

## **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 January 20, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. CST., via Teams.

### SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller, Chair | <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          |   |

### Institution Presidents/Representatives

**BSC:** Interim President Leingang, Ms. Alicia Uhde, **DCB:** Acting Dean Gorder, **DSU:** President Molander, Ms. Kayla Noah, Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** Dr. Brian Huschle, **MiSU:** Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, Mr. Terry Marohl, Ms. Melissa Johnson, **NDSU:** Dr. Shari Veil, Dr. Laura Oster-Aaland, **UND:** Dr. Art Malloy, Dr. Eric Link, **VCSU:** Mr. Mark Nelson, Mr. Larry Brooks, **WSC:** President Hirning, Ms. Megan Kasner

### System Office/CTS/Guests

**NDUS:** Commissioner Sanford, Mr. Eric Jensen, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Christina Pieske, DC Meredith Larson, Mr. Chris Pieske, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Ms. Jamie Wilke, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Attorney General's Office:** Mr. Shaun McNamara

### **Call to Order**

#### Agenda

Eriksrud moved, Black seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed, 4-0.

#### Meeting Minutes

Campbell moved, Black seconded, to approve the December 18, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **Committee Business**

1. New Academic Program Requests
  - a. [Bismarck State College](#)
    - i. [UG Certificate in Heavy Equipment Operations](#)

Ms. Uhde reported that this certificate was developed in response to industry requests for a credential at the time of hiring.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the request from BSC to establish an undergraduate certificate in Heavy Equipment Operations.

Motion passed, 4-0.
    - b. [Dickinson State University](#)

- i. [B.A.S. in Fire Science](#)

Dr. Gruhlke presented the Bachelor of Applied Science in Fire Science, an extension of their Associate of Applied Science, developed in partnership with the Dickinson Fire Department to provide workforce pathways in fire and EMS fields.

Black moved, Campbell seconded to approve the request from DSU to establish a Bachelor of Applied Science in Fire Science.

Motion passed, 4-0.
- c. [Mayville State University](#)
  - i. [UG Certificate in Dyslexia and Language-Based Reading Pedagogy](#)
  - ii. [UG Certificate in Reading Science and Pedagogy](#)
  - iii. [Major and B.A.S. in Agribusiness](#)

Dr. Huschle described two undergraduate certificates in reading for teacher specialization, aligned with state standards, and a B.A.S. in Agribusiness designed as a transfer degree for students with an A.A.S. in an agriculture field, focusing on core business coursework.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded to approve the request from Mayville State regarding the three initiatives including an undergraduate certificate in Dyslexia and Language-Based Pedagogy, an undergraduate certificate in Reading Science and Pedagogy, and B.A.S. in Agribusiness.

The three initiatives were voted on under one motion.

Motion passed, 4-0.
- d. [North Dakota State College of Science](#)
  - i. [UG Certificate in Community Health Worker](#)

The Dean of this program detailed a Community Health Worker certificate developed using North Dakota Department of Health guidelines, intended to support allied health programs.
  - ii. [A.A.S. in Industry Welding Technology](#)

The Dean of the CTE program reported that an A.A.S. in Welding Technology combines four stackable certificates into a degree, with a focus on industry-specific welding techniques.

Mr. Eriksrud moved, Black seconded to approve both requests from NDSCS regarding an undergraduate certificate in Community Health Worker and an A.A.S. in Welding Technology.

Both initiatives were voted on under one motion.

Motion passed, 4-0.
- e. [North Dakota State University](#)
  - i. [UG Certificate in AI and the Humanities](#)

Dr. Veil introduced a nine-credit undergraduate certificate in AI and the Humanities, covering computer science, philosophy, and ethics, to examine societal and ethical implications of AI.

Campbell moved, Black seconded to approve the request from NDSU for an undergraduate certificate in AI and the Humanities.

Motion passed, 4-0.
- f. [Valley City State University](#)
  - i. [UG Certificate in Artificial Intelligence in Education](#)
  - ii. [GR Certificate in Artificial Intelligence in Education](#)

Mr. Brooks presented undergraduate and graduate certificates in AI and Education, each consisting of four courses, designed to prepare education

majors to teach and use AI ethically, aligned with the VCSU AI Institute for Teaching and Learning.

Black moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the request from VCSU for an undergraduate certificate in Artificial Intelligence in Education and a graduate certificate in Artificial Intelligence in Education.

Both initiatives were voted on under one motion.

Motion passed, 4-0.

2. Academic Program Termination

a. [Minot State University](#)

i. [Major and B.A. in Foreign Language – German](#)

ii. [Major and B.A. in Foreign Language – Arabic](#)

iii. [Major and B.S. in Social and Data Science](#)

iv. [M.S. in Criminal Justice](#)

Dr. Geller explained the request to terminate four academic programs.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded to approve the request from Minot State to terminate the programs listed above i – iv.

The four initiatives were voted on under one motion.

Motion passed, 4-0.

3. Tenure

a. [North Dakota State University](#)

DC Johnson reported that NDSU submitted a proposal for the award of tenure at NDSU.

Campbell moved, Black seconded to approve the proposal by NDSU to award tenure to Dr. Shari Veil.

Motion passed, 4-0.

## # SBHE Policy

4. [Policy 409 Degrees Offered and Policy 409.1 Reduced-Credit Bachelor's Degree Programs](#)

DC Johnson explained that Policy 409 listed specific institutions authorized to award B.A.S. degrees, while draft Policy 409.1 suggested all institutions could pilot reduced credit B.A.S. degrees, creating a conflict that needed resolution. Her suggestion was to make the recommended edits to Policy 409 and Policy 409.1. Committee members discussed and clarified which campuses they intended to participate in a reduced credit bachelor's degree pilot program. Mr. Pieske proposed amending Policy 409 to explicitly list each institution permitted to offer reduced credit of B.A.S. degrees.

Black moved, Campbell seconded to approve Policy 409 with a revision and Policy 409.1 as presented, with the revision recommended by Mr. Pieske.

Motion passed, 4-0.

## Reports/Updates/Discussions

5. Artificial Intelligence: Literacy, Support, and Updates from a Campus Perspective  
Ms. Kinney led a discussion on AI adoption, challenges, and governance in higher education, sharing UND's initiatives.

6. [NDUS Institutional Accreditation Notification](#)

DC Johnson notified the committee of upcoming Higher Learning Commission accreditation visits, explaining the process and the requirement for institutions to submit final reports and recommendations to the NDUS office.

7. [MHEC Strategic Impact and Innovation Grant](#)  
DC Johnson informed the committee about the receipt of a \$250,000 grant to expand Golden Path Solutions for college students.
8. [Walden University Teach-out Arrangements](#)  
DC Johnson explained that Walden University is conducting a teach-out for 110 students after being unable to comply with North Dakota statute and discussed the possibility of revisiting the legislative carve-out that allowed their operation.

### **Adjourn**

Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m., CST.