



State Capitol – 600 E Boulevard Ave – Dept. 215  
Bismarck ND 58505-0230  
Phone: 701.328.2960 Fax: 701.328.2961  
E-mail: [ndus.inquiry@ndus.edu](mailto:ndus.inquiry@ndus.edu) Web: [ndus.edu](http://ndus.edu)

## **Challenge Grant Fund Committee Meeting Minutes**

The Challenge Grant Fund Committee met on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. CST., via a hybrid meeting option of face-to-face and Microsoft Teams. The face-to-face option will be in the Governors' Conference room at the Bismarck Capitol Building.

Mr. Jace Beehler called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT.

### **1. Roll Call**

Committee Members present:

Chair, Jace Beehler  
Senator Mr. Ronald Sorvaag  
Senator Ms. Karen Krebsbach  
Representative Mr. Bob Martinson  
Representative Ms. Emily O'Brien  
Mr. Jeffry Volk  
Mr. Kevin Black  
Mr. Rick Burgum

Institutions and Institution Foundation representatives:

BSC: Ms. Kari Knudson  
DCB: MiSU President Shirley  
DSU: President Easton, Ms. Pamela Rudolf  
LRSC: Ms. Elonda Nord  
MaSU: President Van Horn, Mr. Lon Jorgensen  
MiSU: President Shirley  
NDSCS: Ms. Kim Nelson  
NDSU: Mr. John Glover, Ms. Jennifer Reinhold, Ms. Allyson Peterson  
UND: Ms. DeAnna Carlson Zink  
VCSU: Mr. Cory Anderson  
WSC: Ms. Hunter Berg, President Hirling

North Dakota University System Office and Guests:

Ms. Mindy Sturn  
Mr. David Krebsbach  
Ms. Jamie Wilke  
Mr. Mark Gorenflo  
Ms. Bethany Kadrmias

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

O'Brien moved, Sorvaag seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Approved by consensus.

3. **Approval of December 4, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

O'Brian moved, Martinson seconded, to approve the minutes, as presented.

Approved by consensus.

4. **Approval of updated ND Higher Education Challenge Fund rules of Operation and Procedures**

Ms. Sturn provided an update; the system office received information back from the Attorney General's (AG) Office regarding the question of whether UND-SMHS and NDSU Agriculture, Research, and Extension entities should be a part of pooled funding. The AG's offices interpretation of NDCC 15-10-48(2) is that UND-SMHS and NDSU Agriculture, Research, and Extension are entities under the umbrellas of UND and NDSU, therefore the UND-SMHS and NDSU Agriculture, Research, and Extension are eligible to apply for any remaining pooled funding for UND, NDSU, and UND-SMHS. The NDSU Agriculture, Research, and Extension initial funding is authorized in NDCC 15-10-48.2 and any unclaimed funding would not be available for pool funding to distribute.

Committee members requested three minor technical corrections; Ms. Sturn will update.

- Update spelling error – research.
- Update listing of institutions, Minot listed twice on both charts, correct to Mayville.

O'Brian moved, Black seconded, to approve the updated ND Higher Education Challenge Fund rules of Operation and Procedures, with inclusion of updates as noted.

Approved by consensus.

5. **2023-25 Current Challenge Grant Fund Balance**

Ms. Sturn provided an update on the current fund balances for the 2023-25 biennium; the committee had no concerns.

Additionally, it was noted that during this general timeframe in prior biennia, campuses are tracking ahead in funding requests as noted below:

- a) 2019-21, Allocation: \$9,650,000, campus funds requested were at 62%
- b) 2021-23, Allocation: \$11,150,000, campus funds requested were at 72%
- c) 2023-25, Allocation: \$20,000,000, campus funds requested were at 84%

**Regular Scope & Funding Application Approvals**

6. BSC State Request: \$152,071

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Foundation Endowment for Scholarships-Application
- c) Fund Application Support-Endowment for Scholarships
- d) Foundation Scholarships-Application
- e) Fund Application Support—Foundation Scholarships

Martinson moved, Burgum seconded, to approve BSC's requests, items 6b - e, as presented. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Volk, Black, Martinson, Sorvaag, Krebsbach, O'Brien, Burgum, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Minot State President Shirley presented DCB's request in Dean Simone's absence:

7. DCB State Request: \$119,694

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Advanced High-Fidelity Simulation Equipment for Nursing Program-SCOPE
- c) Advanced High-Fidelity Simulation Equipment for Nursing Program-Application
- d) General Scholarship Campaign-Application
- e) Fund Applications Support-All Fund Applications

O'Brian moved, Sorvaag seconded, to approve DCB's scope request, item 7b, as presented.

