

**North Dakota State University
Presidential Search Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 23, 2026**

The NDSU Presidential Search Committee met Monday, February 23, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. CT at the Harry D. McGovern Alumni Center, Reimers Room, located at 1241 University Dr N, Fargo, ND 58102.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Black at 1:00 p.m.

Members present:

- ☒ Mr. Kevin Black, Co-Chair
- ☒ Mr. Jace Beehler, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Kathryn Birkeland
- ☒ Mr. Michael Chambers
- ☒ Dr. Lynette Flage
- ☒ Mr. John Glover
- ☒ Ms. Jenny Hopkins
- ☐ Ms. Sarah Kruse
- ☒ Ms. Tiffany Lawrence
- ☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir
- ☒ Mr. Ron Ness
- ☒ Mr. Keith Peltier
- ☒ Ms. Kaley Quam
- ☒ Mr. Shiloh Susag
- ☒ Dr. Chad Ulven
- ☒ Ms. Lori Witt

Others Present

- ☒ Ms. LaDonna DeGeldere, NDSU Executive Assistant to the President
- ☒ Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Office
- ☒ Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to the Commissioner & COO
- ☒ Ms. Jennifer Kookan, Academic Search, Consultant
- ☒ Mr. Matt Larsen (ex-officio), NDSU Director of Athletics
- ☒ Ms. Meredith Larson, NDSU Chief Operating Officer
- ☒ Mr. Jay Lemons, Academic Search, President & Senior Consultant
- ☐ Mr. Shaun McNamara, Assistant Attorney General
- ☒ Ms. Lisa Ryan, Academic Search, Senior Consultant
- ☒ NDUS Commissioner Brent Sanford

☒ Ms. Stephanie Wawers, NDSU Executive Assistant to the President

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Black welcomed everyone to the meeting and made opening remarks.

Approval of Agenda(Co-Chair Black)

Ness moved to approve the minutes, Quam seconded. Motion carried 15-0.

Approval of Minutes December 18, 2025(Co-Chair Black)

Hopkins moved to approve the minutes, Quam seconded. Motion carried 15-0.

Approval of Minutes February 11, 2026(Co-Chair Black)

Hopkins moved to approve the minutes, Quam seconded. Motion carried 15-0.

Search status update

Lemons made a few remarks on the search and thanked the committee for their ongoing work. More than five dozen candidates applied for the position. He reminded the committee to focus on the candidates you want to meet in the first round of interviews and to be open. The first round of interviews will be virtual and shorter. The goal of today's meeting is to select the candidates for that first round and the number will be dictated by the conversation in executive session.

Move into Executive Session

Quam moved to enter executive session, Susag seconded. Motion carried 15-0.

Executive Session began at 1:10 p.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Kevin Black, Co-Chair
- ☒ Mr. Jace Beehler, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Kathryn Birkeland
- ☒ Mr. Michael Chambers
- ☒ Dr. Lynette Flage
- ☒ Mr. John Glover
- ☒ Ms. Jenny Hopkins
- ☐ Ms. Sarah Kruse
- ☒ Ms. Tiffany Lawrence
- ☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir
- ☒ Mr. Ron Ness
- ☒ Mr. Keith Peltier
- ☒ Ms. Kaley Quam
- ☒ Mr. Shiloh Susag
- ☒ Dr. Chad Ulven
- ☒ Ms. Lori Witt

Others Present:

- ☒ Ms. LaDonna DeGeldere, NDSU Executive Assistant to the President
- ☐ Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Office
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- ☒ Mr. Jay Lemons, Academic Search, President & Senior Consultant
- ☐ Mr. Shaun McNamara, Assistant Attorney General
- ☒ Ms. Lisa Ryan, Academic Search, Senior Consultant
- ☒ NDUS Commissioner Brent Sanford
- ☒ Ms. Stephanie Wawers, NDSU Executive Assistant to the President

Executive Session adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 4:39 p.m.

Reconvene for Review next steps and questions

- a) Initial interviews: March 2 & 3 via Zoom
- b) Semifinalist interviews: March 9 & 10 (in Minneapolis)
- c) Finalist visits: Week of March 23

Committee Questions

No committee questions were raised.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.