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State Capitol – 600 E Boulevard Ave – Dept. 215
Bismarck ND 58505-0230
Phone: 701.877.5703
E-mail: ndus.inquiry@ndus.edu Web: ndus.edu

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2026

The State Board of Higher Education Budget and Finance Committee met via Teams on September 15, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., CT.

* Please note that attendance may not be fully reflected, as it was not recorded accurately during the meeting.

SBHE Budget and Finance Committee members

☒ Mr. DJ Campbell, Chair
☒ Mr. Kevin Black
☐ Mr. Curtis Biller
☒ Mr. Pat Sogard
☒ Ms. Michelle Kommer

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC, DCB, DSU: President Molander**, LRSC:** President Simone**, MaSU:** Ms. Amber Hill**, MiSU, NDSCS:** Mr. Keith Johnson**, NDSU:** Mr. Travis Aho**,** Mr. Bruce Bollinger, **UND:** Ms. Rebecca Lucke, Ms. Odella Fuqua**, VCSU, WSC:** President Hirning, Mr. Hercules Cummings

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS: Commissioner Sanford, Ms. Christina Pieske, Mr. Cory Wigdahl, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Mr. Eric Jensen, Mr. Dustin Walcker, DC Meredith Larson, Dr. Billie Jo Lorius, Mr. Chris Pieske, DC Karla Mongeon Stewart, **CTS:** DC Corey Quirk

Call to Order

1. **# Agenda**
   Kommer moved, Sogard seconded to approve the agenda, as presented.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

 # Consent Agenda

2. **June Meeting Minutes**
   Black moved, Sogard seconded, to approve the June meeting minutes, as presented.
   Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

 # Committee Business

3. Williston State College
   a. Food Contract Rate Change Academic Year 2026-27
      President Hirning explained that Williston State College had extended its existing food-services contract with Elior Food Services, formerly Aladdin, for one additional year. The college plans to issue a request for proposals at the end of the fiscal year to consider a new vendor or renew the contract.

Sogard moved, Kommer seconded to approve the contract change brought forth by Williston State College.
Motion passed, 4-0. Biller was absent.

4. NDSCS
    a. 21-23 Tier III Request
    Mr. Keith Johnson requested authorization to draw down a remaining Tier 3 deferred-maintenance allocation from the 2021–23 biennium. NDSCS plans to use the funding for campus parking lots, exterior buildings, and related work.
    Sogard moved, Black seconded to approve the request brought forth by NDSCS.
    Motion passed, 4-0. Biller was absent.

5. 2027-29 Biennial Budget Operating Subsequent Requests
DC Karla Mongeon Stewart and Ms. Jamie Wilke presented updates to the 2027–29 governor and OMB budget requests, including increased special-funds authority for institutions and a revised CTS request combining ongoing general-fund support with one-time funding. Sogard asked whether the size of the changes were unusual. Ms. Wilke explained that institutions typically carry their base special-funds authority forward and receive temporary increases during a biennium as tuition, fees, grants, or other revenues change. DC Mongeon Stewart added that temporary increases do not permanently raise the base, so institutions may continue operating with outdated authority.
Kommer moved, Sogard seconded to approve the updates to the 2027-29 governor and OMB budget requests.
Motion passed, 4-0. Biller was absent.

 # SBHE Policy

6. Policy 812 Legal Representation
Mr. Chris Pieske presented revisions to Policy 812 that document existing legal-representation practices and add a requirement for institutions to promptly notify system leadership when served with a legal complaint.
Sogard moved, Black seconded to approve the revisions to Policy 812, as presented.
Motion passed, 4-0. Biller was absent.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m., CT.