

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met via Teams on September 16, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. CT.

SBHE Research and Governance Committee members

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Levi Bachmeier |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell, Co-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud | |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

DCB, Interim Dean Gorder, **LRSC**, Interim President Simone, **MaSU**, President Van Horn, Dr. Brian Huschle, **NDSU**, Ms. Heidi Grunwald, Ms. Kristen Fellows, **UND**, President Armacost, Dr. Scott Snyder, Mr. Robert Newman, Dr. Ryan Adams, **VCSU**, Dr. David DeMuth, **WSC**, President Hirling.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS, Vice Chancellor Johnson, Vice Chancellor Krebsbach, Vice Chancellor Larson, Dr. Billie Jo Lorius, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Kaite Fitzsimmons, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Chris Pieske, Dr. Jen Weber, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Dina Cashman, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Mindy Sturn, **CTS** Mr. Corey Quirk.

Call to Order

1. Agenda

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Bachmeier, Eriksrud, Bye, and Campbell voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

2. June 17, 2025, [Meeting Minutes](#)

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the June 17, 2025, [Meeting Minutes](#), as presented.

Eriksrud, Bachmeier, Campbell, and Bye voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

Governance Discussion/Updates/Reports

3. Tenure

Member Campbell introduced the topic, noting the committee will focus on tenure, specifically exploring alternate tracks for faculty with bachelor's or associate's degrees, and asked for initial board and institutional feedback before assigning the work to Vice Chancellor Johnson and Member Montplaisir to develop an overall philosophy and bring recommendations back to the committee.

Member Bye expressed support for alternative tracks and anticipation for the recommendations, acknowledging prior work on tenure studies.

Member Montplaisir emphasized the importance of discussing tenure system-wide rather than targeting specific institutions, mentioning the need to consider fields without advanced degrees and alternative credentials like master licenses or apprenticeships. She confirmed CCF will discuss the topic in October and may need 4–6 weeks to bring recommendations.

Vice Chancellor Johnson agreed with the timeline and process, and Member Campbell confirmed he would attend the October CCF meeting to help set the stage.

The committee agreed to revisit the topic after CCF and councils provide input, aiming for recommendations within 4–6 weeks.

4. Institutional Mission

Member Campbell introduced the agenda item, explaining the committee will provide oversight and guidance on BA, BS, and BAS degrees, aiming to clarify which institutions grant which degree types and establish guidelines for program approval and institutional missions. He assigned the task to Vice Chancellor Johnson, Vice Chancellor Larson, and himself to bring a proposal or philosophy to the next meeting.

Member Eriksrud supported the work, highlighting the importance of understanding the differences between BA, BS, and BAS degrees and their impact on students.

Vice Chancellors Johnson and Larson discussed preparing a presentation for the committee, including definitions and objective information about degree types, and suggested surveying campuses about their key programs and future plans (3–5 years) to align with academic affairs and program approval.

Member Montplaisir raised concerns about reduced credit degrees, asking for guidance to avoid inconsistent program offerings across institutions and to clarify long-term pathways for students pursuing advanced degrees.

Member Bachmeier encouraged the committee to consider expedited processes for addressing workforce shortages, suggesting that not all approval processes need to be identical if they serve different goals.

Member Campbell summarized next steps: the committee will receive education on BA/BS/BAS differences, review BSC's polytechnic history, assess main programs at each university, and set guardrails to support workforce needs.

5. Presidential Evaluations

Member Campbell explained that the presidential evaluation process, previously managed by Interim Chancellor Sanford's team, will now be reviewed and updated by Vice Chancellor Larson and Ms. Grinde. They will consult with each president to gather feedback on the current evaluation and compensation processes and present a revised proposal to the committee for future implementation.

Vice Chancellor Larson added that the goal is to better align evaluations with contract renewal timelines, aiming for all evaluations to be completed before contract renewals in June. She invited board members to provide input.

No objections or further discussion were raised; the committee agreed to proceed with the proposed review.

6. **Enterprise Management Report**

Mr. Quirk presented an update on the Service One initiative from CTS, highlighting improvements in IT service delivery across all 11 campuses. He explained the transformation from a fragmented support system to a centralized service desk with defined priorities, service level agreements, and user satisfaction surveys.

Key metrics shared included 3,421 incidents and over 13,000 service requests handled, with a 99% response rate and 85–95% resolution rates, depending on the request type.

Mr. Quirk described ongoing efforts to streamline service request forms (reduced from 117 to 28), regular monthly reviews with campus CIOs, and community conversations to gather feedback and ensure continuous improvement.

Committee members, including Members Bye and Campbell, expressed appreciation for the progress and acknowledged the challenges of digital transformation. No concerns or objections were raised.

7. [2026 Meeting Schedule](#)

Member Campbell addressed the meeting schedule. No questions or concerns were raised.

SBHE Policy

8. Policy 605.1 [Academic Appointments](#)

Mr. Pieske presented proposed amendments to Policy 605.1, including the addition of a post-tenure review appeal process (to comply with recent legislation) and a new requirement for tenure eligibility (minimum of a master's, professional, or doctoral degree). The policy also allows institutions to recognize long-serving faculty with alternative titles if not eligible for tenure.

Discussion followed regarding the standard practice of requiring terminal degrees for tenure, with input from Member Montplaisir, President Armacost, and President Van Horn, who confirmed that most institutions require a terminal degree, but practices may vary.

Bye moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the amendment of Policy 605.1 [Academic Appointments](#) related to the post-tenure review appeal process, as presented by Mr. Pieske, and to defer action on the proposed tenure eligibility requirement (master's, professional, or doctoral degree) until further discussion and information are provided.

Eriksrud, Bachmeier, Bye, and Campbell voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Pieske confirmed that the tenure eligibility amendment will be brought back for future discussion after board approval of the current changes.

9. Policy 706.1 [Board Member and Advisor Per Diem Payments](#)

Mr. Pieske presented proposed changes to Policy 706.1, clarifying per diem and travel benefits for student members and faculty/staff advisors, aligning with state law.

Member Eriksrud asked for clarification on Section 5(c) regarding travel reimbursement for student members; Mr. Pieske explained it relates to board business meetings and travel reimbursement, but student members do not receive per diem.

Member Bye commented on the flexibility added for roles such as presidential search committee service and expressed support for the recommended changes.

Bye moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve Policy 706.1 [Board Member and Advisor Per Diem Payments](#), as presented.

Bachmeier, Eriksrud, Bye, and Campbell voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

10. Policy 1205.1 [State Longitudinal Data System](#)

Mr. Pieske explained that Policy 1205.1 is no longer needed due to legislative changes; the SLEDS committee was dissolved and management is now handled internally by NDIT.

Bye moved, Bachmeier seconded to eliminate Policy 1205.1.

Eriksrud, Bachmeier, Campbell, and Bye voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

11. Policy 1206.1 [Data Element Dictionary - Data Quality and Integrity](#)

Mr. Pieske introduced Policy 1206.1, noting updates to the data element dictionary and definitions, with input from CIOs and technical staff.

Mr. Quirk added that the changes were mainly clean-up edits, focusing on security and updated definitions, with no major changes.

Bye moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve Policy 1206.1 [State Longitudinal Data System](#), as presented.

Eriksrud, Bachmeier, Campbell, and Bye voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

Adjourn

Committee Co-Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m. CT.

Approved on October 21, 2025.