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Challenge Grant Fund Committee Meeting Minutes

The Challenge Grant Fund Committee met on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., CST., via Microsoft Teams and at the Advanced Technology Center, 1200 College Dr., Bismarck, ND 58501.

Committee Chair Neset called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., CT.

1. **Roll Call**
   Committee Members present:
   Chair, Maria Neset
   Senator Mr. Ronald Sorvaag
   Senator Mr. Randy Burckhard
   Representative Mr. Bob Martinson
   Representative Ms. Karen Grindberg
   Mr. Kevin Black
   Ms. Michelle Kommer – Present via Teams as a non-voting member
   Mr. Rick Burgum - ABSENT
   Ms. Taya Spelhaug

Institutions and Institution Foundation Representatives:

BSC: Ms. Ashli Engen, Ms. Kari Knudson
DCB: Dean Gorder, Mr. Paul Cossette
DSU: President Molander, Mr. Ty Orton
LRSC: President Simone, Ms. Ashlee Collison, Ms. Erin Wood
MaSU: Mr. Lon Jorgenson
MiSU: President Shirley
NDSCS: Mr. Matthew Hallaway
NDSU: Ms. Jennifer Reinhold, Mr. Kevin Dockter, Mr. Justin Swanson
UND: Ms. DeAnna Carlson Zink
VCSU: Interim President Burgad, Mr. Cory Anderson
WSC: Mr. Hunter Berg

North Dakota University System Office and Guests:

Ms. Mindy Sturn
Ms. Jamie Wilke
Ms. Christina Pieske
DC David Krebsbach
Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   Burckhard moved, Martinson seconded to approve the agenda, as presented.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Burgum was absent.

3. **Approval of December 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes**
   Martinson moved, Burckhard seconded to approve the minutes as presented.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Burgum was absent.

4. **Approval of Updates to ND HE Challenge Fund Rules of Operations & Procedures**
   Ms. Sturn informed the committee about an update to the North Dakota Higher Ed Challenge Grant rules, specifically adding DSU to the same funding tier as BSC, NDSCS and MiSU.
   Spelhaug moved, Black seconded to approve the updates to the ND HE Challenge Fund Rules of Operation & Procedures. Procedures.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Burgum was absent.

5. **Approval of 2017-2019 Biennium Private Match Pending Report**
   Ms. Sturn presented the 2017-2019 biennium private match pending report to the committee, highlighting a $50,000 outstanding amount from a living trust.
   Martinson moved, Burckhard seconded to approve the 2017-2019 Biennium Private Match Pending Report.
   Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
   Motion passed, 7-0 to approve the 2017-2019 Biennium Private Match Pending Report.

6. **2025-27 Challenge Grant Balances**
   Ms. Sturn updated the committee on the status of the 2025-27 challenge grant balances, reporting $5.7 million available for current applications and an expected $3.8 million remaining after approvals, with no significant questions raised.

Regular Scope & Funding Application Approvals

7. **BSC State Request: $1,021,554- pgs. 23-35**
   a) Summary of Applications-Informational only
   b) BSC Foundation Endowment for Scholarships-FUND
   c) Document Support-BSC Foundation Endowment for Scholarships
   d) BSC Foundation Scholarships-FUND
   e) Document Support-BSC Foundation Scholarships

   BSC presented their fund application materials, items b-e.
   Martinson moved, Black seconded to approve BSC's request for fund applications, items b-e.
   Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
   Motion passed, 7-0, to approve BSC's request for fund applications, items b-e, as presented.

8. **DCB State Request: $61,078- pgs. 36-41**
   a) Summary of Applications- Informational only

b) General Scholarship Campaign-FUND
c) Document Support-All Fund Applications

DCB presented their fund application materials, items b-c.
Sorvaag moved, Burckhard seconded to approve DCB's fund application materials, items b-c.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 approve DCB's fund application materials, items b-c, as presented.

9. <u>DSU State Request: $343,510- pgs. 42-47</u>

a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
b) College on the Hill Endowment Campaign-FUND
c) Document Support-College on the Hill Endowment Campaign
d) Cornerstone Traditions Scholarships-FUND
e) Document Support-Cornerstone Traditions Scholarships

DSU presented their fund application materials, items b-e.
Spelhaug moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve DSU's fund application materials, items b-e.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve DSU's fund application materials, items b-e, as presented.

