

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 November 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. CT.

SBHE Research and Governance Committee members

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

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC Interim President Leingang, **DCB** Interim Dean Gorder, **DSU, LRSC** President Simone, **MaSU** President Van Horn, Dr. Brian Huschle, **MiSU** President Shirley, **NDSCS** President Flanigan, **NDSU** Dr. Heidi Grunwald, Mr. Marc Wallman, Mr. Jace Beehler, **UND** Dr. Scott Snyder, Mr. Robert Newman, **VCSU** President LaFave, Mr. David DeMuth, **WSC** President Hirning.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS Commissioner Sanford, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Christina Pieske, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Jane Grinde, DC David Krebsbach, Mr. Dustin Walcker, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Dr. Billie Jo Lorius, DC Meredith Larson, Mr. Eric Jensen, **CTS** Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General** Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Call to Order

1. Agenda
Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed 3-0.
2. Meeting Minutes
Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the October 21, 2025, [meeting minutes](#), as presented. Motion passed 3-0.

Research Discussion/Updates/Reports

3. Mountain Plains Innovation Alliance Update
Dr. Grunwald provided the committee with an update on the Mountain Plains Innovation Alliance, detailing recent meetings, the status of white papers on AI infrastructure and critical minerals, and the group's next steps for collaboration and funding proposals.
4. UND Research Priorities Update
Dr. Snyder presented an overview of the University of North Dakota's research priorities to the committee, outlining the six Grand Challenge areas, recent achievements, and plans to re-envision these priorities to better include campus-wide disciplines.

5. [NDSU Research Priorities Update](#)

Dr. Grunwald updated the committee on North Dakota State University's research priorities, recent federal grant developments, and the establishment of research strategy fellows to align investments with emerging federal priorities.

Governance Discussion/Updates/Reports

6. SBHE Retreat Topics

a. Tenure

Campbell and Dr. Montplaisir updated the committee on ongoing discussions with the Council of College Faculties (CCF) regarding tenure and institutional mission, including feedback exchanges and plans for further review before the next board meeting.

b. Institutional Mission, Program Offerings, and Vision for the Future [Survey](#)

DC Johnson summarized the results of a survey sent to all 11 institutions regarding their signature programs, potential mission changes, new program development, and program consolidation or termination, and discussed possible policy updates with the committee.

7. Agency Project/ System Alignment Project Update

DC Larson provided a brief update on the System Alignment project, noting upcoming listening sessions and the focus on quality participation from higher education leaders and community members.

8. Presidential Evaluations Process Review Update

DC Larson and Ms. Grinde conducted informal interviews with current presidents to gather feedback on the evaluation process, identifying key components valued by leadership. They plan to present a tentative revised process to the committee for input at the next meeting.

9. BSC Presidential Search Process Update

Ms. Grinde reviewed the BSC Presidential Search timeline and answered questions on the historical process in regard to application timelines.

CTS Discussion/Updates/Reports

10. Large IT Project Quarterly update

Mr. Quirk provided the committee with a quarterly update on large IT projects, reporting the completion of the UND Net X migration and noting no current projects in planning or execution phases.

SBHE Policy

11. Policy 601.2 [Acting Chief Executive Officer](#)

Mr. Pieske requested that this item be moved to the next RGC meeting so that he may make changes to this policy and have discussion. Campbell agreed to the request.

Adjourn

Committee Co-Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m., CT.