

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2026

Action Items

The State Board of Higher Education met on March 30, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., CT., at North Dakota State University in Ballroom B of the Memorial Union, 1401 Administration Ave., Fargo, ND 58105.

Roll Call

SBHE Members

☒ Mr. Kevin Black, Chair
☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Vice Chair
☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud
☒ Mr. Curtis Biller
☒ Ms. Michelle Kommer

☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick
☒ Mr. Pat Sogard
☒ Ms. Danita Bye
☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor
☒ Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor

Institutions

BSU: Interim President Leingang, Ms. Janell Campbell, Mr. Cole Bernhardt, **DCB:** Dean Gorder, **DSU:** President Molander, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** President Van Horn, **MiSU:** President Shirley, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, **NDSU:** Interim President Berg, Mr. Jace Beehler, Ms. LaDonna DeGeldere, **UND:** President Armacost, **VCSU:** Interim President Burgad, **WSC:** President Hirning.

System Office/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, DC Meredith Larson, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Christina Pieske, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Dr. Billie Jo Lorius, Mr. Chris Pieske, Mr. Dustin Walcker, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General:** Mr. Shaun McNamara, **Guest:** Mr. Jay Lemons.

Call to Order

1. # Agenda

Mihalick moved, Kommer seconded to approve the agenda, as written.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. North Dakota State University President Interviews (in alphabetical order by last name):

[Dr. Bernie Savarese](#)

[Dr. Alan Smith](#)

[Dr. Marshall Stewart](#)

3. # Executive Session

Biller moved, Sogard seconded to (1) consider the appointment of, and contract terms for, the next President of North Dakota State University; (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, Academic Search consultants, 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.

Biller, Bye, Campbell, Eriksrud, Kommer, Mihalick, Sogard and Black voted yes. Motion passed, 8-0.

Executive Session began at 11:54 a.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. Jane Grinde, Mr. Shaun McNamara, Ms. Christina Pieske, Mr. Jace Beehler, Mr. Jay Lemons.

Executive Session adjourned at 2:20 p.m., CT.

4. Reconvene Open Meeting

Open Session reconvened at 2:23 p.m., CT.

5. # SBHE action regarding the North Dakota State University Presidency

Campbell moved, Biller seconded to award Dr. Marshall Stewart the Presidency of NDSU and to delegate tract negotiations to Commissioner Sanford and Chair Black. Motion passed, 8-0.

6. # Tenure

Campbell moved, Bye seconded to award tenure to Dr. Marshall Stewart as of the day he assumes the Presidency of NDSU. Motion passed, 8-0.

Adjourn

Chair Black adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m., CT.