

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 October 21, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CT.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

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

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC, Interim President Leingang, Dr. Kaylyn Bondy, Ms. Alicia Uhde, **DCB**, Interim Dean Gorder, Ms. Misty Lindgren, **DSU**, President Molander, Ms. Kaya Noah, **LRSC**, President Simone, **MaSU**, Ms. Rhonda Nelson, Dr. Brian Huschle, **MiSU**, President Shirley, Mr. Kevin Harmon, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS**, President Flanigan, Ms. Melissa Johnson, Dr. Lisa Karch, **NDSU**, Dr. David Bertolini, Dr. Lova Oster-Aaland, **UND**, Dr. Eric Link, **VCSU**, Mr. Mark Nelson, Dr. Larry Brooks, **WSC**, President Hirning, Dr. Zahi Atallah, Ms. Megan Kasner.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS, Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Christina Pieske, Mr. Chris Pieske, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Mr. Dustin Walcker, DC David Krebsbach, DC Meredith Larson, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Mindy Sturn.

Call to Order started at 1:00 pm

1. Agenda

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Meeting Minutes

Eriksrud moved, Black seconded, to approve the September 16, 2025, meeting [minutes](#), as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Committee Business

3. New Academic Program Request

a. [Bismarck State College](#)

i. [A.A.S. in Naval Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning](#)

BSC was selected by the US Navy Community College to offer an AS degree in AI and machine learning, alongside Arizona State University and University of Maryland Global Campus. The program was modified to accommodate 15 transfer credits for servicemen, with a goal of enrolling

up to 30 servicemen per semester for two years and potential expansion into bachelor's programs.

The committee discussed and approved the A.A.S. in Naval Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, recognizing the honor of BSC's selection and the aggressive timeline for implementation.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve agenda item 3(b)(i), as presented. Motion passed 3-0.

ii. [B.A.S. in Sports and Digital Broadcasting](#)

Discussion focused on the distinction between B.A.S., B.S., and B.A. degrees, with DC Johnson providing definitions based on Higher Learning Commission and board policy, and Ms. Uhde confirming ongoing work to establish articulation agreements for B.A.S. graduates to pursue advanced degrees.

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The committee approved the B.A.S. in Sports and Digital Broadcasting, following discussion of faculty concerns about alignment with A.A.S. degrees and confirmation of strong program connections.

Black moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve agenda item 3(b)(ii), as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Academic Program Termination

a. [North Dakota State University](#)

i. [M.S. in Dietetics](#)

Dr. Bertolini explained that the master's in dietetics program at NDSU has experienced low enrollment and declining interest, prompting a decision to realign resources and discontinue the program.

Campbell clarified that students seeking licensure as dietitians in North Dakota can pursue a master's program at UND, which is available online, ensuring continued access to required credentials.

Eriksrud moved, Black seconded to approved agenda item 4(a) as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

5. 2026-2027 TrainND [Business Plan](#)

Dr. Atallah reported that Train ND receives \$1.25 million per year in state appropriations, achieving a 475% return on investment and serving over 15,000 businesses and 14,650 employees with 234,500 contact hours. Projections indicate significant growth and a reduction in expenditures, primarily in personnel costs, with TrainND Northwest carrying the largest payroll due to full-time trainers.

TrainND regions are realigning to meet current demands, especially in response to changes in the petroleum economy and regulatory shifts. The state legislature appropriated \$750,000 to add sales positions in Minot, Grand Forks, Jamestown, and Dickinson, aiming to support more regional businesses and expand reach.

In response to Black's question, Dr. Atallah explained that Train ND Northwest is shifting from a passive approach to proactive outreach, including meetings with industry partners and transitioning trainers with sales backgrounds to focus on aggressive skills development and industry connections.

President Hirning emphasized the importance of regularly refreshing advisory board membership to ensure representation from emerging sectors such as data centers and energy plants, and to maintain engagement with industry needs across all quadrants.

After discussion and overview, the committee voted to approve the Train ND business plan, with members expressing support for the program's growth and alignment with industry needs.

Black moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve 2026-2027 TrainND Business Plan, as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

SBHE Policy

6. Policy 409 [Degrees Offered](#)

- a. DC Lisa Johnson led a discussion on proposed amendments to Policy 409 regarding reduced credit bachelor degrees, incorporating feedback from Eriksrud and the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) resolution, with committee members debating student protections, degree distinctions, and competitive risks before voting to advance amended language to the full board.

Eriksrud summarized the NDSA's strong opposition to reduced credit bachelor degrees, citing concerns about transcript clarity, graduate school eligibility, and loss of critical learning experiences, with a resolution passed 42-1 against the proposal.

DC Johnson described the inclusion of new language in Policy 409 to address student protections, noting that any reduced credit degree would require a detailed application process modeled after HLC requirements, including justification, marketing, and transcript differentiation.

DC Johnson reported that HLC-approved reduced credit degrees are not renamed on transcripts and are primarily offered by non-public institutions, raising concerns about competitive risks if North Dakota does not offer similar pathways.

The committee agreed to have DC Johnson collect formal feedback from campuses, faculty, and student groups to inform the board's decision, with input from President Flanagan and Black on the process.

Campbell posed a concern that if ND didn't pursue this, an outside agency will and could take students from ND.

Black moved to have the red language in the updated policy adopted and sent back to the full board for consideration and a second reading. Eriksrud seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Reports/Updates/Discussions

7. 2025 TrainND [Annual Report](#)

Dr. Atallah reported that Train ND receives \$1.25 million per year in state appropriations, achieving a 475% return on investment and serving over 15,000 businesses and 14,650 employees with 234,500 contact hours. Projections indicate significant growth and a reduction in expenditures, primarily in personnel costs, with TradeND Northwest carrying the largest payroll due to full-time trainers.

8. 2023-2024 UND Graduate Medical Education Committee [Annual Institutional Review](#)

Kim Becker, Director of Graduate Medical Education at UND School of Medicine, presented the annual institutional review for the 2023-2024 academic year.

UND oversees 15 ACGME-accredited residency and fellowship programs and one non-ACGME program, with recent additions in forensic pathology and other specialties. All programs maintain full accreditation, with statuses of continued or initial accreditation for newer programs.

Ms. Becker highlighted some faculty transitions within the program. She also highlighted 3 new program directors that were approved for future programs.

A mandatory 8-hour course on substance abuse and pain management, required by the MATE Act, was implemented for all incoming residents to ensure compliance with DEA registration requirements.

In response to Campbell's questions, Ms. Becker stated that North Dakota does not have enough residency programs to support the rural physician workforce, citing financial constraints as the primary barrier to adding more programs.

Adjourn

Committee Acting Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m., CT.