

## North Dakota State Board of Higher Education Special Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda

October 27, 2025  
# Action Item

The State Board of Higher Education Budget and Finance Committee will meet on October 27, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. CT., via Teams/conf. The audio call-in information is 701-409-8507, passcode 488 849 599#.

### SBHE Budget and Finance Committee members

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tim Mihalick, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Levi Bachmeier             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Pat Sogard          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Kevin Black         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor |

### Institution Presidents/Representatives

**BSC**, Interim President Leingang, Ms. Rebecca Collins, **DCB, DSU**, President Molander, Mr. Les Wiestock, **LRSC**, President Simone, Ms. Joann Kitchens, **MaSU**, President Van Horn, Ms. Amber Hill, **MiSU**, Ms. Krista Lambrecht, **NDSCS**, Mr. Keith Johnson, **NDSU**, Ms. Loretta Forsberg, Ms. Patricia Hanson, Mr. Bruce Bollinger, Ms. Cynthia Rott, Ms. Lisa Ripplinger, Mr. Travis Aho, Mr. Mark Genkinger, **UND**, President Armacost, Mr. Thomas Bures, Ms. Sharon Loiland, Dr. Eric Link, Ms. Karla Stewart, **VCSU**, President LaFave, Ms. Erica Buchholz, **WSC**, Ms. Deborah Halvorson.

### System Office/CTS/Guests

**NDUS**, Commissioner Sanford, Dr. Jennifer Weber, Ms. Robin Putnam, DC Lisa Johnson, DC Meredith Larson, Ms. Jane Grinde, DC David Krebsbach, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Ms. Christina Pieske, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Ms. Bethany Kadrmias, **CTS**, Mr. Corey Quirk.

### **Call to Order at 12:00 p.m., CT.**

#### **Committee Business**

1. Agenda
  - a. Black moved, Biller seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented. Approved by consensus.

#### **Committee Reports/Updates/Discussions**

1. Higher Education Funding Review Committee Discussion  
Black outlined that the funding formula should incentivize programs in high-demand careers, reward institutions for graduating students who contribute to the state economy, and recognize both degree and credential completions, emphasizing that funding mechanisms drive institutional behavior.

Black recommended developing a credit factor boost for programs matching high-demand careers, collaborating with commerce or labor to identify relevant fields, and

implementing mechanisms to reward degree and certificate completions, including potential loan forgiveness programs for graduates who remain in North Dakota.

Black and Commissioner Sanford discussed the issue of using outdated credit production data in formula calculations, suggesting a shift to more recent academic years to improve relevance, while Brent explained the logistical constraints related to census timing and budget requests.

Black proposed that out-of-state online credits should be funded at a reduced rate, with reciprocal tuition rates for high-demand fields, and Bachmeier added that investment should be increased in areas supporting North Dakota students and workforce.

Commissioner Sanford addressed concerns about potential manipulation of CIP codes and weighted credits, assuring the committee that system office staff monitor classifications, and invited specific examples for further review to ensure fairness across institutions.

Black advocated for a 'hold harmless' provision to ease the transition to new formula priorities and recommended making Workforce Education Innovation grants permanent to support ongoing institutional innovation and capital projects.

Commissioner Sanford and Mihalick described the evolving relationship between the board and legislators, noting that while the board can provide recommendations and identify key performance indicators, final funding decisions rest with legislature, and emphasized the importance of board input in shaping future funding bills.

Sogard and Mihalick requested a written synopsis of Black's recommendations for committee review, with plans to include both the funding formula and dual credit topics on the Thursday board agenda for further discussion and decision-making.

2. Dual Credit/ Tuition Discussion – Subsidized and unsubsidized delivery, [Policy 805.1](#) & [Procedure 805.1](#)

Black and Biller examined the expense per credit analysis provided by NDSCS, clarifying how the per credit margin is calculated by subtracting costs from revenue, and discussed the significant difference between subsidized and unsubsidized dual credit margins, with a net gain of about \$18.24 per credit for unsubsidized credits.

Black requested that similar analysis be completed by all institutions offering significant dual credit, aiming for a standardized format like NDSCS to facilitate policy decisions; Mihalick and DC Krebsbach confirmed that NDSCS's analysis had been sent to institutional VPs and presidents.

Bachmeier suggested that the Commissioner review Procedure 805.1 to allow more flexibility in tuition charges for dual credit, recognizing that different institutions have varying cost models, and emphasized the importance of lowering delivery costs to improve student affordability and retention.

Sogard raised the need to assess the impact of allowing UND and NDSU to offer dual credit in their home counties and recommended that institutions provide data on how such changes would affect their operations and finances.

Mihalick proposed compiling the requested data for discussion at the upcoming Thursday board meeting, with Black and other members agreeing to add dual credit as a dedicated agenda item for further review and policy development.

**Adjourn**

Committee Chair Mihalick adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m., CT.