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North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Budget and Finance Committee met via Teams on April 21, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. CT.

SBHE Budget and Finance Committee members

☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick, Chair	☒ Mr. Pat Sogard
☒ Ms. Michelle Kommer	☐ Mr. Kevin Black
☒ Mr. Curtis Biller	

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC: President Kalk, Ms. Rebecca Collins, Ms. Sonya Koble**, DCB:** Dean Gorder, **DSU:** President Molander**, LRSC:** President Simone, Ms. Joann Kitchens**, MaSU:** President Van Horn**,** Ms. Amber Hill, **MiSU:** President Shirley, Ms. Krista Lambrecht, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, Mr. Keith Johnson, **NDSU:** Mr. Mark Genkinger, Ms. Deanna Pederson, Mr. Brent DeKrey, Ms. Cynthia Rott, Mr. Bruce Bollinger, Mr. Travis Aho, Ms. Karin Hegstad, Ms. Lisa Ripplinger, Ms. Gina Haugen, Mr. Thomas Claeys**, UND:** Ms. Odella Fuqua, Mr. Brian Larson, Ms. Sarah Abertroth, Ms. Becky Lucke**, VCSU:** Ms. Erica Buchholz**, WSC:** President Hirning, Ms. Deborah Halvorson.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Edynn Glatt, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Mr. Rick Tonder, Mr. Cory Wigdahl, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Mr. Dustin Walcker, DC Meredith Larson, Ms. Robin Putnam, DC David Krebsbach, Mr. Eric Jensen, Dr. Billie Jo Lorius, Ms. Jane Grinde, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, DC Lisa Johnson, Dr. Jennifer Weber, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General:** Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Call to Order

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

Consent Agenda

2. March 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes
   Biller moved, Sogard seconded, to approve the March 17, 2026, meeting minutes, as presented.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Business

3. UND
   a. Demolition of Babcock Hall
      Mr. Larson explained the request to demolish Babcock Hall, a vacant building since 2017, after coordination with the North Dakota Historical Society and local historical commission. The demolition would cost under $600,000, funded through

local and extraordinary repairs dollars, and the site would be converted to green space with sidewalks and grass. There was discussion around the insurable value requirement and outreach to the Babcock family via the Alumni Association.
Sogard moved, Biller seconded to approve UND's request to demolish Babcock Hall.
Motion passed, 4-0.

b. Renovation of the Former Bookstore
Mr. Larson presented UND's request for authorization to renovate the former bookstore space for the Biomedical Engineering Department at a cost of $2,750,000. Mr. Larson clarified that about one-third of the space would be used initially, with future plans for the remaining area under review. The committee discussed the rationale for contingency rates and the suitability of the space for hands-on engineering activities.
Sogard moved, Biller seconded to approve UND's request for authorization to renovate the former bookstore space.
Motion passed, 4-0.

c. Renovation of Gamble Hall
Mr. Larson stated that UND is seeking approval for $4,500,000 in renovations to Gamble Hall to relocate departments from Columbia Hall, including the Northern Prairie Community Clinic, Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Psychology. The move would enable the future demolition of Columbia Hall, reducing deferred maintenance by vacating a larger, less efficient building. Mr. Larson noted that alternative spaces were not available for these large departments.
Biller moved, Sogard seconded to approve UND's request to renovate Gamble Hall.
Motion passed, 4-0.

d. Reconstruction of Ray Richards
Mr. Larson presented UND's request for $4,500,000 for the reconstruction of Ray Richards Golf Course, necessitated by a land sale to the Department of Transportation for a new interchange. The project would be funded through a reimbursable agreement with DOT and sale proceeds, with unused contingency funds returned to their source. Committee members expressed concern over the high contingency rate and requested revised numbers before approval. Mr. Larson also described potential future development parcels, which would require further board approval.
Sogard moved, but motion died due to lack of a second.
No vote was taken.

e. College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines Online PhD Tuition Rate Change
Ms. Abentroth presented proposed tuition rate changes for UND's College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines and other graduate programs.
Kommer moved, Biller seconded to approve UND's request.
Motion passed, 4-0.

4. Draft 2026-27 MN/ND Reciprocity MOU Agreement

Ms. Wilke presented the annual Minnesota-North Dakota tuition reciprocity memorandum of understanding (MOU) for academic year 26-27, highlighting only minor updates. Ms. Wilke explained that the only changes to the MOU were updated dates and a new sentence under reporting procedures requiring state-level offices to assist in obtaining institutional reporting if needed.
Sogard moved, Biller seconded to approve the updated MOU.
Motion passed, 4-0.

5. 2027-29 Biennial Budget
    a. Operating
    b. Capital
    Commissioner Sanford, DC Krebsbach and Mr. Tonder led a detailed review of the NDUS operating and capital budget planning process, including governor-mandated reductions, new funding requests, deferred maintenance prioritization, and the process for ranking and forwarding capital projects.
    The committee decided to hold a special BFC meeting in the future to refine their recommendations to the full SBHE board.
    No vote was taken.

6. Campus Facility Master Plans Update
    a. DSU
    President Molander described Dickinson State's comprehensive review of campus facilities, highlighting the high cost of maintaining aging infrastructure and the need for significant deferred maintenance investment.
    b. NDSCS
    President Flanigan requested approval to update NDSCS's master plan to reflect recent and planned renovations. Mihalick informed President Flanigan that no approval was required for the action and advised him to proceed with its completion.
    c. NDSU
    Mr. Bollinger and Mr. DeKrey summarized NDSU's high-level master plan amendments, noting ongoing strategic planning and a focus on supporting deferred maintenance capital requests.

    After about a ten minute discussion on the topic of Facility Master Plans, there was no motion made and no vote taken.

Committee Reports/Updates/Discussion

7. Funding Formula
8. Dual Credit
9. Shared Services
Chair Mihalick remarked that ongoing conversations will take place about the funding formula, dual credit, and shared services.

Adjourn

Chair Mihalick adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m., CT.