

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 May 19, 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 (joined at 1:05 p.m.) | ☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, faculty advisor |
| ☒ Mr. DJ Campbell | |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC: President Kalk, Ms. Alicia Uhde, Dr. Daniel Leingang, Dr. Kaylyn Bondy, **DCB:** Ms. Kayla O'Toole, **DSU:** President Molander, Dr. Holly Gruhlke, Ms. Kayla Noah, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** Ms. Rhonda Nelson, Dr. Brian Huschle, **MiSU:** President Shirley, Mr. Kevin Harmon, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS:** President Flanigan, Ms. Melissa Johnson, **NDSU:** Dr. Shari Veil, Dr. Laura Oster-Aaland, **UND:** Dr. Eric Link, Dr. Art Malloy, **VCSU:** Dr. Erin Klingenberg, Mr. Larry Brooks, **WSC:** President Hirning.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Christina Pieske, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Mr. Cory Wigdahl, Ms. Edynn Glatt, Dr. Jennifer Weber, DC David Krebsbach, Mr. Eric Jensen, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus.

1. Agenda
Campbell moved, Kommer seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
2. April 21, 2026, Meeting [Minutes](#)
Eriksrud moved, Kommer seconded, to approve the April 21, 2026, meeting minutes, as presented.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Business

3. New Academic Program Request (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
 - a. [Bismarck State College](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate and A.A.S. in Plumbing](#)
Ms. Uhde presented a new plumbing program, including both an associate degree and a certificate, designed to support residential and

The North Dakota University System is governed by the State Board of Higher Education and includes:

Bismarck State College • Dakota College at Bottineau • Dickinson State University • Lake Region State College • Mayville State University • Minot State University • North Dakota State College of Science • North Dakota State University • University of North Dakota • Valley City State University • Williston State College

commercial plumbing needs in western North Dakota. The program will run fall, spring, and summer semesters, with an anticipated capacity of 16-18 students, and aims to complement the existing HVAC program. Industry partners and advisory committees expressed strong interest.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve BSC's UG Certificate and A.A.S. in Plumbing.

Black did not vote, so his vote was counted with the majority. Motion passed, 5-0.

b. [North Dakota State University](#)

- i. [UG Certificate in Business AI](#)
- ii. [Minor in Aerospace Engineering](#)
- iii. [Minor in Financial Planning and Wealth Management](#)
- iv. [B.S. in Materials Science and Engineering](#)
- v. [GR Certificate in Clinical and Applied Human Movement Science](#)
- vi. [GR Certificate in Nursing Education](#)
- vii. [M.S. in Clinical Research](#)

Dr. Veil outlined seven certificates, a minor, a BS, two graduate certificates, and a master's program, emphasizing the certificates as concentrations within existing majors and highlighting the clinical research program as a unique opportunity.

Campbell moved, Black seconded to approve NDSU's seven certificates and master's program.

Motion passed, 5-0.

c. [University of North Dakota](#)

- i. [GR Certificate in Foundations for Graduate Nursing](#)
- ii. [GR Certificate in K-12 Principal](#)
- iii. [GR Certificate in K-12 Superintendent](#)
- iv. [M.S. in Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner](#)
- v. [D.N.P. in PH.D. Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner](#)
- vi. [Ph.D. in Ph.D. Aerospace Engineering](#)

Dr. Link presented six new programs, including three graduate certificates, a master's in adult gerontology acute care, a DNP (Doctor of Nurse Practitioner), and a PhD in aerospace engineering. Dr. Link explained the workforce needs addressed by the certificates and the development of the PhD alongside the master's in aerospace engineering.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve UND's request for six new programs.

Motion passed, 5-0.

d. [Valley City State University](#)

- i. [UG Certificate in Artificial Intelligence in the Professional World](#)

Mr. Brooks proposed a 15-credit undergraduate certificate in artificial intelligence, involving collaboration among business, communication arts, and computer science departments. The program focuses on AI literacy,

ethics, and responsible use, with students completing three core courses and two electives.

Kommer moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve VCSU's request for an undergraduate certificate.

Motion passed, 5-0.

e. [Williston State College](#)

i. [UG Certificate in Paramedic Technology](#)

Dr. Atallah requested approval for a paramedic technology certificate, designed for individuals already holding associate or bachelor's degrees who do not require general education courses. The certificate responds to demand from fire departments and agencies.

Campbell moved, Black seconded to approve WSC's request for an undergraduate certificate.

Motion passed, 5-0.

4. Academic Program Termination (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)

a. [Dickinson State University](#)

i. [UG Certificate in Physical Science](#)

ii. [Major and B.A. in Theatre](#)

iii. [B.A. in Political Science](#)

iv. [B.A. in Music](#)

v. [B.S. in Nursing from ADN](#)

Dr. Gruhlke explained the termination of five inactive programs, including clarification that the ADN nursing program was inactivated after two years and never took off. Campbell asked about the ADN and ADN programs with Dr. Gruhlke confirming the rationale for removing the bridge program due to lack of enrollment.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve DSU's request to terminate five inactive programs.

Motion passed, 5-0.

b. [Minot State University](#)

i. [UG Certificate in Project Management](#)

ii. [UG Certificate in Technology Management](#)

iii. [UG Certificate in Web Development](#)

iv. [Minor in Computer Science Education](#)

v. [Minor in French Education](#)

vi. [Minor in German](#)

vii. [Minor in German Education](#)

viii. [Major and B.S. in Energy Economics and Finance](#)

ix. [Major and B.A. in Foreign Lang-Spanish](#)

x. [GR Certificate in Learning Disabilities](#)

xi. [M.S. in Professional Studies](#)

Dr. Geller described the termination of eleven programs and certificates, noting that most had been inactivated and taught out, while others had not succeeded after a few years.

Black moved, Campbell seconded to approve the termination of eleven programs and certificates.
Motion passed, 5-0.

c. [University of North Dakota](#)

i. [Major in Computer Science](#)

Dr. Link clarified that the BA in computer science, which had zero students and had been inactive since 2020, was being removed, while the BS degree remains active.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the termination of the BA in Computer Science.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve UND's request to terminate the BA in Computer Science.

Motion passed, 5-0.

Reports/Updates/Discussions

5. Low Producing Programs

DC Johnson provided a comprehensive update on the review and policy development for low producing academic programs, detailing the ongoing data cleanup, campus involvement, policy draft progress, and anticipated timeline for board action.

Adjourn

a. Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 1:29p.m., CT.