

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 April 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. CT.

SBHE Governance Committee members

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Chair | ☒ Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor |
| ☒ Ms. Danita Bye | ☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |
| ☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud | |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC: President Kalk, **DCB:** Dean Gorder, **DSU:** President Molander, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** Dr. Brian Huschle, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, **NDSU:** Mr. Marc Wallman, **UND:** President Armacost, Dr. Scott Snyder, **VCSU:** Dr. David DeMuth, **WSC:** President Hirning.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Edynn Glatt, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Cory Wigdahl, DC Meredith Larson, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Dr. Jennifer Weber, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General:** Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Call to Order

1. **# Agenda**
Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
2. **# March 17, 2026, Meeting [Minutes](#)**
Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the minutes as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Research Items:

3. **Status of Federal Funding Update**
Drs. Grunwald and Snyder provided a comprehensive update on the status of federal research funding, highlighting agency-specific challenges, current award trends at NDSU and UND, and the impact on undergraduate research programs.
4. **Update on Research and Governance Committee**
DC Larson discussed the decision to remove the research reporting function from the Research and Governance Committee and instead provide research updates directly to the full board, with policy edits and new communication processes to ensure continued engagement from all institutions.

SBHE Policy (moved from end of Agenda by Campbell)

7. Policy 611.6 [Confidential Proprietary Information](#)
 8. Policy 611.8 [Employee Responsibility & Activities; Research on Human Subjects](#)
- Policies 611.6 and 611.8 were reviewed together.
Eriksrud moved, Bye seconded to approve policies 611.6 and 611.8.
Motion passed, 3-0.

Governance Items:

5. Agency Update
DC Larson provided an update on the status of the System Alignment Project, outlining the transition from phase one to phase two, upcoming board retreat activities, and the timeline for receiving the final report and commencing strategic planning
6. VCSU Search Update
DC Larson informed the committee that the VCSU presidential search was suspended due to an insufficient number of on-campus finalists, with Dr. Burgad continuing as interim president until the search resumes, likely in the fall.
7. Presidential Evaluation Process and Reminder
DC Larson updated the committee on the ongoing annual and comprehensive evaluations for university presidents and the commissioner, detailing timelines, required self-evaluations, and plans for future evaluation structures.

CTS Items

5. [NDUS ADA Update](#)
Mr. Quirk presented a high-level overview to the committee on the system's progress toward ADA digital accessibility compliance, highlighting accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and the recent extension of the federal compliance deadline.

Adjourned

Committee Co-Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m., CT.