

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2026

Action Items

The State Board of Higher Education met on April 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., CT., via Teams and at NDSCS, 800 6th St. N., Wahpeton, ND 58075.

<https://vimeo.com/event/4119250/embed/bc6c6dd595/interaction>

Roll Call

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 |

Institutions

BSC: President Kalk, **DCB:** Dean Gorder, **DSU:** President Molander, Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** President Van Horn, **MISU:** President Shirley, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, Ms. Kijia Homes, **NDSU:** Interim President Berg, Mr. Bruce Bollinger, Mr. Brent DeKrey, Ms. Karin Hegstad, **UND:** President Armacost, **VCSU:** Interim President Burgad, **WSC:** President Hirning.

System Office/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Christina Pieske, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Mr. Chris Pieske, DC Meredith Larson, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Dr. Jennifer Weber, Ms. Jamie Wilke, DC David Krebsbach, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Mr. Cory Wigdahl, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General:** Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Call to Order

1. # Agenda
Biller moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Campus Report Out

2. Board Spotlight: Maxwell Eriksrud

A spotlight on Maxwell Eriksrud highlighted his journey from high school to his service on the State Board of Higher Education.

3. Spotlight on North Dakota State College of Science
President Flanigan presented campus highlights, including new partnerships, record enrollment, workforce outcomes, and the challenges of managing growth.
4. Thank You to NDSCS for Tour of the Mildred Johnson Library
Chair Black thanked the staff at NDSCS that gave a tour of the library prior to the meeting.

Board Consent (5 – 14)

5. March [Meeting Minutes](#)
6. Updated [2026 Meeting Schedule](#)
 - a. Meeting lengths updated for BFC and RGC
 - b. Starting with the May SBHE meeting, RGC will be changed to the Governance Committee (GC)
 - c. September meeting location change from MaSU to MiSU

SBHE Budget and Finance Committee

7. UND
 - a. [Demolition of Babcock Hall](#)
 - b. [Renovation of the Former Bookstore](#)
 - c. [Renovation of Gamble Hall](#)
 - d. [College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines Online PhD Tuition Rate Change](#)
8. [Draft 2026-27 MN/ND Reciprocity MOU Agreement](#)
9. Campus Facility Master Plans Update
 - a. [DSU](#)
 - b. [NDSCS](#)
 - c. [NDSU](#)

SBHE Audit Committee

10. [Request to Approve Quality Assessment Plan](#)

SBHE Policy

1st Read

11. Policy 611.6 [Confidential Proprietary Information](#)
12. Policy 611.8 [Employee Responsibility & Activities; Research on Human Subjects](#)

1st Read, Waive 2nd Read

13. Policy 404 [Collaborative Applicant](#)
14. Policy 413 [Mathematics and English Course Placement](#)

Sogard moved, Bye seconded to approve the consent agenda.
Motion passed, 8-0.

Board Business

15. Reduced Credit Bachelor's Degree Request

a. [Dickinson State University](#)

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

DC Johnson and DSU representatives presented and received board approval for a reduced credit bachelor's degree in management, designed in response to industry needs for supervisory skills and flexible pathways for non-traditional students.

Biller moved, Campbell seconded to approve DSU's request for reduced credit bachelor's degree.

Motion passed, 8-0.

16. [Tenure and Faculty Appointments](#)

DC Johnson presented the annual tenure and faculty appointment recommendations. DC Johnson reported a decrease in the number of tenured faculty, with more faculty opting for multi-year contracts, and addressed board questions about tenure credit data, confirming all candidates had completed the required probationary period. Mihalick moved, Biller seconded to approve the tenure and faculty appointments.

17. [DSU request for extension of interim financing for Woods Hall](#)

Ms. Hegstad requested an extension of interim financing for the Woods Hall project, allowing more time to secure long-term bonding from local banks.

Campbell moved, Mihalick seconded to approve DSU's request for an extension of interim financing for Woods Hall.

Motion passed, 8-0.

Representative Reports/Updates/Discussions

18. Staff Senate

Kinney reported that staff senates across campuses are conducting elections, organizing community-building events, and preparing for leadership transitions and legislative advocacy.

19. CCF

Dr. Montplaisir reported that faculty discussed low-performing programs, workload equity, and AI policy development, with new leadership elected for the coming year.

20. NDSA

a. Update from AGB National Conference on Trusteeship

Eiksrud reported on recent NDSA meetings, new executive team appointments, the selection process for new student board members, and insights from a national governance conference.

SBHE Committee Reports/Updates/Discussions

22. SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Biller reported that ASAC is developing policies for reviewing and potentially sunseting low-producing programs, using a five-year rolling average and minimum graduate thresholds.

23. SBHE Budget and Finance Committee

Mihalick stated that BFC reviewed ongoing financial processes.

23. SBHE Audit Committee

Mihalick did not have anything new to report for Audit committee.

24. SBHE Research and Governance Committee

Bye and DC Larson reported that RGC shifted research reporting to monthly board updates for efficiency.

Chair Report

25. Updates from Chair Black

26. Retirement Recognition for DC David Krebsbach, Mr. Rick Tonder, and Ms. Robin Putnam

Chair Black recognized DC Krebsbach, Mr. Tonder and Ms. Putnam for their service to the University System.

Commissioner Report

27. Updates from Commissioner Sanford

Commissioner Sanford discussed ongoing work to revise the state funding formula, emphasizing the need for a more current, incentive-based approach that supports institutional growth and workforce alignment.

28. Legislative Updates

a. April 1 Interim Education Meeting Update

b. April 8 and 9 Interim Higher Ed Institutions Meeting Update

Commissioner Sanford discussed upcoming legislative committee meetings will address dual credit costs and funding formula recommendations, with NDUS and UND collaborating on consensus proposals for the R1 institutions.

Other

29. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Chair Black adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m., CT.