

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

January 18, 2023, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on January 18th at 9:30 a.m. CT.

Chair Warford called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. CT.

SBHE Committee on Academic and Student Affairs members present:

Dr. John Warford
Ms. Sadie Hanson
Mr. Kevin Black
Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor

BSC – Dan Leingang, **DCB** – No, **DSU** – John Miller, **LRSC** – Doug Darling, **MaSU** – Brian Huschle, **MiSU** – Laurie Geller, **NDSCS** – Lisa Karch, **NDSU** – David Bertolini, Laura Oster-Aaland, **UND** – Karyn Plumm, Art Malloy **VCSU** – No, **WSC** – Kimberli Wray.

Others present: **NDUS** – Lisa Johnson, Katie Fitzsimmons, Claire Gunwall, , Terry Meyer. Guest: Dr. Emily Frazier.

1. **Agenda**
2. **Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Black moved, and Sadie Hanson seconded the motion to approve the Agenda and the November 15, 2022, meeting minutes. Black, Hanson, and Warford voted yes. The motion passed.

3. **NDSU and UND Tenure**

[Tenure](#)

Ms. Johnson reported there were four (4) requests that came in from NDSU and UND (two from each institution). These individuals have held tenure elsewhere when hired by the institution. Both NDSU and UND honor those years of service and are seeking the Board's approval for tenure awards at their respective institution. The qualifications of each candidate is listed in the recommendation form. These will be recommended from the Academic and Student Affairs Committee for approval as a Consent Agenda item at the January Board meeting.

Mr. Black moved to approve the tenure for the four (4) candidates, Dr. Febina Matthew and Dr. Sandro Steinbach at NDSU and Dr. Karla Ferra and Dr. Randi Lynn Tanglen at UND. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion.

Chair Warford called for a roll call vote: Hanson, Black, and Warford voted yes. The motion passed.

4. **New Academic Program Requests** (final approval at SBHE ASAC)

(a) [Bismarck State College](#) presented by Dr. Leingang

(i) UG Certificate in [Dialysis Technician](#)

(ii) UG Certificate in [Medical Assistant](#)

Ms. Hanson moved to approve the new academic program requests from Bismarck State College as presented. Mr. Black seconded the motion. Hanson, Black, and Warford voted yes. The motion passed.

(b) [North Dakota State University](#)

(i) UG Certificate in [Private Enterprise](#) (Agri-Business)

Mr. Black moved to approve the new academic program request from North Dakota State University. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion.

Chair Warford called for a roll call vote: Black, Hanson, and Warford voted yes. The motion passed.

(c) [University of North Dakota](#) presented by Dr. Plumm

(i) UG Certificate in [Communication Sciences and Disorders;](#)

(iii) B.S. in [Aerospace Engineering;](#)

(iv) M.S. in [Criminal Justice Studies;](#)

Mr. Black moved to approve the new academic program requests from the University of North Dakota as presented. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion. Hanson, Black, and Warford voted yes. The motion passed.

5. **Academic Program Termination** (final authorization at SBHE ASAC) presented by Ms. Geller:

(a) [Minot State University;](#) presented by Dr. Geller

Mr. Black moved to approve the academic program termination request from Minot State University as presented. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion. Black, Hanson, and Warford voted yes. The motion passed.

6. **Policy 506.1, Immunizations**

Ms. Johnson explained that Policy 506.1, Immunizations, will be renumbered to just "506" which is a numbering clarification. This request was presented in an interim legislative committee recommendation and as an audit recommendation, providing additional clarification regarding immunizations. There has been work completed by the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH) and the campus Student Health Services noting that not every campus has a Student Health Service or clinic resulting in working with staff who collected immunizations to firm this up with a recommendation of a special interim session. It addressed staff who worked on campus and take classes that they would be required to provide immunization but also addressed people who were not living on campus. The big recommendation and if it's not in the policy it is written into the corresponding procedure around exemptions. That was a concern at the special session and hearing it at this legislative session, providing exemptions have no additional challenges or barriers to individuals based on religious belief or strongly held beliefs. An exemption is an exemption and the way they treat that at campuses, should there be an outbreak, people will be treated as vaccinated or not vaccinated. Protocol was in place for a doctor's letter to get out based on medical reasons and students had trouble providing documentation based on religious belief. The consensus was an exemption is an exemption whether it be religious or medical contraindications. The records indicate whether a student is or is not vaccinated.

Ms. Johnson stated that Policy 506.1, if approved, will provide guidance that corresponding procedures will be more granular in detail. Chair Warford inquired that if a person applies for an exemption from an immunization, are they categorially granted that exemption without question? Ms. Johnson replied that they are not challenged. That was very clear in the special session that students were not to have any additional barriers or challenges to presenting that exemption. Chair Warford inquired if there was any opposition to this. Ms. Johnson replied that opposition to not collecting came from those individuals who managed residence halls; congregate living space; faculty; and students who were compromised expressed concern about students not being vaccinated in the campus community and the NDDOH. There are bills in circulation strengthening those exemptions. Ms. Johnson stated that this issue will be monitored, and the state statute will be complied with as evolved.

Mr. Black moved to approve the changes to Policy 506.1, Immunizations, as presented. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion. Black, Hanson, and Warford voted yes. The motion passed.

