

Challenge Grant Fund Committee Meeting Minutes

The Challenge Grant Fund Committee met on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. CST., via Microsoft Teams.

Committee Chair Neset called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. CT.

1. Roll Call

Committee Members present:

Chair, Maria Neset

Senator Mr. Ronald Sorvaag

Senator Mr. Randy Burckhard – arrived at 9:55 a.m.

Representative Mr. Bob Martinson

Representative Ms. Karen Grindberg

Mr. Kevin Black

Mr. Rick Burgum

Ms. Taya Spelhaug

Institutions and Institution Foundation representatives:

BSC: Ms. Kari Knudson

DCB: Interim Dean Gorder, Ms. Tina Webb

DSU: Mr. Ty Orton

LRSC: President Simone

MaSU: Mr. Lon Jorgensen

MiSU: President Shirley, Mr. Rick Hedberg, Ms. Kate Marshall

NDSCS: Mr. Matthew Hallaway, Ms. Michelle Nelson

NDSU: Mr. John Glover, Ms. Jennifer Reinhold, Mr. Isaac Erickson, Ms. Monique Anderson

UND: Ms. DeAnna Carlson Zink, Mr. Mike Mannausau

VCSU: Mr. Cory Anderson

WSC: Mr. Hunter Berg

North Dakota University System Office and Guests:

Ms. Mindy Sturn

Ms. Jamie Wilke

Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer

Mr. Eric Jensen

Ms. Lisa Johnson

Ms. Bethany Kadrmas

Ms. Christina Pieske

2. Approval of Agenda

Sorvaag moved, Black seconded, to approve the agenda, with the addition of 1) item kk. under UND's request and 2) item m. under NDSCS's request. These items were included in their respective totals but had not been listed to the agenda.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, and Chair Neset voted yes. Burckhard was absent.

Motion passed, 7-0, to approve the amended agenda

3. **Approval of September 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Spelhaug moved, Grindberg seconded, to approve the minutes, as presented.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, and Chair Neset voted yes. Burckhard was absent.

Motion passed, 7-0, to approve the minutes, as presented

4. **Approval of updated ND Higher Education Challenge Fund rules of Operation and Procedures**

Ms. Sturn presented a minimal change to the Challenge Fund rules, updating the title from Chancellor to Commissioner of North Dakota University Systems.

Sorvaag moved, Martinson seconded, to approve the updated ND Higher Education Challenge Fund rules of Operation and Procedures, with inclusion of update as noted.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, and Chair Neset voted yes. Burckhard was absent.

Motion passed, 7-0, to approve the updated ND Higher Education Challenge Fund rules of Operation and Procedures, with inclusion of update as noted.

5. **2025-27 Current Challenge Grant Fund Balance**

Ms. Sturn stated that all campuses submitted applications that were eligible to submit, with the total being approximately \$7,500,00 that will be pending review. This leaves roughly \$9,280,000 remaining for the Biennium, if everything is approved. The committee had no concerns.

Regular Scope & Funding Application Approvals

6. **VSCU State Request: \$147,645**

- a) Summary of Applications-Informational only
- b) VCSU Endowed Scholarship Campaign-Fund Application
- c) Document Support-All Fund Applications

Mr. Anderson presented VSCU's state request for fund applications.

Burgum moved, Black seconded, to approve VSCU's state request for fund applications, items b-c, as presented.

Black, Burgum, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, and Chair Neset voted yes. Burckhard was absent. Motion passed, 7-0, to approve items b-c, as presented.

7. **UND State Request: \$1,671,364**

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Faculty Endowment-41737 Nistler College of BPA-**SCOPE**

