, the potential for reduced credit degrees, and the accreditation status of the programs.

Concerns were also discussed regarding the transferability of credits and the anticipated enrollment of non-traditional students.

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve item 4(b)(i)-(ii), as presented.

Campbell, Eriksrud, Black, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

iii. M.S. in Leadership

Dr. Huschle introduced the proposed M.S. degree in Leadership. The program builds on the existing bachelor of science degree with a specialization in leadership. The M.S. in Leadership is designed as a fast-track program, allowing students to take 15 credits at the graduate level that count towards both the bachelor's and master's degrees. Students without a completed bachelor's degree can complete the full 36-credit program.

Dr. Huschle explained that the program aims to prepare graduates with essential leadership skills, which are increasingly valuable in the workforce.

Committee members expressed their support for the program and highlighted the importance of leadership skills in various industries.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve item 4(b)(iii), as presented.

Eriksrud, Campbell, Black, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

c. Valley City State University
   i. GR Certificate in Learner Centered Instruction

Mr. Brooks introduced the proposed Graduate Certificate in Learner Centered Instruction. The program, also known as personalized learning, focuses on individual learning styles and aims to provide students with a standalone credential that can be credited towards a master's degree. Mr. Brooks explained that the curriculum consists of five three-credit courses that can be completed in two to three semesters.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve item 4(c)(i), as presented.

Eriksrud, Black, Campbell, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

d. Williston State College
   i. A.A.S. in Diagnostic Medical Sonography
   ii. A.A.S. in Physical Therapy Assistant
   iii. A.A.S. in Radiologic Technology
   iv. A.A.S. in Surgical Technology

Dr. Atallah introduced the proposed A.A.S. degrees in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Physical Therapy Assistant, Radiologic Technology, and Surgical Technology. The programs aim to address the workforce needs in northwest North Dakota and northeastern Montana by providing specialized training in these high-demand healthcare fields

Dr. Atallah explained that conversations have begun with LRSC to work with them on the adoption of the apprenticeship model, whereby the students will be employees of the health system.

The programs are designed to be hospital-based, utilizing existing facilities and equipment, which minimizes the need for additional investments.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve item 4(d)(i-iv), as presented.

Black, Eriksrud, Campbell, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

5. Institution Organization Notice (conclusion at SBHE)
    a. North Dakota State University
        i. Institute for AI in Learning and Workforce Development

Dr. Bertolini introduced the proposed Institute for AI in Learning and Workforce Development. This came out of NDSU's proposal to the legislature, New Horizon, for high-demand workforce and workforce development programs at NDSU. NDSU wants to work together to get its programs so that everyone has an AI class for each particular major.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve item 5(a)(i), as presented.

Campbell, Eriksrud, Black, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

    b. Valley City State University
        i. Artificial Intelligence Institute for Teaching and Learning

Mr. Brooks introduced the proposed Artificial Intelligence Institute for Teaching and Learning. There are six core areas that emphasize future training, both at K-12 and higher ed levels, career-ready graduates, and then expanding personalized learning. The institute will focus on partnerships with other NUS institutions, K-12 school districts, and state agencies in the areas of teacher training and student engagement. It will also plan to collaborate with agencies across the state, business and industry partners to identify and address workforce needs.

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve item 5(b)(i), as presented.

Eriksrud, Campbell, Black, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

6. Tenure
    a. North Dakota State University

Dr. Bertolini highlighted Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee, who is being recommended for tenure. Tenure consideration has been reviewed by the department, the chair, the dean, and NDSU.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve item 6(a), as presented.

Black, Eriksrud, Campbell, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

SBHE Policy

7. Policy 508 Student Grant, Scholarship, Loan Repayment and Exchange Programs

Vice Chancellor Johnson introduced the proposed amendment to Policy 508, which includes the addition of the State Supplemental Grant to comply with recent legislation.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve item 7, as presented.

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

Reports/Updates/Discussions

8. September 22 Joint Boards Meeting

   Vice Chancellor Johnson provided an overview of the upcoming Joint Boards Meeting scheduled for September 22, 2025, in Bismarck at the Capitol. The Joint Boards include the Education Standards and Practices Board, State Board of Higher Education, State Board of Public Schools, and the State Board of Career and Technical Education. Vice Chancellor Johnson emphasized the significance of the meeting for coordinating education programs, establishing high standards for students, ensuring access to challenging curricula, and facilitating professional development. The committee members expressed their support for the meeting and highlighted the need for collaboration among the various educational boards.

9. 2026 Meeting Schedule
   Committee Chair Biller presented the 2026 Meeting Schedule.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. CT.

Approved October 21, 2025.