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North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2026
Action Items

The State Board of Higher Education met on June 16, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. CT., at NDSCS in the Larry J. Robinson Center for the Arts Building, 306 Viking Dr., Valley City, ND 58072.

Roll Call

SBHE Members

☒ Mr. Kevin Black, Chair
☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Vice Chair
☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud
☒ Mr. Curtis Biller
☒ Ms. Michelle Kommer
☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick
☒ Mr. Pat Sogard
☒ Ms. Danita Bye
☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor
☒ Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor

Institutions

BSC: President Kalk, Ms. Janell Campbell, **DCB:** Dean Gorder, **DSU:** President Molander, **LRSC:** President Simone**, MaSU:** President Van Horn, Ms. Amber Hill, **MiSU:** President Shirley**, NDSCS:** President Flanigan**,** Ms. Kijia Homes, **NDSU:** Mr. Bruce Bollinger, Dr. Greg Lardy, **UND:** President Armacost, **VCSU:** Interim President Burgad, Ms. KaSaundra Peterson, **WSC:** President Hirning.

System Office/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Christina Pieske, Mr. Chris Pieske, DC Meredith Larson, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Jane Grinde, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Mr. Eric Jensen, Dr. Billie Jo Lorius, Ms. Edynn Glatt, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Mr. Cory Wigdahl, **CTS:** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General:** Mr. Shaun McNamara, **Guests:** Mr. John Lundby, Mr. Scott Wegner

Call to Order

1. # Agenda
   Campbell moved, Mihalick seconded to approve the agenda, as amended to include the Election of Officers.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

System Spotlight

Dr. Lisa Montplaisir
Mr. Jensen played a presentation highlighting Dr. Montplaisir's years at NDSU and on the SBHE.

Campus Report Out
VCSU
Interim President Burgad, along with faculty, students, and staff, presented VCSU's strategic goals, enrollment growth, innovative education programs, partnerships, student experiences, and new initiatives, highlighting the university's impact on students and the community.

NDUS Staff Excellence Awards

2. Richard Heit – Minot State University
3. Amanda Morse – Bismarck State College
4. Joshua Schroetter – North Dakota State University

Ms. Kinney recognized the three inaugural recipients of awards to NDUS staff for outstanding service, innovation, and leadership —Richard Height (MiSU), Amanda Morris (BSC), and Joshua Schroeder (NDSU).

 # Board Consent (5 - 13)

5. May 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes

SBHE Audit Committee

6. Request to Defer Engagements
7. Request to Not Defer Engagements
8. Annual NDUS Compliance Office Report and Priorities
9. Annual NDUS Internal Audit and Compliance Independence Confirmations
    a. Internal Audit Independence Confirmation
    b. Compliance Independence Confirmation

SBHE Budget and Finance Committee

10. UND
    a. Rename Former UND Bookstore Building
    b. 2025-27 Tier II & III Capital Building Fund Request
11. LRSC
    a. 2023-25 Tier II Capital Building Fund Request

SBHE Policy
1st read, waive 2nd read

12. Policy 302.7 Research and Governance Committee
    a. Also amends Policies 100.7 and 705.1

2nd read

13. Policy 611.2 Employee Responsibility and Activities - Intellectual Property

Biller moved, Mihalick seconded to approve Board Consent items 5-13.
Motion passed, 8-0.

 # Board Business

14. DSU
    a. Woods Hall Renovation

    Mr. Bollinger requested that the SBHE approve the attached resolution authorizing Dickinson State University to issue not to exceed $7,500,000 in Housing Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2026 on behalf of the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education for the purposes of refunding the interim financing, paying

Project costs and paying costs of issuance for the renovation of Woods Hall, per SB2003 of the 69th Legislative Assembly in accordance with N.D.C.C. Chapter 15-55.
Mihalick moved, Bye seconded to approve the bond resolution for the Woods Hall Renovation.
Motion passed, 8-0.

15. 2027-29 Biennial Budget Request – Operations
Ms. Wilke explained the base ongoing funding, the needs-based budget for 2027-29, and the governor's proposed reductions (3% for institutions, 10% for system office and CTS), detailing the impact on funding formula allocations and institutional budgets. The budget request included restoration of governor's reductions, continued funding for workforce education innovation, the New Horizons program, UND National Security Crossroads, the Challenge Grant, and capital building funds, as well as new investments in software, cybersecurity, marketing, and student recruitment.
    a. 2027-29 North Dakota State Forest Service Budget Proposal
    Mr. Claeys presented the North Dakota Forest Service budget, highlighting capital asset needs, extraordinary repairs, and two optional requests: a wildland task force fund to support local fire departments and funding for emerald ash borer mitigation, both developed in consultation with stakeholders and advisory councils.
    Mihalick moved, Bye seconded to approve the 2027-29 Biennial Budget Request for Operations as presented and approved by the Budget and Finance Committee. This includes the 2027-29 budget proposal for the ND State Forest Service.
    Motion passed, 8-0.

