

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on April 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. CT., via Teams.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

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| ☒ Mr. Curtis Biller, Chair | ☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud |
| ☐ Mr. Kevin Black | ☒ Ms. Michelle Kommer |
| ☒ Mr. DJ Campbell | ☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, faculty advisor |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC: President Kalk, Dr. Kaylyn Bondy, Ms. Alicia Uhde, Dr. Daniel Leingang, **DCB:** Dean Gorder, Ms. Misty Lindgren, **DSU:** President Molander, Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** Dr. Brian Huschle, Ms. Rhonda Nelson, **MiSU:** President Shirley, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, Ms. Melissa Johnson, Mr. Terry Marohl, **NDSU:** Dr. Shari Veil, **UND:** Dr. Eric Link, **VCSU:** Mr. Larry Brooks, **WSC:** President Hirning, Dr. Zahi Atallah

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Ms. Edynn Glatt, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Mindy Sturn, DC Lisa Johnson, Mr. Cory Wigdahl, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Dr. Jennifer Weber, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Mr. Dustin Walcker, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant State's Attorney:** Mr. Shaun McNamara.

1. **Agenda**

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

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Eriksrud moved, Kommer seconded, to approve the March 17, 2026, meeting minutes, as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. New Academic Program Request

a. [Bismarck State College](#)

i. [B.A.S. in Agriculture Management](#)

Ms. Uhde presented a new B.A.S. in Agriculture Management, designed as a pathway from the existing A.A.S. program, with both on-campus and online delivery, focusing on supervisory and operational management in agriculture.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve BSC's request.
Motion passed, 4-0.

- b. [Lake Region State College](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate in Accounting](#)
 - ii. [UG Certificate in Management](#)
 - iii. [UG Certificate in Marketing](#)
 - iv. [UG Certificate in Theater](#)

President Simone introduced four certificates—accounting, management, marketing, and theater for approval. She explained that the first three existing subplans now offered as standalone credentials, while the theater certificate repackages existing coursework for students interested in a theater concentration.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the four certificates presented by President Simone.

Motion passed, 4-0.

- c. [North Dakota State University](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate in Digital Marketing](#)
 - ii. [UG Certificate in Marketing Analytics](#)
 - iii. [UG Certificate in Nuclear Engineering](#)
 - iv. [GR Certificate in Health Informatics](#)

Dr. Veil presented three UG certificates and one GR certificate for approval, including digital marketing, marketing analytics, nuclear engineering, and health informatics, highlighting cross-departmental collaboration and the expansion of opportunities for undergraduates.

Campbell moved, Kommer seconded to approve all the certificates presented by Dr. Veil.

Motion passed, 4-0.

- d. [University of North Dakota](#)
 - i. [B.S.A. in Helicopter Operations](#)
 - ii. [M.Eng. and M.S. in Aerospace Engineering](#)

Dr. Link presented three new degree requests for approval. He described the creation of a standalone Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics (B.S.A.) in helicopter operations, previously part of the commercial aviation degree, and a new M.Eng. and M.S. in Aerospace Engineering, following the success of the undergraduate program.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the three new degree requests presented by Dr. Link.

Motion passed, 4-0.

- e. [Valley City State University](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate in Business Operations](#)

Mr. Brooks presented a twelve-credit undergraduate certificate in business operations at Valley City State University, composed of existing coursework in management, supply chains, production management, and strategic operations.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded to approve the certificate presented by Mr. Brooks.

Motion passed, 4-0.

4. Reduced Credit Bachelor's Degree Request (conclusion at SBHE)

a. [Dickinson State University](#)

i. [B.A.S. in Management](#)

Dr. Gruhlke explained the rationale, process, and policy considerations for Dickinson State University's proposed reduced credit bachelor's degree in management.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the request by DSU.

Motion passed, 4-0.

5. Academic Program Termination

a. [Dakota College at Bottineau](#)

ii. [UG Certificate and A.A.S. in Specialty Crop Production](#)

iii. [UG Certificate and A.A.S. in Aquaponics](#)

iiii. [UG Certificate and A.A.S. in Golf and Turf Management](#)

Ms. Lindgren presented requests to terminate low- or zero-enrollment programs.

Eriksrud moved, Kommer seconded to approve the request by DCB to terminate low- or zero-enrollment programs.

Motion passed, 4-0.

b. [University of North Dakota](#)

ii. [UG Certificate in Communication Sciences & Disorders](#)

iii. [UG Certificate in Chinese](#)

iiii. [UG Certificate in Cyberpsychology](#)

iv. [UG Certificate in Go Global Academy](#)

iv. [UG Certificate in Leading Social Change](#)

ivi. [UG Certificate in Society, Technology, & Values](#)

ivii. [Minor in American Sign Language](#)

iviii. [Minor in Canadian Area Studies](#)

ix. [B.A. in Philosophy & Religion: Religious Studies Concentration](#)

ix. [GR Certificate in Cyber Security and Behavior](#)

ixi. [M.A. in Geology](#)

Dr. Link presented requests to terminate low- or zero-enrollment programs.

Campbell moved, Kommer seconded to approve the request by UND to terminate low- or zero-enrollment programs.

Motion passed, 4-0.

6. [Tenure and Faculty Appointments](#) (conclusion at SBHE)

DC Johnson presented the annual faculty appointment and tenure recommendations, highlighting new data on tenured administrators and clarifying reporting practices.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the annual faculty appointment and tenure recommendations.

Motion passed, 4-0.

SBHE Policy

7. Policy 404 [Collaborative Applicant](#)

Ms. Gunwall explained the proposed changes to Policy 404 to allow students to be degree-seeking at both home and provider institutions when pursuing dual degrees, improving enrollment reporting and reducing manual processing.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded to approve the proposed changes to Policy 404.

Motion passed, 4-0.

8. Policy 413 [Mathematics and English Course Placement](#)

DC Johnson detailed the shift from remedial prerequisites to co-requisite instruction for English and mathematics, the use of multiple measures (including high school GPA) for placement, and the phased reduction of standalone remedial courses by Fall 2027. Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the changes to Policy 413. Motion passed, 4-0.

Reports/Updates/Discussions

9. Update Low Producing Programs

DC Johnson presented a draft policy for identifying and reviewing low-producing academic programs, outlining definitions, thresholds, and review processes.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m., CT.