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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 August 18, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. CT., via Teams.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

☒ Mr. Curtis Biller, Chair
☒ Mr. Kevin Black
☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick
☒ Mr. Kelby Azure
☐ Dr. Josh Deere
☒ Dr. Crystal Alberts, Faculty Advisor

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC: Ms. Alicia Uhde, Dr. Kaylyn Bondy, **DCB:** Dean Gorder, Ms. Kayla O'Toole, **DSU:** President Molander, Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC:** President Simone, **MaSU:** Ms. Rhonda Nelson, Dr. Brian Huschle, **MiSU:** President Shirley, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSU:** Dr. Shari Veil, **UND:** Dr. Art Malloy, Dr. Jeff Holm, **VCSU:** Dr. Erin Klingenberg, Dr. Brittany Bell, Mr. Larry Brooks, **WSC:** Dr. Zahi Atallah.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, DC Meredith Larson, Ms. Christina Pieske, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, DC Karla Stewart, DC Lisa Johnson, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Dr. Jennifer Weber, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Edynn Glatt, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Mr. Eric Jensen, Mr. Cory Wigdahl, Dr. Billie Jo Lorius, Ms. Mindy Sturn, **CTS:** DC Corey Quirk, **Attorney General's Office:** Mr. Shaun McNamara.

Call to Order

Chair Biller called the meeting to order and welcomed new SBHE Board members Mr. Kelby Azure and Dr. Crystal Alberts.

1. **#**Agenda
   Black moved, Mihalick seconded to approve the agenda as presented.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Dr. Deere was absent.

2. **#** June Meeting Minutes
   Mihalick moved, Black seconded to approve the June meeting minutes as presented.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Dr. Deere was absent.

Committee Business

3. **#** New Academic Program Requests (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
   a. Valley City State University
      i. UG Certificate in Art History
      ii. UG Certificate in Event Planning

iii. UG Certificate in Sports Information
Mr. Larry Brooks presented three new undergraduate certificates for committee approval.
Mihalick moved, Black seconded to approve VCSU's for the three new undergraduate certificates.
Dr. Deere was absent.
Motion passed, 4-0.

4. **#** Academic Program Termination (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
    a. Dakota College at Bottineau
        i. Program Diploma in Advertising and Marketing
        ii. Program Diploma in Child Development Associate
        iii. Program Diploma in Horticulture
        iv. Program Diploma in Info Mgmt – Reception Services
        v. Program Diploma in Information Technology – Web Design
        vi. Program Diploma in Information Technology – Webmaster
        vii. Program Diploma in Medical Assistant
        viii. Program Diploma in Medical Coding
        ix. Program Diploma in Medical Transcription
        x. Program Diploma in Urban Forestry Management
        xi. Program Diploma and UG Certificate in Greenhouse Technology
        xii. Program Diploma, UG Certificate, and A.A.S in Landscape Design & Maintenance and A.A.S. in Hort-Landscape Design
        xiii. UG Certificate in Golf Course Grounds Tech
        xiv. UG Certificate and A.A.S. in Land Management
        xv. A.A.S. in Env Lab & Tech Field
        xvi. A.A.S. in Caregiver Services
        Ms. Kayla O'Toole explained that DCB was removing programs no longer offered, confirming that all students had completed these programs.
        Black moved, Azure seconded to approve DCB's request to terminate these programs (i - xvi).
        Dr. Deere was absent.
        Motion passed, 4-0.

    b. Lake Region State College
        i. Program Diploma in Administrative Assistant
        President Simone stated that LRSC was terminating a diploma in administrative assistant due to lack of enrollment for many years.
        Mihalick moved, Black seconded to approve LRSC's request to terminate the program.
        Dr. Deere was absent.
        Motion passed, 4-0.

5. **#** Institutional Organizational Notice (conclusion at SBHE)
    a. Minot State University
        i. Name Change: *Center for Extended Learning* to *Center for Online Learning and Testing*
        Dr. Laurie Geller requested approval to rename the Center for Extended Learning to the Center for Online Learning and Testing, reflecting changes in responsibilities.

Mihalick moved, Mr. Azure seconded to approve MiSU's request for the center's name change.
Dr. Deere was absent.
Motion passed, 4-0.

Informational

6. 2026-2027 Committee Assignments
7. 2027 All Meeting Schedule
   Ms. Christina Pieske reviewed committee chair assignments and the upcoming meeting schedule for 2026-2027 with Mr. Black clarifying expectations for attendance at legislative meetings.

Reports/Updates/Discussions

8. Campus Accreditation Visits and Follow-Up Reports
   DC Lisa Johnson provided updates on recent accreditation visits, specifically DSU's submission for a reduced credit bachelor's degree, and outlined new expectations from the Higher Learning Commission regarding such programs.

9. Low Completion Programs
   a. Draft Report
   b. Draft Policy 422 Review of Low-Completion Programs
      DC Lisa Johnson presented a draft report and methodology for identifying low completion programs, discussed the timeline for campus review and board action, and addressed questions about faculty involvement and communication with stakeholders.

10. Policy 409.1 Reduced-Credit Bachelor's Degree (Program Licensure)
    DC Lisa Johnson raised the possibility of revisiting the policy that prohibits submission of reduced credit degree programs with licensure requirements.

11. Legislative Updates
    a. Higher Education Funding Review Committee – August 19
    b. Special Legislative Session – September 2
    c. Tentative Higher Education Institutions Committee in Devils Lake and Grand Forks – September 21 and 22
       DC Lisa Johnson and Mr. Black provided updates on upcoming legislative meetings, including presentations on low completion programs and dual credit funding, and discussed ongoing efforts to clarify funding formulas for research and non-research institutions. DC Johnson announced that the Higher Ed Funding Review Committee would meet on August 19th, with presentations on low completion programs and dual credit funding, and that future meetings would be held in September at Devil's Lake and Grand Forks. Mr. Black emphasized the growing importance of dual credit as more high school seniors enroll in college-level courses, highlighting the need for affordability, accessibility, and quality, and noting that funding changes could significantly impact institutional revenue.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Biller adjourned at 1:43 p.m., CT.