16. 2027-29 Biennial Budget Request – Capital Projects
Ms. Wilke reviewed a different approach to capital projects for the 2027-29 biennium, prioritizing a $75 million deferred maintenance pool and facility study over individual new construction requests, with discussion on policy compliance and long-term planning. Ms. Wilke explained that focusing on deferred maintenance addresses longstanding infrastructure challenges and aligns with best practices observed in other university systems, while still allowing the legislature to consider individual campus requests as needed.
Mihalick moved, Bye seconded to approve the 2027-29 Biennial Budget Request for Capital Projects as presented and approved by the Budget and Finance Committee.
Motion passed, 8-0.

17. 2027-29 NDUS Research and Extension Service budget
Dr. Lardy presented the State Board of Ag Research and Education (SBARE) budget request, including restoration of 10% governor-mandated cuts, additional operating and deferred maintenance support, and no new FTEs or buildings. He outlined the restoration of $9.857 million in cuts, additional operating support for extension and experiment stations, and a one-time $5 million request for deferred maintenance, with the board heeding the governor's request for no new FTEs or buildings.
Mihalick moved, Bye seconded to approve the 2027-29 NDUS Research and Extension Service Budget.

Motion passed, 8-0.

18. **# Executive Session – Commissioner Contract** Move to enter Executive Session to **(1)** consider the appointment, re-appointment, renewal contract, and any new contract terms for NDUS Commissioner and **(2)** limit the executive session to the Commissioner, voting board members, nonvoting advisors, Chief Human Resource Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, Board Secretary, and board counsel. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section 15-10-17(1)(d).

    Campbell moved, Kommer seconded to enter executive session to **(1)** consider the appointment, re-appointment, renewal contract, and any new contract terms for NDUS Commissioner and **(2)** limit the executive session to the Commissioner, voting board members, nonvoting advisors, Chief Human Resource Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, board secretary, and board counsel. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section 15-10-17(1)(d).
    Black, Biller, Bye, Campbell, Erikstad, Kommer, Mihalick, and Sogard voted yes.
    Motion passed, 8-0.

Executive Session began at 11:00 a.m.

SBHE Members
Present:

☒ Mr. Kevin Black, Chair
☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Vice Chair
☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud
☒ Mr. Curtis Biller
☒ Ms. Michelle Kommer
☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick
☒ Mr. Pat Sogard
☒ Ms. Danita Bye
☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor
☒ Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor

Others Present: Commissioner Sanford, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Christina Pieske, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Executive Session adjourned at 12:02 p.m., CT.

19. Reconvene in Open Meeting to take action regarding the appointment, reappointment, renewal contract, and any new contract terms for NDUS Commissioner.
    Campbell moved, Mihalick second to approve the appointment and the contract renewal for the NDUS Commissioner Sanford, and to also delegate authority to the Board Chair to negotiate and sign contracts on behalf of the board.
    Black, Biller, Bye, Campbell, Erikstad, Kommer, Mihalick, and Sogard voted yes.
    Motion passed, 8-0.

20. **# Executive Session – Presidential Contracts** Move to enter Executive Session to **(1)** consider the appointment, re-appointment, renewal contracts, and any new contract terms for Presidents of NDUS institutions and **(2)** limit the executive session to voting board members, nonvoting advisers, Commissioner, selected NDUS Office Staff, and

board counsel. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section 15-10-17(1)(d).

Eriksrud moved, Kommer seconded to enter executive session to **(1)** consider the appointment, re-appointment, renewal contracts, and any new contract terms for Presidents of NDUS institutions and **(2)** limit the executive session to voting board members, nonvoting advisers, Commissioner, selected NDUS Office Staff, and board counsel. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section 15-10-17(1)(d).
Black, Biller, Bye, Campbell, Erikstad, Kommer, Mihalick, and Sogard voted yes.
Motion passed, 8-0.

Executive Session began at 12:20 p.m., CT.

SBHE Members
Present:

☒ Mr. Kevin Black, Chair
☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Vice Chair
☒ Mr. Max Eriksrud
☒ Mr. Curtis Biller
☒ Ms. Michelle Kommer
☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick
☒ Mr. Pat Sogard
☒ Ms. Danita Bye
☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor
☒ Ms. Anna Kinney, Staff Advisor

Others Present: Commissioner Sanford, DC Meredith Larson, Ms. Christina Pieske, Ms. Jane Grinde, Mr. Chris Pieske, Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Executive Session adjourned at 1:54 p.m., CT.

