

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

December 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education held a special meeting on December 30, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., CT., via Teams.

Roll Call

SBHE Members

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Kevin Black, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tim Mihalick |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell, Vice Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Pat Sogard |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Danita Bye | |

Institutions

BSC, Interim President Leingang, **DCB**, Acting Dean Gorder, **DSU**, President Molander, **LRSC**, President Simone, **MaSU**, President Van Horn, **MISU**, President Shirley, **NDSCS**, President Flanigan, **NDSU**, Mr. Jace Beehler, **UND**, President Armacost, **WSC**, President Hirning.

System Office/Guests

NDUS, Commissioner Sanford, DC Meredith Larson, DC David Krebsbach, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Christina Pieske, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Ms. Edynn Glatt, Mr. Chris Pieske, Mr. Eric Jensen, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Ms. Jane Grinde, **CTS**, Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General**, Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Chair Black called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., CT.

1. Executive Session

Campbell moved and Bye seconded to **(1)** enter Executive Session to discuss the working papers of Chief Compliance Officer, investigatory work product, and the internal review/investigation of Dickinson State University and **(2)** To limit executive session to board members, non-voting advisors, the Commissioner, legal counsel, and invited NDUS staff. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 15-10-44.3, 44-04-18.1(6), 44-04-19.1(3), 44-04-19.1(7), and 44-04-19.2.

Black, Campbell, Mihalick, Eriksrud, Sogard, Bye, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Session began at 10:05 a.m., C.T.

Present:

SBHE Members

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Kevin Black, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tim Mihalick |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell, Vice Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Pat Sogard |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Danita Bye | |

Others Present:

Commissioner Sanford, DC Meredith Larson, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Christina Pieske, Ms. Edynn Glatt, DC David Krebsbach, Assistant Attorney General Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Executive Session adjourned at 11:14 a.m., C.T.

2. Reconvene in open session to discuss and/or take action.

Open Session reconvened at 11:15 a.m., C.T.

Black made a statement:

"During a recent review of financial operations at Dickinson State University, questions were identified related to certain accounting practices. As a result, the North Dakota University System has hired an outside firm- Clifton, Larson, Allen- to conduct an independent compliance investigation to assess processes and controls and to ensure alignment with applicable policies and financial standards.

The State Board of Higher Education and the North Dakota University System is taking this opportunity to review certain accounting practices to ensure clarity, consistency, and compliance. This is both a backward and forward-looking review intended to determine whether there were any policy violations and to provide an opportunity to strengthen systems moving forward. The State Board of Higher Education and Commissioner Sanford take this matter seriously and are fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities to exercise appropriate oversight, ensure prudent stewardship of resources, and maintain trust placed in the board and the North Dakota University System by the public and the university community."

Adjourn

Chair Black adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m., C.T.