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North Dakota State Board of Higher Education January 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education held a special meeting on January 22, 2026, at 3:00 p.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 (joined at 3:05 p.m.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Michelle Kommer | |

Institutions

BSC: Interim President Leingang, **DCB:** Acting Dean Gorder, **DSU:** President Molander, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** President Van Horn, Ms. Amber Hill, **MISU:** President Shirley, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, **NDSU:** President Cook, **UND:** President Armacost.

System Office/Guests

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

Call to Order

Chair Black called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., CT.

Agenda

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

1. #Executive Session

Campbell moved, Mihalick seconded to (1) enter Executive Session to consider the appointment of an interim President for North Dakota State University, and any contract terms (2) limit the executive session to voting Board members, nonvoting advisers, Commissioner, selected NDUS Office Staff, and board counsel. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 15-10-17(1)(d), 44-04-19.1(9), and 44-04-19.2

Black, Campbell, Mihalick, Eriksrud, Sogard and Bye voted yes.

Motion passed 6-0.

Executive Session began at 3:10 p.m., CT.

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 (joined at 3:05 p.m.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Michelle Kommer | |

Others present: Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Bethany Kadmas, DC Meredith Larson, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Christina Pieske, Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Executive Session adjourned at 4:55 p.m., CT.

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

Open session reconvened at 5:13 p.m., CT.

Mihalick moved, Biller seconded to have Rick Berg appointed as Interim President at NDSU and amended the motion to have Chair Black and the Commissioner negotiate the contract, Biller seconded the amendment.

Biller, Campbell, Bye, Eriksrud, Kommer, Mihalick, Sogard and Chair Black voted yes. Motion passed 8-0.

Adjourn

Chair Black adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m., CT.

Commented [KB1]: Was it Chair Black and the Commissioner?

Commented [PC2R1]: Biller said Chair Black and Mr. Eriksrud lol. I will put the Commissioner.