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

SBHE Research and Governance Committee members

☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Co-Chair
☐ Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair
☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud
☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC: Interim President Leingang, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** Dr. Bob Miess, Dr. Brian Huschle, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, **NDSU:** Mr. Marc Wallman, **UND:** President Armacost, Dr. Robert Newman, **VCSU:** Dr. David DeMuth, **WSC:** President Hirning.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Mr. Cory Wigdahl, Ms. Christina Pieske, DC Lisa Johnson, Mr. Chris Pieske, Dr. Jennifer Weber, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Dr. Billie Jo Lorius, Ms. Edynn Glatt, DC Meredith Larson, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Ms. Claire Gunwall, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk.

Call to Order

1. **# Agenda**
   Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.
   Motion passed, 2-0.

2. **February Meeting Minutes**
   Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the minutes, as presented.
   Motion passed, 2-0.

Governance Items

3. Dual Credit/Accessibility
   DC Larson and DC Johnson provided a comprehensive update on dual credit accessibility efforts, including meetings with campus partners, legislators, and the governor's office, and discussed the development and refinement of a new dashboard and data tools to analyze dual credit offerings and access across North Dakota.

 # SBHE Policy

4. Policy 606.1 Classification - Higher Education Employees
   Ms. Grinde outlined minor clarifications to policy 606.1 regarding the broadbanding system for employees.

5. Policy 608.2 NDUS Employees - Non-renewal and Dismissals

Ms. Grinde stated that minor changes and clarifications were made to the language of Policy 608.2.

6. Policy 608.3 Professional Staff Compensation
   Ms. Grinde recommended deletion of policy 608.3 as its subject matter is addressed elsewhere.
   Policies 606.1, 608.2, and 608.3 were all voted on at the same time.
   Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded to approve the changes to Policies 606.1, 608.2, and 608.3.
   Motion passed, 2-0.

7. Policy 705.1 Executive Compensation
   Ms. Grinde detailed significant updates to policy 705.1, including expanding housing allowances to additional campus presidents and introducing a weighted formula for salary ranges that incorporates years of service and professional experience, aiming for a more holistic and competitive compensation strategy.
   Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded to approve the updates to Policy 705.1.
   Motion passed, 2-0.

CTS Discussion/Updates/Reports

8. Enterprise Service Management Report
   Mr. Quirk delivered a detailed report on the ITSM (Service One) initiative at CTS, outlining the evolution of service management practices, current performance metrics, and ongoing improvements in incident and service request handling.

Discussion/Updates/Reports

9. System Alignment/Shared Services Update: Set the Stage for the Retreat
   DC Larson reported that the system alignment project's draft governance report is in development, with the board retreat scheduled to review the report and set legislative priorities and indicated that a proposal for continued strategic planning will be presented to board leadership.

10. Update on Presidential Searches
    a. NDSU
    b. BSC
    c. VCSU

    DC Larson reported that NDSU and BSC have identified finalists for presidential searches, with board interviews scheduled, and VCSU is beginning its review process, with Ms. Grinde forwarding qualified applicants to the search committee.

11. 2026 Presidential Evaluation Process
    DC Larson informed the committee that President Flanigan will undergo a comprehensive evaluation involving listening sessions, surveys, self-assessment, and stakeholder interviews, while other presidents will complete annual self-assessments, with the process to be reassessed after strategic planning.

12. Executive Compensation Methodology Recap
    Ms. Grinde provided an update on the ongoing development of the executive compensation methodology, emphasizing the goal of offering competitive total

rewards packages for presidents and aligning salary administration with market data and key performance indicators.

13. Update on Staff Recognition
    DC Larson briefly mentioned ongoing efforts to develop staff recognition initiatives, including exploring funding options for staff awards in collaboration with Ms. Kinney and the NDUS Foundation.

Adjourned

Committee Co-Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m., CT.