

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2026

Action Items

The State Board of Higher Education held a special meeting on March 31, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., CT., at Bismarck State College in the Bavendick State Room, 1200 Schafer St., Bismarck, ND 58501. [Click here](#) to view the live video stream.

Roll Call

SBHE Members

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|---|---|
| ☒ Mr. Kevin Black, Chair | ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick |
| ☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Vice Chair | ☒ Mr. Pat Sogard |
| ☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud | ☒ Ms. Danita Bye |
| ☒ Mr. Curtis Biller | ☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |
| ☒ Ms. Michelle Kommer | ☒ Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor |

Institutions

BSC: Interim President Leingang, Ms. Janell Campbell, Ms. Karen Erickson, Dr. Kaylyn Bondy, Ms. Nicole Mikkelsen, **MISU:** President Shirley, **UND:** President Armacost.

System Office/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Christina Pieske, Mr. Chris Pieske, DC Meredith Larson, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Jane Grinde, **Assistant Attorney General:** Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Call to Order

1. # Agenda
Mihalick moved, Biller seconded to approve the agenda, as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
2. Bismarck State College President Interviews (in alphabetical order by last name):
[Dr. Gaby Hawat](#)
[Dr. Brian Kalk](#)
[Dr. Rai Kathuria](#)
[Dr. Dan Leingang](#)
3. # Executive Session
Biller moved, Bye seconded to move and enter Executive Session (1) to consider the appointment of, and contract terms for, the next President of Bismarck State College (2) to discuss negotiating strategy and provide negotiating instructions to its counsel

and/or negotiators related to the same; and (3) limit the executive session to voting board members, nonvoting advisors, the Commissioner, invited NDUSO staff, board counsel, and co-chairs of the presidential search committee.

The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 15-10-17(1)(a), 15-10-17(1)(d), 44-04-19.1(9) and 44-04-19.2.

Black, Campbell, Mihalick, Bye, Biller, Sogard, Eriksrud and Kommer all voted yes.

Motion passed, 8-0.

Executive Session began at 1:21 p.m., CT.

Present:

SBHE Members

☒ Mr. Kevin Black, Chair	☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick
☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Vice Chair	☒ Mr. Pat Sogard
☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud	☒ Ms. Danita Bye
☒ Mr. Curtis Biller	☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor
☒ Ms. Michelle Kommer	☒ Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor

Others Present: Commissioner Sanford, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Christina Pieske, DC Meredith Larson, Ms. Jane Grinde, Ms. Karen Erickson, Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Executive Session adjourned at 3:11 p.m., CT.

4. Reconvene Open Meeting
Open Session reconvened at 3:21 p.m., CT.
5. # SBHE action regarding the Bismarck State College Presidency
Mihalick moved, Campbell seconded to offer Dr. Brian Kalk the presidency of BSC and to delegate contract negotiations to Chair Black and Commissioner Sanford.
Motion passed, 8-0.

Adjourn

Chair Black adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m., CT.