10. <u>LRSC State Request: $162,576- pgs. 48-51</u>

a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
b) Endowments for Scholarships-FUND
c) Document Support-All Fund Applications

LRSC presented their fund application materials, items b-c.
Burckhard moved, Martinson seconded to approve LRSC's fund application materials, items b-c.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve LRSC's fund application materials, items b-c, as presented.

11. <u>MaSU State Request: $508,175- pgs. 52-58</u>

a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
b) Annual Scholarship for Academic Excellence Campaign-FUND
c) Document Support-Annual Scholarship for Academic Excellence Campaign
d) MaSU Endowment for Academic Excellence Campaign-FUND
e) Document Support-Endowment for Academic Excellence Campaign

MaSU presented their fund application materials, items b-e.
Martinson moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve MaSU's fund application materials, items b-e.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve MaSU's fund application materials, items b-e, as presented.

12. **MiSU State Request: $446,338- pgs. 59-70**
    a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
    b) Endowment-87599-SCOPE
    c) Endowment-87599-FUND
    d) Scholarship Endowment-87498-FUND
    e) Scholarship Endowment-87013-FUND
    f) Scholarship Endowment-87476-FUND
    g) Scholarship Endowment-87588-FUND
    h) Scholarship Endowment-87296-FUND
    i) Academic Scholarship Campaign-FUND
    j) Classroom Enhancements-FUND (Scope previously approved 9/23/25)
    k) Document Support-All Fund Applications

MiSU presented their scope application, item b.
Martinson moved, Burckhard seconded to approve MiSU's scope application, item b.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes.
Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve MiSU's scope application, item b, as presented.

MiSU presented the fund application, item c.
Burckhard moved, Spelhaug seconded to approve the fund application, item c.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes.
Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve the fund application, item c, as presented.

MiSU presented their fund applications, items d-k.
Burckhard moved, Black seconded to approve MiSU's fund applications, items d-k.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes.
Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve MiSU's fund applications, items d-k, as presented.

13. NDSCS State Request: $629,501-pgs. 71-85
    a) Summary of Applications-Informational Only
    b) Welding Equipment Endowment-SCOPE
    c) Welding Equipment Endowment-FUND
    d) Grow With Us Endowment-SCOPE
    e) Grow With Us Endowment-FUND
    f) COPIC Project-SCOPE
    g) COPIC Project-FUND
    h) Larson Fnd Science of Leadership Program-FUND
    i) Anderson Endowment-FUND
    j) Boyer Endowment-FUND
    k) Travers Endowment-FUND
    l) Endowed Scholarships-FUND
    m)Butler Cat Endowment-FUND
    n) Document Support-All Fund Applications

NDSCS presented their scope application, item b.
Martinson moved, Burckhard seconded to approve NDSCS's scope application, item b.

Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve NDSCS's scope application, item b, as presented.

NDSCS presented their fund application, item c.
Sorvaag moved, Grindberg seconded to approve NDSCS's fund application, item c.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve NDSCS's fund application, item c, as presented.

NDSCS presented their scope application, item d.
Martinson inquired whether the funds would be used for the Career Academy in Fargo. Mr. Hallaway stated that it would not go to the building, but be used for the HVAC, Plumbing and Electrical Departments which span all of their locations.
Sorvaag moved, Spelhaug seconded to approve NDSCS's scope application, item d.
Motion passed, 6-1 with Burckhard, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Sorvaag and Chair Neset voting yes, Martinson voting no to approve NDSCS's scope application, item d, as presented. Burgum was absent.

NDSCS presented their fund application, item e.
Sorvaag moved, Black seconded to approve NDSCS's fund application, item e.
Martinson asked the same question, wondering if the funds were going to the Career Academy in Fargo. Mr. Hallaway stated that it could in the long term, but that it goes to the departments that span all their locations.
Motion passed, 6-1 with Burckhard, Spelhaug, Black, Grindberg, Sorvaag and Chair Neset voting yes, Martinson voting no to approve NDSCS's scope application, item e, as presented. Burgum was absent.

NDSCS presented their scope application, item f.
Sorvaag moved, Grindberg seconded to approve NDSCS's scope application, item f.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve NDSCS's scope application, item f, as presented.

NDSCS presented their fund application, item g.
Spelhaug moved, Black seconded to approve NDSCS's fund application, item g.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve NDSCS's fund application, item g, as presented.

NDSCS presented their fund applications, items h-n.
Martinson moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve NDSCS's fund applications, items h-n.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve NDSCS's fund applications, items h-n, as presented.

