

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 April 17, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. John Warford, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Kevin Black | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, faculty advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Sadie Hanson | |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC President Jensen, Mr. Dan Leingang, **DCB** Dean Simone, Ms. Kayla O'Toole, Mr. Corey Gorder, **DSU** Ms. Kija Homes, **LRSC** President Darling, **MaSU** Mr. Brian Huschle, Mr. Corday Goddard, **MiSU** Ms. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS** Ms. Lisa Karch, Ms. Melissa Johnson, **NDUS** Ms. Laura Oster-Aaland, **UND** Mr. Eric Link, **VCSU** Mr. Larry Brooks, **WSC** President Hirning.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS Chancellor Hagerott, VC Lisa Johnson, Mr. Chris Pieske, VC David Krebsbach, VC Mr. Jerry Rostad, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Ms. Claire Gunwall, **Assistant Attorney General** Ms. Meredith Larson.

1. **Agenda**

Black moved, Biller seconded, to approve the agenda with the inclusion of Chancellor Hagerott's request to add a discussion on a proposed ND ballot measure legalizing of adult-use of cannabis.

Biller, Black, Hanson, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Biller moved, Black seconded to approve the March 13, 2024, [meeting minutes](#), as presented.

Black, Hanson, Biller, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

3. **NDUS Institutions Tenure Candidates Effective the start of Academic Year 2024-2025**

VC Lisa Johnson provided an overview of the process and criteria for submission of tenure requests by NDUS institutions. NDUS institutions requesting approval for [tenure candidates](#) effective the start of Academic Year 2024-2025.

Member Black raised questions on the role and purpose of tenure at the two-year institutions, particularly academic freedom in research, which Board policy cites as a principal reason for tenure. After discussion, Member Black recommended the

committee should receive more information on the process and criteria for tenure candidates at the two-year institutions.

Member Black moved, Biller seconded, to recommend approval of the four-year regional and research institution candidates for tenure, as presented, and to postpone the approval of the two-year tenure candidates until the May ASAC meeting.

Biller, Black, Hanson, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

4. New Academic Program Requests
 - a. [Bismarck State College](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate in Automation](#)

Black moved, Biller seconded, to approve BSC's new program request, as presented.

Hanson, Biller, Black, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

- b. [North Dakota State University](#)
 - i. [GR Certificate in Intercollegiate Athletics Administration](#)
 - ii. [M.S. in Data Science](#)
 - iii. [M.S. in Sport Management](#)

Black moved, Biller seconded, to approve NDSU's new program requests, as presented.

Hanson, Biller, Black, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

5. **Policy 404 Collaborative Applicant**

VC Johnson reviewed proposed amendments to [Policy 404](#).

Black moved, Biller seconded, to recommend approval of SBHE Policy 404, as presented.

Hanson, Biller, Black, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

6. **Policy 461 Digital Literacy**

VC Johnson provided the proposed amendments to [Policy 461](#) Digital Literacy. The Student Records user group and the ND General Education Council recommend amending the policy to make digital literacy a general education requirement within the General Education Transfer Agreement (GERTA) guide by July 1, 2026.

Member Biller proposed a revised definition of digital literacy.

Warford moved, Hanson seconded, to recommend approval of SBHE Policy 461, as revised by Member Biller's proposed definition of digital literacy.

Hanson, Biller, Black, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

The committee discussed the following updates:

7. ASAC Work Group Updates

- c. Three-year Degrees
- d. Accelerated or Combined Master's Degrees
- e. Some College, No Degree
- f. Marijuana

Chancellor Hagerott informed the committee of an initiated measure that could potentially be on the North Dakota Ballot this November. The proposed measure would legalize adult-use of cannabis (marijuana) in North Dakota. Chancellor Hagerott raised concerns of the impact it could have on student welfare, learning outcomes, and mental health. He would like the Board to monitor the proposed initiative, as it could have significant implications for the North Dakota University System and its students.

Ms. Fitzsimmons stated that there is current federal law that all NDUS institutions are required to comply with, the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, which precludes the use of cannabis on college campuses.

Assistant Attorney General Meredith Larson advised the Board to refrain from taking a political stance and/or siding on legal issues; she referenced SBHE [Policy 308.3](#), that prohibits the Board from engaging in political activities. She explained that it is permissible to provide information regarding NDUS institutions, the requirements for maintaining federal funding, and other federal regulations. The Board can also provide information regarding their needs to maintain the health and safety of students and/or information on the mission of the Board. The system office, institutions, and the Board can provide information, data, and make recommendations.

Committee Chair Warford adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m. CDT.

Approved May 21, 2024.