- c) Faculty Endowment-41737 Nistler College of BPA-Fund Application
- d) Research-41794 College of Engineering & Mines-**SCOPE**
- e) Research-41794 College of Engineering & Mines-Fund Application
- f) Faculty Endowment-41802 College of Arts & Sciences-**SCOPE**
- g) Faculty Endowment-41802 College of Arts & Sciences-Fund Application
- h) Educational Infrastructure-41821 Academic Affairs-**SCOPE**
- i) Educational Infrastructure-41821 Academic Affairs-Fund Application
- j) Student Scholarship-41661 Nistler College of BPA-Fund Application
- k) Student Scholarship-48317 College of Engineering & Mines-Fund Application
- l) Student Scholarship-46179 College of Arts & Sciences-Fund Application
- m) Student Scholarship-41718 College of Engineering & Mines-Fund Application
- n) Student Scholarship-41722 College of Engineering & Mines-Fund Application
- o) Student Scholarship-46802 Academic Affairs-Fund Application
- p) Student Scholarship-47128 College of Arts & Sciences-Fund Application
- q) Student Scholarship-40206 College of Ed. & Human Dev. -Fund Application
- r) Student Scholarship-41751 Nistler College of BPA-Fund Application
- s) Student Scholarship-41747 College of Arts and Sciences-Fund Application
- t) Student Scholarship-41749 School of Aerospace Science-Fund Application
- u) Student Scholarship-47319 School of Aerospace Science-Fund Application
- v) Student Scholarship-45789 College of Ed. & Human Dev. -Fund Application
- w) Student Scholarship-41759 College of Arts & Sciences-Fund Application
- x) Student Scholarship-41337 Academic Affairs-Fund Application
- y) Student Scholarship-40342 Nistler College of BPA-Fund Application
- z) Student Scholarship-41782 Academic Affairs-Fund Application
- aa) Student Scholarship-40870 College of Ed. & Human Dev. -Fund Application
- bb) Student Scholarship-46146 Greek-Fund Application
- cc) Student Scholarship-41786 College of Nursing and Professional Disc. -Fund Application
- dd) Student Scholarship-47426 Academic Affairs-Fund Application
- ee) Student Scholarship-45874 Academic Affairs-Fund Application
- ff) Student Scholarship-40688 Greek-Fund Application
- gg) Student Scholarship-41804 Academic Affairs-Fund Application
- hh) Student Scholarship-46297 Academic Affairs-Fund Application Student Scholarship-46045 College of Arts & Sciences-Fund Application
- ii) Student Scholarship-46045 College of Arts & Sciences-Fund Application
- jj) Student Scholarship-44067 School of Aerospace Science-Fund Application
- kk) Student Scholarship-41823 Nistler College of Business and Public Administration-Fund Application
- ll) Document Support-All Fund Applications

Ms. Carlson-Zink presented UND's Scope and Fund applications, Faculty Endowment-41737, for Nistler College of BPA.

Martinson moved, Grindberg seconded, to approve UND's Scope and Fund applications for Faculty Endowment-41737, as presented.

Burgum, Martinson, Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Sorvaag, and Chair Neset voted yes, Burckhard was absent. Motion passed, 7-0, to approve items b-c.

Ms. Carlson-Zink then presented UND's Scope and Fund applications for Research-41794 for the College of Engineering & Mines.

Burgum moved, Black seconded to approve UND's Scope and Fund applications for Research-41794, as presented.

Spelhaug, Grindberg, Sorvaag, Black, Burgum, Martinson, and Chair Neset voted yes. Burckhard was absent. Motion passed, 7-0, to approve items d-e.

Ms. Carlson-Zink then presented on UND's Scope and Fund applications, Faculty Endowment-41802 for the College of Arts & Sciences.

Burgum asked what the difference was between an endowed chair and a fellow. Ms. Carlson-Zink explained that it was a matter of classification.

Martinson moved, Burgum seconded to approve UND's Faculty Endowment-41802 College of Arts & Sciences Scope and Fund applications.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg and Chair Neset voted yes. Burckhard was absent. Motion passed, 7-0, to approve items f-g.

Ms. Carlson-Zink presented UND's Scope and Fund applications for Educational Infrastructure-41821 Academic Affairs.

Sorvaag moved, Spelhaug seconded to approve UND's Educational Infrastructure-41821 Scope and Fund applications.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, and Chair Neset voted yes. Burckhard was absent. Motion passed, 7-0, to approve items h-i.

Ms. Carlson-Zink presented UND's state fund applications, items j-ll.

Burgum moved, Martinson seconded to approve UND's state request fund applications, items j-ll, as presented.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, and Chair Neset voted yes. Burckhard was absent. Motion passed, 7-0, to approve items j-ll, as presented.

8. **UND School of Law State Request: \$50,000**

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Educational Infrastructure-45235 School of Law-**SCOPE**
- c) Educational Infrastructure-45235 School of Law-Fund Application
- d) Student Scholarship-46773 School of Law-Fund Application
- e) Document Support-All Fund Applications

Ms. Carlson-Zink presented on UND School of Law's Scope application, Educational Infrastructure-45235. Martinson asked if Ms. Carlson-Zink had a breakdown of how the money was going to be distributed. She did not.

Black moved, Grindberg seconded to approve UND School of Law's Scope application for Educational Infrastructure-45235.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, and Chair Neset voted yes. Burckhard was absent. Motion passed, 7-0, to approve item b as presented.

Ms. Carlson-Zink then presented on UND School of Law's fund applications, items c-e Burgum moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve UND School of Law's state fund applications.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, and Chair Neset voted yes, Burckhard was absent. Motion passed, 7-0, to approve items c-e, as presented.

1. UND SMHS State Request: \$85,000

- f) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- g) Student Scholarship-41768 SMHS-Fund Application
- h) Student Scholarship-45659 SMHS-Fund Application
- i) Student Scholarship-41646 SMHS-Fund Application
- j) Document Support-All Fund Applications

Ms. Carlson-Zink presented UND's SMHS state request fund applications, items b-e. Burgum moved, Martinson seconded to approve UND SMHS's state request fund applications.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, and Chair Neset voted yes, Burckhard was absent. Motion passed, 7-0, to approve items b-e, as presented.

