

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 February 17, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. CT., via Teams.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee Members

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| ☒ Mr. Curtis Biller, Chair | ☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud |
| ☒ Mr. Kevin Black | ☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, faculty advisor |
| ☒ Mr. DJ Campbell | ☐ Ms. Michelle Kommer |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC: Interim President Leingang, Ms. Alicia Uhde, Dr. Kaylyn Bondy, **DCB:** Acting Dean Gorder, **DSU:** Dr. Holly Gruhlke, Ms. Kayla Noah, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** Dr. Brian Huschle, Ms. Rhonda Nelson, **MiSU:** Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, Mr. Mike Paolini, **NDSU:** Dr. Laura Oster-Aaland, Dr. Shari Veil, Ms. Karin Hegstad, Ms. Seinquis Leinen, Ms. Dorreen Kramer, Mr. Jace Beehler, **UND:** Dr. Eric Link, Dr. Art Malloy, **VCSU:** Mr. Mark Nelson, Mr. Larry Brooks, **WSC:** President Hirning, Ms. Sarah Favorite.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Ms. Christina Pieske, Ms. Bethany Kadrmaz, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Mr. Chris Pieske, DC Lisa Johnson, DC Meredith Johnson, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Mr. Eric Jensen, DC David Krebsbach, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Attorney General's Office:** Mr. Shaun McNamara, **Guests:** Mr. Patrick Mineer.

Call to Order

1. Agenda
Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the agenda, as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
2. January [Meeting Minutes](#)
Black moved, Campbell seconded to approve the January meeting minutes, as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
3. Guest Speaker – Patrick Mineer, [Golden Path Solutions \(Compass\)](#)
Mr. Mineer presented an overview of the Compass platform, its integration with K12, CTE, and post-secondary institutions, and the scope of the MHEC grant.

Committee Business

4. New Academic Program Requests
 - a. [Dickinson State University](#)

Minor in Marketing

- i. UG Certificate in Emergency Medical Technician
- ii. UG Certificate and B.B.A. in Financial Technology
- iii. A.A.S. in Paramedic Science
- iv. B.B.A. in Digital Marketing
- v. B.B.A. in Sports Marketing
- vi. B.S. in Emergency Medical Services
- vii. GR Certificate in Advanced Certificate in Applied Performance and Health

Dr. Gruhlke presented eight new programs, certificates, and Bachelor of Science degrees at DSU.

Black moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the eight new programs, certificates, and Bachelor of Science degrees at DSU.

Motion passed, 4-0.

b. North Dakota State College of Science

- i. UG Certificate in Electrical Apprenticeship

President Flanigan introduced a new undergraduate certificate in Electrical Apprenticeship, designed to extend existing curriculum to Fargo.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the new undergraduate certificate in Electrical Apprenticeship.

Motion passed, 4-0.

c. North Dakota State University

- i. UG Certificate in Personal Financial Planning
- ii. GR Certificate in Foundations of Clinical Research
- iii. B.S. in Robotics & Automation
- iv. M.S. in Project Management

Dr. Veil presented two certificates, a BS, and an MS at NDSU.

Eriksrud moved, Black seconded to approve the two certificates at NDSU.

Motion passed, 4-0.

d. Williston State College

UG Certificate in Agribusiness Management

- i. UG Certificate in Equine Management
- ii. UG Certificate in Farm Management
- iii. UG Certificate in Natural Resource Management
- iv. UG Certificate in Ranch Management

Ms. Favorite presented five new undergraduate certificates in agriculture at WSC, explaining that the certificates organize existing courses into focused fields such as equine and farm management.

Campbell moved, Black seconded to approve the five new undergraduate certificates at WSC.

Motion passed, 4-0.

5. Academic Program Termination

a. Minot State University

M.A.T. in Mathematics

- i. M.A.T. in Science

Dr. Geller explained the termination of two inactive programs.
Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded to approve the termination of the two inactive programs.
Motion passed, 4-0.

6. Institution Organization Notice

a. North Dakota State University

i. [Center for Banking and Finance](#)

Dr. Veil introduced the new, donor-funded Center for Banking and Finance at NDSU.

Black moved, Campbell seconded to approve the new Center for Banking and Finance at NDSU.

SBHE Policy

7. Policy 440 [Enrollment Reporting](#)

8. Policy 442 [IPEDS Enrollment Reporting](#)

DC Johnson presented that Policies 440 and 442 were revised to separate board-level and federal (IPEDS) enrollment reporting, with definitions and procedures clarified. CTS will continue to generate required reports for all institutions.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded to approve the updates to Policies 440, 442.

Motion passed, 4-0.

9. Policy 511 [Student Criminal History Background Checks](#)

DC Johnson and Mr. Pieske explained that the amended Policy 511 will update the list of programs requiring student criminal history background checks, with corresponding procedural changes approved by the President's Council.

Campbell moved, Black seconded to approve the amendment to Policy 511.

Motion passed, 4-0.

Reports/Updates/Discussions

10. [Workforce Pell](#)

DC Johnson provided a brief overview of Workforce Pell grant accessibility and implementation, noting that qualifying programs are coordinated through the governor's office and may include short-term degree and non-degree offerings.

11. Dual Credit Tuition Procedure/Policy

Commissioner Sanford presented on the ongoing legislative scrutiny of dual credit funding, including perceptions of 'triple funding' and comparisons to neighboring states with zero tuition for dual credit. The committee agreed to revisit the waiver policy at the next meeting and to analyze the economic impact and institutional data.

a. Policy 805.1 [Tuition](#)

b. Procedure 805.1 [Tuition](#)

c. Low Enrollment Programs

DC Johnson was charged with examining existing low enrollment programs and working with the Academic Affairs Council to review and provide feedback at the March ASAC meeting.

Adjourn

Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m., CT.