7. Policy 411 Admission

Ms. Johnson stated that regarding Policy 411, Admission, there was previous discussion held regarding the discontinuation of the required submission of standardized test scores during the admission process. Ms. Johnson explained that most institutions use test scores for placement purposes. The language to be stricken is moved to another section around student placement, thus, the students are still placed but we have removed the required submission of standardized test scores for admission purposes. The intent is for the institutions to be more competitive wherein over half the colleges and universities have stepped away from that requirement. This request is an update to that reflecting similarly adopting that practice of discontinued test scores. It was proposed this would become effective August 1, 2023.

Mr. Black moved to approve adoption of Policy 411, Admissions, as presented. Ms. Hanson seconded the motion. Hanson, Black, and Warford voted yes. The motion passed.

8. ND Veterans Education Training Program (VET) Presentation

Dr. Frazier presented on the [ND Veterans Education Training Program \(VET\)](#). She stated that information pertaining to this program is housed at NDSU however the purpose of the program is to serve all state institutions, to serve North Dakota veterans and North Dakota affiliated individuals as well as military affiliated individuals who are considering coming to North Dakota campuses. The outreach program works with individuals who are not yet college ready and need skill building to become college ready. The program also works with individuals who are college ready who immediately come to the campuses. The role of the Veterans Educational Training Program Director is to also provide outreach to personnel across the state to make sure all campuses have access to the resources to provide those resources to our students and to collaborate in order to provide services to different institutions. The focus is on outreach, programming, to certify the process that occurs on each campus to provide academic support and resources to provide co-curricular for the students on the campuses and to offer leadership abilities to each of the institutions once they are enrolled. Some specific items that are in place include a computer lab at UND wherein UND has succeeded in obtaining a full-time position. There is work in progress to shift from the previous model and how that funding can be used in different ways. Online tutoring is also available to any student at all the campuses and there are staff at both UND and NDSU. Military students are being provided online tutoring by previous military students who completed the program. There are opportunities to grow this program with appropriate funding.

Chair Warford extended a thank you Dr. Frazier for her involvement in this program as it is key for our veterans while adding to the admissions process. He inquired if she experiences challenges in getting

information out to the other institutions so that in other areas of the state, the information is getting to the veterans. Is there a plan for NDSU to offer a state-wide program and do you have any recommendations to improve that dissemination of information? Dr. Frazier replied that there are challenges and there is one individual employed in that program. Jim Stoddart is the director in that role. He has regular communication with other individuals on campuses to provide information with UND, Minot, and Bismarck where there are more robust operations already in place. However, the smaller campuses need that too and he has been able to provide that through funding by bringing personnel from each of the campuses or at least offering through workshops and conferences via key personnel to provide that information to each of the campuses and their students. Monthly information is disseminated through the VA and Voc Rehab and other agencies in partnership providing that information to a key person. She pointed out that having one person in the state to manage this is not ideal, however collaboration with key individuals at the campuses is important. There are gaps that occur and having additional personnel to work on that effort for the state would be helpful. Chair Warford concurred there are weaknesses and indicated recommendations would be welcome in the future that would address the gaps and weaknesses of the program. General Al Dohrmann, the leader of the ND National Guard is in support of North Dakota Veterans Programs as these programs help with recruitment. Chair Warford suggested inviting General Dohrmann or one of his representatives to be involved in this program. Further, he suggested putting together a sub-committee or a think-group to come up with innovative ideas to drive more veterans to North Dakota higher education institutions.

Mr. Black commented that he serves as the Chair of the Minot EDC, and that includes the Minot Air Force Base. He stated that they have re-drafted the 5-year strategic initiatives and one of these is military support. The focus of the EDC in this region is not making Minot Air Force Base a dreaded assignment rather that it be a place we wrap our arms around these young men and women who are on the tarmac driving the missiles and protecting our freedoms. The goal is to find ways to connect with them at an upper level and provide them with more opportunities, so they want to stay in North Dakota. He suggested that this initiative be made a priority to work with our military partners making them a part of our education system in order to retain these military individuals to keep them in North Dakota in order to solve shortages in the workforce. He stated he is willing to help gather resources in the Minot region to partner with to attain this goal.

9. **Legislative Update**

Ms. Johnson presented a summary of the following bills that are being presented:

- There are several bills going through that are edits to scholarships that are all positive. They include increased dollar amounts and will include more population. There are scholarships for CDL and CNA degrees. There are no negative aspects being presented.
- HB1241 is a Workforce Development bill to support innovative new programs that were unable to be offered previously.
- An Oil-Energy bill for individuals in the energy sector.
- Funds for campuses that have educational programs and a teacher loan forgiveness program possibly administered out of DPI that will benefit teachers who might have student loans.
- Several academic bills are in process.
- Concealed firearms on campus.
- Miscellaneous
 - Policies cannot be more restrictive based on religion
 - The Pledge of Allegiance is unalterable
 - HB1205 is about banning materials in public libraries (excludes colleges & universities)
 - HB 1299 having to do with gender/sex of individuals
 - Responding to penalties for false and frivolous accusations sexual harassment Title 9

Ms. Fitzsimmons commented that Ms. Johnson's report covered much of what is being followed in the legislature. There are several firearm bills being presented. There are two bills regarding carrying firearms on campuses. There are some vaccine bills that have been filed regarding tracking immunizations. There are bills being presented regarding gender identity. The deadline for filing bills is approaching and after that occurs, a clearer picture will be seen of what will pertain to higher education and which bills will be followed during this legislative session.

Chair Warford invited any committee member or other individuals in attendance to comment or ask questions regarding the items discussed or if there are any other matters for discussion prior to adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m. CT.