9. NDSU State Request: \$1,557,130

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Scholarship-11479-Fund Application
- c) Scholarship-11540-Fund Application
- d) Scholarship-20312-Fund Application
- e) Scholarship-20446-Fund Application
- f) Scholarship-20584-Fund Application
- g) Scholarship-20758-Fund Application
- h) Scholarship-20771-Fund Application
- i) Scholarship-20797-Fund Application
- j) Scholarship-20800-Fund Application
- k) Scholarship-20886-Fund Application
- l) Scholarship-20945-Fund Application
- m) Scholarship-20950-Fund Application
- n) Scholarship-20963-Fund Application
- o) Scholarship-20979-Fund Application
- p) Scholarship-21079-Fund Application
- q) Scholarship-21091-Fund Application
- r) Scholarship-21093-Fund Application
- s) Scholarship-21094-Fund Application
- t) Scholarship-21096-Fund Application
- u) Scholarship-21097-Fund Application
- v) Scholarship-21098-Fund Application
- w) Scholarship-21099-Fund Application
- x) Scholarship-21100-Fund Application
- y) Scholarship-26232-Fund Application
- z) Scholarship-40218-Fund Application
- aa) Document Support-All Fund Applications

Mr. Glover presented NDSU's state fund request applications, items b-aa.

Burgum moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve NDSU's state request fund applications, items b-aa, as presented.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve items b-aa as presented.

10. **NDSU-ARE State Request: \$1,296,950**

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Endowed Professorship-40286-**SCOPE**
- c) Endowed Professorship-40286-Fund Application
- d) Endowed Faculty Fellowship-40293-**SCOPE**
- e) Endowed Faculty Fellowship-40293-Fund Application
- f) Scholarship-20700-Fund Application-Fund Application
- g) Scholarship-21048-Fund Application-Fund Application h) Scholarship-21057-Fund Application-Fund Application
- h) Scholarship-25741-Fund Application-Fund Application
- i) Scholarship-25741-Fund Application-Fund Application
- j) Scholarship-26213-Fund Application-Fund Application
- k) Document Support-All Fund Applications

Mr. Glover presented on NDSU-ARE's Scope application, Endowed Professorship-40286. Burgum moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve NDSU-ARE's Scope application, referenced above, item b.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve item b, as presented.

Mr. Glover then presented on NDSU-ARE's Scope application, Endowed Faculty Fellowship-40293.

Burgum moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve NDSU-ARE's Scope application, referenced above, item d.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve item d, as presented.

Mr. Glover presented NDSU-ARE's remaining state request for fund applications, items c, e-k.

Martinson moved, Burgum seconded to approve NDSU-ARE's state request for fund applications, items c, e-k, as presented.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve items c, e-k, as presented.

11. **NDSCS State Request: \$843,300**

- a) Summary of Applications-Informational Only
- ~~b) Grow with Us Endowment **SCOPE**~~
- ~~c) Grow with Us Endowment-Fund Application~~
- d) Jib Crane Project-**SCOPE**
- e) Jib Crane Project-Fund Application
- f) Dietz Endowment-Fund Application
- g) Huschka Endowment-Fund Application
- h) Jensen Endowment-Fund Application

- i) Anderson Endowment-Fund Application
- j) Nelson Endowment-Fund Application
- k) Hoist Project-Fund Application
- l) Endowment Scholarships-Fund Application
- m) Document Support-All Fund Applications

Mr. Hallaway presented on NDSCS's Scope application, Grow with Us Endowment. Martinson asked for clarification as to how the money will be distributed. There was discussion about using the Challenge Grant to fund anything related to the Career Innovation Center in Fargo. Ultimately, the committee decided to ask Mr. Hallaway to withdraw the request and rewrite it, he agreed. The Grow with Us Endowment Scope and Fund applications, items b-c were withdrawn.

Mr. Hallaway presented NDSCS's Scope request for Jib Crane Project.

Martinson moved, Burgum seconded to approve NDSCS's Scope request, referenced above, item d.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve item d, as presented.

Mr. Hallaway presented on the state requests for fund applications, items e-m.

Black moved, Burgum seconded to approve NDSCS's state request for fund applications, items e-m, as presented.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve items e-m, as presented.