14. <u>UND School of Law State Request: $75,000- pgs. 86-91</u>

a) Summary of Applications- Informational only

b) Faculty Endowment-40169-SCOPE
c) Faculty Endowment-40169-FUND
d) Student Scholarship-41837-FUND
e) Student Scholarship-41873-FUND
f) Document Support-All Fund Applications

UND presented their scope application, item b.
Martinson moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve UND's scope application, item b.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes.
Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve UND's scope application, item b, as presented.

UND presented their fund application, item c.
Grindberg moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve UND's fund application, item c.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes.
Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve UND's fund application, item c, as presented.

UND presented their fund applications, items d-f.
Black moved, Spelhaug seconded to approve UND's fund applications, items d-f.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes.
Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve UND's fund applications, items d-f, as presented.

15. <u>UND SMHS State Request: $1,829,166 pgs. 92-101</u>

a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
b) Faculty Endowment-41907-SCOPE
c) Faculty Endowment-41907-FUND
d) Educational Infrastructure-41909-SCOPE
e) Educational Infrastructure-41909-FUND
f) Student Scholarship-41105-FUND
g) Student Scholarship-41869-FUND
h) Student Scholarship-40241-FUND
i) Student Scholarship-41927-FUND
j) Document Support-Annual Scholarship for Academic Excellence Campaign

UND presented their scope application, item b.
Martinson moved, Grindberg seconded to approve UND's scope application, item b.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes.
Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve UND's scope application, item b, as presented.

UND presented their fund application, item c.
Sorvaag moved, Grindberg seconded to approve UND's fund application, item d.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes.
Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve UND's fund application, item d, as presented.

UND presented their scope application, item d.

Spelhaug moved, Black seconded to approve UND's scope application, item d. Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve UND's scope application, item d, as presented.

UND presented their fund application, item e.
Martinson moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve UND's fund application, item e.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve UND's fund application, item e, as presented.

UND presented their fund applications, items f-j.
Martinson moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve UND's fund applications, items f-j.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve UND's fund applications, items f-j, as presented.

16. <u>VCSU State Request: $682,930-pgs. 102-114</u>

a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
b) VCSU Science Endowment-SCOPE
c) VCSU Science Endowment-FUND
d) Document Support-VCSU Science Endowment
e) Medicine Wheel Endowment-SCOPE
f) Medicine Wheel Endowment-FUND
g) Document Support-Medicine Wheel Endowment
h) Planetarium Endowment-SCOPE
i) Planetarium Endowment-FUND
j) Document Support-Planetarium Endowment
k) VCSU Endowed Scholarship Program-FUND
l) Document Support for Endowed Scholarship Program

VCSU presented their scope application, item b.
Black moved, Burckhard seconded to approve VCSU's scope application, item b.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve VCSU's scope application, item b, as presented.

VCSU presented their fund application and supporting documents, items c-d.
Martinson moved, Burckhard seconded to approve VCSU's fund application and supporting document, items c-d.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve VCSU's fund application and supporting documents, items c-d, as presented.

VCSU presented their scope application, item e.
Martinson moved and Sorvaag seconded to approve VCSU's scope application, item e.

Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve VCSU's scope application, item e, as presented.

VCSU presented their fund applications, items f-g.
Sorvaag moved, Black seconded to approve VCSU's fund applications, items f-g.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve VCSU's fund applications, items f-g, as presented.

VCSU presented their scope application, item h.
Black moved, Spelhaug seconded to approve VCSU's scope application, item h.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve VCSU's scope application, item h, as presented.

VCSU presented their fund applications, items i-j.
Burckhard moved, Sorvaag seconded to approve VCSU's fund applications, items i-j.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve VCSU's fund applications, items i-j, as presented.

VCSU presented their fund applications, items k-l.
Martinson moved, Black seconded to approve VCSU's fund applications, items k-l.
Black, Grindberg, Spelhaug, Martinson, Sorvaag, Burckhard and Chair Neset voted yes. Burgum was absent.
Motion passed, 7-0 to approve VCSU's fund applications, items k-l, as presented.

Other Committee Business

17. 12-31-2025 Semi-Annual Report
    Ms. Sturn presented the semi-annual report to the committee, summarizing $4.76 million in new private donations and $4 million in grant funds expended since the last period, with a total state impact of $334.6 million since program inception.

18. Future Meeting dates
    Ms. Sturn proposed holding the next meeting in early November, noting that October is busy for many institutions due to homecoming. Committee members agreed to aim for a meeting before November 30th.

19. Open Discussion
    There was no open discussion.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Neset adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m., CT.

Approved November 4, 2026