

**Bismarck State College
Presidential Search Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 2, 2026**

The Bismarck State College Presidential Search Committee met Monday, March 2, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. via Teams.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Erickson at 9:38 a.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Marko Davinic (joined at 1:01 p.m.)
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☐ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Commissioner Brent Sanford (joined 9:45 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. and 1:01 p.m. – 1:56 p.m.)
Ms. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined 9:41 a.m. – 10:29 a.m. and 1:06 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.)
Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer
Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO
Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer
Dr. Phillip King, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 9:46 a.m. – 10:46 a.m.)
Dr. Gaby Hawat, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 1:01 p.m. – 1:58 p.m.)

1. Call to Order
2. Approve February 24, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Approved by consensus.

3. Becker moved, Nagel seconded, to enter executive session to consider one of the candidates identified by the search committee for the Bismarck State College presidency. The executive session shall be limited to members of the search committee, the individual invited to

interview with the search committee, those assisting the search committee, NDUS office staff, and NDUS legal counsel.

The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 44-04-18.27 and 44-04-19.2.

Becker, Kuether, Moberg, Nagel, Russell, Sagsveen, Wrolstad, Co-Chair Mihalick, and Co-Chair Erickson voted yes. Brickhouse, Davinic, and Olson absent. Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 9:46 a.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Marko Davinic (joined at 1:01 p.m.)
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☐ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Commissioner Brent Sanford (joined 9:45 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. and 1:01 p.m. – 1:56 p.m.)

Ms. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined 9:41 a.m. – 10:29 a.m. and 1:06 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.)

Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer

Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO

Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer

Dr. Phillip King, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 9:46 a.m. – 10:46 a.m.)

Dr. Gaby Hawat, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 1:01 p.m. – 1:58 p.m.)

Break 10:46 a.m. – 1:01 p.m.

Executive Session adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

**Bismarck State College
Presidential Search Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

The Bismarck State College Presidential Search Committee met Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Teams.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Mihalick at 1:03 p.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Marko Davinic
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg (joined at 1:07 p.m.)
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☒ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Commissioner Brent Sanford (joined at 1:28 p.m.)
Ms. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined at 1:14 p.m.)
Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer
Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO
Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer
Mr. Clint Cowden, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 1:07 p.m. – 1:56 p.m.)

1. Call to Order
2. Becker moved, Wrolstad seconded, to enter executive session to consider one of the candidates identified by the search committee for the Bismarck State College presidency. The executive session shall be limited to members of the search committee, the individual invited to interview with the search committee, those assisting the search committee, NDUS office staff, and NDUS legal counsel.

The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 44-04-18.27 and 44-04-19.2.

Becker, Brickhouse, Davinic, Kuether, Nagel, Russell, Sagsveen, Wrolstad, Co-Chair Mihalick, and Co-Chair Erickson voted yes. Moberg and Olson absent. Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 1:07 p.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Marko Davinic
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☒ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Commissioner Brent Sanford (joined at 1:28 p.m.)
Ms. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined at 1:14 p.m.)
Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer
Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO
Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer
Mr. Clint Cowden, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 1:07 p.m. – 1:56 p.m.)

Executive Session adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 1:58 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

**Bismarck State College
Presidential Search Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

The Bismarck State College Presidential Search Committee met Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 9:15 a.m. via Teams.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Mihalick at 9:17 a.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Marko Davinic
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☒ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Commissioner Brent Sanford

Ms. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined at 9:43 a.m.)

Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer

Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO

Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer

Dr. Brian Kalk, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 9:24 a.m. – 9:58 a.m.)

Dr. Dan Leingang, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 1:14 p.m. – 2:08 p.m.)

1. Call to Order
2. Sagsveen moved, Nagel seconded, to enter executive session to consider one of the candidates identified by the search committee for the Bismarck State College presidency. The executive session shall be limited to members of the search committee, the individual invited to interview with the search committee, those assisting the search committee, NDUS office staff, and NDUS legal counsel.

The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 44-04-18.27 and 44-04-19.2.

Becker, Brickhouse, Davinic, Kuether, Moberg, Nagel, Russell, Sagsveen, Wrolstad, Co-Chair Mihalick, and Co-Chair Erickson voted yes. Olson absent. Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 9:24 a.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Marko Davinic
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☒ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Commissioner Brent Sanford

Ms. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined at 9:43 a.m.)

Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer

Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO

Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer

Dr. Brian Kalk, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 9:24 a.m. – 9:58 a.m.)