12. **MiSU State Request: \$996,944**

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Faculty Endowment – 87631-**SCOPE**
- c) Faculty Endowment – 87631-Fund Application
- d) Scholarship Endowment – 87183-Fund Application
- e) Scholarship Endowment - 87632-Fund Application
- f) Scholarship Endowment – 87394- Fund Application
- g) Scholarship Endowment – 87534-Fund Application
- h) Scholarship Endowment – 87317- Fund Application
- i) Scholarship Endowment – 87013-Fund Application
- j) Scholarship Endowment – 87492-Fund Application
- k) Scholarship Endowment – 87254-Fund Application
- l) Scholarship Endowment – 87623-Fund Application
- m) Scholarship Endowment – 87380-Fund Application
- n) Academic Scholarship Campaign-Fund Application
- o) Classroom Enhancements-Fund Application
- p) Document Support-All Fund Applications

President Shirley presented MiSU's Scope application, Faculty Endowment – 87631.

There was discussion about how the money will be distributed. President Shirley stated that out of the five awards, three would be on the faculty side and two would be on the staff side. The committee decided to withdraw the staff portion, approve the

faculty portion and have Minot State come back to the next meeting with research historical challenge grant supporting funding staff portions.

Black moved, Burckhard seconded to approve the 3 faculty awards in item b.

Burckhard, Burgum, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Neset voted yes. Martinson voted no. Motion passed 7-1 to approve the faculty portion only of the Scope application, item b.

President Shirley then presented on the Faculty Endowment-87631 Fund application that is related to the Faculty Endowment of item b, stating that only \$300,000 of the state request is what Minot State is now requesting, as that is the faculty portion.

Burckhard moved, Spelhaug seconded to approve the amended fund application for the Faculty Endowment-87631 item c.

Burckhard, Burgum, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Neset voted yes. Martinson voted no. Motion passed 7-1 to approve the amendment of item c, as outlined above.

President Shirley presented on the remainder of MiSU's state requests for fund application, items d-p.

Burgum moved, Grindberg seconded to approve the remainder of MiSU's state requests, items d-p.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve items d-p, as presented.

13. **MaSU State Request: \$58,982**

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Endowment for Academic Excellence Campaign-Fund Application
- c) Document Support-Endowment for Academic Excellence Campaign
- d) Annual Scholarship for Academic Excellence Campaign-Fund Application
- e) Document Support-Annual Scholarship for Academic Excellence Campaign

Mr. Jorgensen presented MaSU's state request for fund applications, items b-e.

Sorvaag moved, Burgum seconded to approve MaSU's state requests, items b-e, as presented.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve items b-e, as presented.

14. **LRSC State Request: \$57,825**

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Educational Infrastructure-**SCOPE**
- c) Educational Infrastructure-Fund Application
- d) Endowments for Scholarship Support-Fund Application
- e) Document Support-All Fund Applications

President Simone presented LRSC's Scope application, Educational Infrastructure.

Martinson moved, Burgum seconded to approve LRSC's Scope application, Educational Infrastructure, item b, as presented.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve item b, as presented.

President Simone presented on remainder of LRSC's state requests for fund application, items c-e.

Burckhard moved, Spelhaug seconded to approve the remaining state request for fund applications, items c-e. Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve items c-e, as presented.

15. **DSU State Request: \$591,718**

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) College on the Hill Endowment Campaign-Fund Application
- c) Document Support-College on the Hill Endowment Campaign
- d) Cornerstone Traditions Scholarships-Fund Application
- e) Document Support-Cornerstone Traditions Scholarships

Mr. Orton presented DSU's state request for fund applications, items b-e.

Burgum moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve DSU's state request for fund applications, items b-e.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve items b-e, as presented.

16. **DCB State Request: \$32,285**

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) Dental Lab Radiology Expansion Project-**SCOPE**
- c) DCB General Scholarship Campaign-Fund Application
- d) Document Support-All Fund Applications

Ms. Webb presented the DCB Scope application, Dental Lab Radiology Expansion Project.

Burckhard moved, Burgum seconded to approve DCB's Scope applications, Dental Lab Radiology Expansion Project, item b.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve item b, as presented.

Ms. Webb presented on DCB's remaining state request for fund applications, items c-d.

Sorvaag moved, Grindberg seconded to approve DCB's state request for fund applications, items c-d.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve items c-d, as presented.

17. **BSC State Request: \$124,187**

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) BSC Foundation Endowment for Scholarships-Fund Application
- c) Document Support- Fund Application

Ms. Knudson presented on BSC's state request for fund applications, items b-c.

Burckhard moved, Grindberg seconded to approve BSC's state request for fund applications, items b-c.

Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0, to approve items b-c, as presented.

Other Committee Business

18. Open Discussion

- a) Ms. Sturn spoke about days for the next meeting, indicating late March as the next meeting timeframe. Also, there will be the semiannual report for information through 12/31/2025. She also mentioned that both NDSU, NDSU-ARE and UND main campus have requested their full allocation as of this meeting.

Adjourn

Burckhard moved, Black seconded to adjourning the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, via voice vote.