21. Reconvene in Open Meeting to take action regarding the appointment, reappointment, renewal contracts, and any new contract terms for Presidents of NDUS institutions.
    Campbell moved, Bye seconded to approve the renewal contracts and new contract terms for Presidents of NDUS institutions, and to also delegate authority to the Board Chair to negotiate and sign contracts on behalf of the board.
    Black, Biller, Bye, Campbell, Erikstad, Kommer, Mihalick, and Sogard voted yes.
    Motion passed, 8-0.

    Campbell moved, Mihalick seconded to appoint Dr. Lisa Karch as Interim President of NDSCS and delegate authority to the Board Chair to negotiate and sign the contract on behalf of the board.
    Black, Biller, Bye, Campbell, Erikstad, Kommer, Mihalick, and Sogard voted yes.
    Motion passed, 8-0.

22. July and August SBHE Meetings
    a. Delegate to Committees
       Black presented the option to delegate final action authority to committees for July and August, with clarification that the authority would end at the August board meeting if held, or at the September board meeting if not.

Kommer moved, Mihalick seconded to option to delegate final action authority to committees for July and August, with clarification that the authority would end at the August board meeting if held, or at the September board meeting if not.
Motion passed, 8-0.

1st read

23. Policy 422 Review of Low-Producing Programs

DC Johnson presented Policy 422 for first reading, outlining a rolling five-year review of low completion programs. During discussion, Dr. Montplaisir advocated changing the term from 'low producing' to 'low completion' to avoid negative connotations, with legislative stakeholders amenable to the change.
Biller moved, Kommer seconded to approve of first read of Policy 422, with the amended terminology added.
Motion passed, 8-0.

Policy 605.1 Academic Appointments

Mr. Pieske presented three amendments to Policy 605.1 regarding academic appointments, including exemptions for administrators from post-tenure review, guidelines for post-tenure review outcomes, and requirements for institutional faculty workload policies.
Mihalick moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve Policy 605.1.
Motion passed, 8-0.

25. SBHE Assessment Priorities

Mr. Pieske stated that the Governance Committee identified and presented three board improvement priorities—goals and planning, meeting effectiveness, and system unity.
Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded to approve the SBHE Assessment Priorities.
Motion passed, 8-0.

26. Officer Elections (item added by Campbell)

Chair Black recused himself and allowed Mihalick to act as Chair for the purpose of item 26.
Campbell moved, Bye seconded to nominate and elect Black as Chair for the next year.
Motion passed, 7-0. Black did not vote.
Black moved, Bye seconded to nominate and elect Campbell as Vice-Chair of the Board for the next year.
Motion passed, 7-0. Campbell did not vote.

Representative Reports/Updates/Discussions

27. Staff Senate

Kinney reported on the transition to a virtual retreat due to travel constraints, new leadership appointments, ongoing committee work in staff recognition and professional development, and efforts to improve in-person meeting participation.

28. CCF

Dr. Montplaisir noted no major updates since the last meeting, highlighted continued executive council work for legislative engagement, and introduced new state board representatives.

29. NDSA
    Eriksrud summarized NDSA's achievements, including high meeting quorum, passage of 18 resolutions, increased advocacy at state and federal levels, creation of a student government handbook, and the establishment of a housing task force.
    a. NDSA Year in Review Presentation
       Eriksrud presented the NDSA's Year in Review.

SBHE Committee Reports/Updates/Discussions

30. SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee
    Biller reported that institutions are proactively removing low completion programs, with a process to begin annual reviews each July, and highlighted the importance of institutional policies and feedback.

31. SBHE Budget and Finance Committee
    Mihalick stated that all agenda items were covered in the consent agenda

32. SBHE Audit Committee
    Mihalick reported that the Audit Committee reviewed the operational audit report for Williston State College in executive session.

33. SBHE Governance Committee
    Campbell noted that most governance topics were covered earlier, with DC Larson working on improved board orientation and onboarding processes.
    a. Enterprise Service Management Report
       Mr. Quirk reported on the transition from Team Dynamics to Halo for IT service management, improvements in KPIs, incident and service request handling, and ongoing efforts to refine ticket categorization and performance tracking.

Chair Report

34. Updates from Chair Black
    Black had no updates.

35. Present Plaques to Out-Going SBHE Members
    a. Danita Bye
       Black highlighted Member Bye's six years of service, her diverse professional background, and her contributions to higher education, wishing her well in future endeavors.
    b. Maxwell Eriksrud
       Black and others commended Member Eriksrud for his student advocacy and leadership, particularly in keeping the board focused on student-centered issues.
    c. Dr. Lisa Montplaisir
       Black recognized Dr. Montplaisir for her long-term faculty representation, courage in addressing challenging topics, and her legacy in both the classroom and on the board.

Commissioner Report

36. Updates from Commissioner Sanford
    Commissioner Sanford had nothing to report.

Other

37. Public Comments
    There were no public comments.

Adjourn

Chair Black adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m., CT.