Dr. Dan Leingang, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined 1:14 p.m. – 2:08 p.m.)

Break 9:58 a.m. – 1:14 p.m.

Executive Session adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 2:09 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**Bismarck State College
Presidential Search Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 2026**

The Bismarck State College Presidential Search Committee met Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. via Teams.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Mihalick at 10:09 a.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Marko Davinic
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☒ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Commissioner Brent Sanford (joined from 10:16 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.)
Ms. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined at 10:16 a.m.)
Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer
Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO
Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer
Dr. Rai Kathuria, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined from 10:16 a.m. – 11:17 a.m.)

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Mihalick mentioned that BSC would be providing a lunch, and no committee business would be discussed during lunch.

- 2. Nagel moved, Moberg seconded, to enter executive session to consider one of the candidates identified by the search committee for the Bismarck State College presidency. The executive session shall be limited to members of the search committee, the individual invited to**

interview with the search committee, those assisting the search committee, NDUS office staff, and NDUS legal counsel.

The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 44-04-18.27 and 44-04-19.2.

Becker, Brickhouse, Davinic, Kuether, Moberg, Nagel, Russell, Sagsveen, Wrolstad, Co-Chair Mihalick, and Co-Chair Erickson voted yes. Olson absent. Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 10:16 a.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. Marko Davinic
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☒ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Commissioner Brent Sanford (joined from 10:16 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.)
Ms. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined at 10:16 a.m.)
Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer
Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO
Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer
Dr. Rai Kathuria, BSC Presidential Candidate (joined from 10:16 a.m. – 11:17 a.m.)

Executive Session adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Open Session reconvened at 11:18 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

**Bismarck State College
Presidential Search Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 2026**

The Bismarck State College Presidential Search Committee met Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. via Teams.

Call to order

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

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☐ Dr. Marko Davinic
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☒ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Assistant Attorney General Shaun McNamara
Commissioner Brent Sanford
Mr. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined at 1:18 p.m.)
Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer
Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO
Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, NDUS Director of Communications/Media Relations
Mr. Eric Jensen, NDUS Director of Strategic Engagement
Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer
Ms. Janell Campbell, BSC Executive Assistant to the President
Ms. Juanita Lee, BSC Public Information Officer

1. Call to Order
2. Nagel moved, Becker seconded, to enter executive session to discuss attributes of each of the candidates for the Bismarck State College presidency. The executive session shall be limited to members of the search committee, those assisting the search committee, NDUS office staff, and

NDUS legal counsel.

The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 44-04-18.27, 44-04-19.2.

Becker, Brickhouse, Kuether, Moberg, Nagel, Russell, Sagsveen, Wrolstad, Co-Chair Mihalick, and Co-Chair Erickson. Davinic and Olson absent. Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 1:03 p.m.

Members Present:

- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Karen Erickson, Co-Chair
- ☐ Dr. Marko Davinic
- ☒ Ms. Kelli Kuether
- ☒ Mr. David Sagsveen
- ☒ Ms. Cassy Russell
- ☒ Dr. Kevin Moberg
- ☒ Mr. Scott Becker
- ☒ Mr. Cory Wrolstad
- ☒ Ms. Brenda Nagel
- ☐ Mr. Ayden Olson
- ☒ Mr. Todd Brickhouse

Others Present:

Assistant Attorney General Shaun McNamara

Commissioner Brent Sanford

Ms. Meredith Larson, NDUS Chief Operating Officer (joined at 1:18 p.m.)

Ms. Jane Grinde, NDUS Chief Human Resources Officer

Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, NDUS Executive Assistant to Commissioner & COO

Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, BSC Chief Human Resources Officer

Executive Session adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

Nagel moved, Moberg seconded, to contract the candidates identified as finalists for the BSC presidential search, take a recess to extend offers and confirm acceptance, and then return to open session to announce the finalists.

Becker, Brickhouse, Kuether, Moberg, Nagel, Russell, Sagsveen, Wrolstad, Co-Chair Mihalick, and Co-Chair Erickson. Davinic and Olson absent. Motion carried.

Break 2:22 – 2:39 p.m.

3. Reconvene to determine which candidates, three or more unranked, are invited to interview with the State Board of Higher Education March 31, 2026.

Co-Chair Mihalick announced the four finalists for the BSC presidential search as Dr. Gaby Hawat, Dr. Brian Kalk, Dr. Rai Kathuria, and Dr. Dan Leingang.

4. Wrap-up and Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.