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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 February 17, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. CT.

SBHE Research and Governance Committee members

☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Co-Chair
☒ Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair
☒ Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor
☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud (arrived at 3:08 p.m.)
☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC: Interim President Leingang, **MaSU:** Dr. Brian Huschle, **NDSCS:** President Rod Flanigan, **NDSU:** Mr. Marc Wallman, **UND:** President Armacost**, VCSU:** Dr. David DeMuth**, WSC:** President Hirning.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Dr. Jennifer Weber, Ms. Christina Pieske, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, DC Meredith Larson, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, DC David Krebsbach, Ms. Claire Gunwall, DC Lisa Johnson, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Attorney General's Office:** Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Call to Order

1. **Agenda**
   Bye moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. **Meeting Minutes**
   Bye moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the January 20, 2026, meeting minutes, as presented.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Governance Items

3. SBHE Assessment Process
   Mr. Pieske reported on the SBHE Development Instrument and SBHE Assessment Timeline. The timeline will be adjusted to reflect that the development instrument is being approved in February instead of March.
   Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded to approve the SBHE Assessment Process.
   Motion passed, 3-0.
   a. SBHE Development Instrument
   b. SBHE Assessment Timeline

CTS Discussion/Update/Reports

4. Large IT Project Q4 Report
5. UPDATE: Legislative Study on ERP
6. UPDATE: 2027-29 NDUS IT Strategic Plan
   Mr. Quirk gave updates on the Large IT Q2 Project, Legislative Study on ERP, and the 2027-29 NDUS IT Strategic Plan.

 # SBHE Policy

7. Policy 305.1 Institution President Authority and Responsibilities; Contract Terms, Policy 605.1 Academic Appointments (presidential retreat rights)
   Mr. Pieske presented on Policies 305.1 and 605.1, which will be revised to clarify the retreat rights of presidents who have tenure. The amendment to Policy 305.1 also provides that if a president is terminated without cause, they will be given pay and benefits for six months instead of twelve. Mr. Pieske said he would modify the proposed amendment to ensure that current presidents are not affected by the change with regard to termination without cause.
   Bye moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve Policy 605.1, as presented by Mr. Pieske. Motion passed, 3-0.
8. Policy 605.1 Academic Appointments (eligibility for tenure)
   Mr. Pieske presented a different aspect of Policy 605.1, referring to the eligibility for tenure. The amendment incorporates language developed by the Council of College Faculties.
   Bye moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve Policy 605.1, as presented by Mr. Pieske. Motion passed, 3-0.

Discussion/Updates/Reports

9. Tenure Survey
   DC Johnson explained that institutions will provide information on how many post-tenure reviews of tenured faculty have been completed. This information will be provided to the board.
10. BSC Presidential Search Process Update
    DC Larson gave an update on the BSC Presidential Search.
11. VCSU Presidential Search Process Update
    DC Larson gave an update on the VCSU Presidential Search.
12. NDSU Presidential Search Process Update
    Dr. Montplaisir gave an update on the NDSU Presidential Search.
13. System Alignment Project
    DC Larson gave an update on the System Alignment Project.
14. Executive Compensation Proposal
    DC Larson reported on the Executive Compensation Proposal.
15. Recognition Proposal
    DC Larson and Ms. Kinney reported on the Recognition Proposal. There was discussion around the need to recognize staff members that go above and beyond. Recognition events could involve faculty, staff, and students who have received recognition awards from CCF, Staff Senate, and NDSA.

Adjourn

Co-Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m., CT.