

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 January 20, 2026, 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 |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

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

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, DC Lisa Johnson, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Christina Pieske, Dr. Jennifer Weber, Mr. Eric Jensen, DC Meredith Larson, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Jane Grinde, Ms. Claire Gunwall, DC David Krebsbach, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, **Attorney General's Office:** Mr. Shaun McNamara, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, Mr. Brad Miller

Call to Order

1. **Agenda**

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. **Meeting Minutes**

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

Research Discussion/Updates/Reports

3. Federal Funding Landscape Update

Dr. Snyder and Dr. Grunwald provided a comprehensive update on the current federal research funding environment, highlighting recent legislative actions, budget outcomes, agency reorganizations, and their impacts on UND and NDSU.

4. 2024 HERD Data Update

Dr. Snyder and Dr. Grunwald presented the latest Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) expenditure data for NDSU and UND, detailing funding sources, growth trends, and national rankings.

Governance Discussion/Updates/Reports

5. Sagency Project/ System Alignment Project Update

DC Larson provided an update on the ongoing System Alignment Project, detailing recent listening sessions, interviews, and upcoming governance workshops.

6. Tenure Update
Campbell reported that CCF has come to consensus about the degree requirements that they would want for tenured faculty. Tenure will move to AAC for their support, then it will be brought back to the RGC.
7. BSC Presidential Search Process Update
DC Larson reported that the BSC search committee developed applicant priorities, incorporated them into job postings and scoring documents, and received 40 pre-screened applicants, with the committee set to review and select semi-finalists.
8. VCSU Presidential Search Process Update
Campbell described the VCSU search process, including in-person and virtual listening sessions, a student survey, and plans to develop a candidate profile before posting the position and proceeding with the search.
9. NDSU Presidential Search Process Update
DC Larson announced that the NDSU search committee scheduled its next meeting for February 11th, engaged academic search consultants, and that a special board meeting would be held to consider the appointment of an interim president.

CTS Discussion/Updates/Reports

10. IT Security Briefing
Mr. Miller presented updates on IT security metrics, the CTS annual report, ERP legislative developments, and the CTS strategic plan.
11. [CTS Annual Report](#)
Mr. Quirk summarized the CTS annual report, noting leadership transitions, achievements in shared IT services, strengthened security, and the importance of CTS staff in maintaining stable and innovative technological environments.
12. ERP Legislative Update
Mr. Quirk provided an update on the legislative study of enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, describing the ongoing request for information, upcoming vendor demos, and the possibility that NDUS and the state may select different vendors for their respective needs.
13. [CTS Strategic Plan 2026-2028](#)
Mr. Quirk discussed the development of the CTS strategic plan, which involved extensive leadership collaboration, and outlined next steps for aligning systemwide IT goals and preparing for the 2027-2029 biennial planning process.

SBHE Policy

14. Policy 331 [Approval of College and University Constitutions by Board](#)
Mr. Pieske recommended deleting Policy 331, which requires board approval of institutional constitutions, as it is not consistently followed or necessary.
Eriksrud moved, Bye seconded to approve the motion to delete Policy 331. Motion passed, 3-0.
15. Policy 340.2 [Nonprofit Affiliates](#)
Mr. Pieske proposed non-substantive amendments to Policy 340.2 to simplify language and ensure inclusivity of all nonprofit affiliates, not just foundations.
Bye moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve amendments to Policy 340.2. Motion passed, 3-0.
16. Policy 601.2 [Acting Chief Executive Officer](#)
Mr. Pieske explained the amendment would clarify that an acting campus dean for DCB would be appointed by the Minot State University president rather than the board.

Eriksrud moved, Bye seconded to approve amendments to Policy 601.2. Motion passed, 3-0.

Adjourn

Committee Co-Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m., CT.