Martinson, Sorvaag, O'Brien, Volk, Black, Burgum, Krebsbach, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Burgum moved, Black seconded, to approve DCB's requests, item 7c - e, as presented.

O'Brien, Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, Black, Krebsbach, Burgum, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

8. DSU State Request: \$291,425

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) College on the Hill Endowment Campaign-Application
- c) Fund Application Support-College on the Hill Endowment
- d) Cornerstone Traditions Scholarship-Application
- e) Fund Application Support-Cornerstone Traditions Scholarship

Martinson moved, O'Brian seconded, to approve DSU's requests, items 8b - e, as presented.

Krebsbach, Volk, Black, Martinson, Sorvaag, O'Brien, Burgum, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

9. LRSC State Request: \$31,218

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Endowments for Scholarships-Application
- c) Scholarship Support-Application
- d) Fund Applications Support-All Fund Applications

Burgum moved, O'Brian seconded, to approve LRSU's requests, items 9b - d, as presented.

Martinson, Sorvaag, O'Brien, Volk, Black, Krebsbach, Burgum, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

10. MaSU State Request: \$405,541

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only

- b) Annual Scholarship for Academic Excellence-Application
- c) Annual Scholarship for Academic Excellence-Fund Application Support
- d) Endowment for Academic Excellence Campaign-Application
- e) Endowment for Academic Excellence Campaign-Fund Application Support

Sorvaag moved, O'Brian seconded, to approve MaSU's requests, items 10b - e, as presented.

Volk, Black, Martinson, Sorvaag, Krebsbach, O'Brien, Burgum, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

11. MiSU State Request: \$375,980

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Early Literacy Camp/Reading Clinic-SCOPE
- c) Scholarship Endowment-13-Application
- d) Scholarship Endowment-14-Application
- e) Scholarship Endowment-15-Application
- f) Scholarship Endowment-16-Application
- g) Scholarship-1-Application
- h) Scholarship-2-Application
- i) Academic Scholarship Campaign-Application
- j) Classroom Enhancements-Application
- k) Early Literacy Camp/Reading Clinic-Application
- l) Fund Applications Support-All Fund Applications

Sorvaag moved, O'Brian seconded, to approve MiSU's scope request, item 11b, as presented.

Volk, Black, Martinson, Sorvaag, Krebsbach, O'Brien, Burgum, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Sorvaag moved, O'Brian seconded, to approve MiSU's requests, items 11c - i, as presented.

Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, Black, Krebsbach, O'Brien, Burgum, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

12. NDSCS State Request: \$662,215

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) NDSCS Performing Arts Technology Project-SCOPE
- c) Robotics, Automation, and Mechatronics Technology-SCOPE
- d) NDSCS Annual Scholarships-Application
- e) NDSCS Foundation Endowment Scholarships-Application
- f) Ray Baeth Endowment-Application
- g) Craig & Sue Caspers Family Endowment Scholarship-Application
- h) Edson & Margaret Larson Foundation Scholarship-Application
- i) J.K. (Mac) McLaughlin Scholarship Endowment-Application
- j) Kevin T Larson Scholarship Endowment-Application
- k) North Dakota State Electrical Board-Application

- l) NDSCS Family Tradition Endowment-Application
- m) John Travers & Alyce B Endowed Scholarship-Application
- n) Rodger & Diane Kemp Scholarship Endowment-Application
- o) RN Nursing Expansion Project-Application
- p) Robotics, Automation, and Mechatronics Technology Project-Application
- q) Minnkota Power Cooperative Endowment-Application
- r) Fund Applications Support-All Fund Applications

Sorvaag moved, O'Brian seconded, to approve NDSCS's scope requests, items 12b – c, as presented.

O'Brien, Burgum, Krebsbach, Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, Black, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Martinson moved, Sorvaag seconded, to approve NDSCS's requests, items 12d – r, as presented.

O'Brien, Burgum, Krebsbach, Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, Black, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

13. NDSU State Request: \$180,806

- a) Summary of Applications- Informational only
- b) Graduate Fellowship Endowment – 20272-Application
- c) Endowed Scholarship – 20757-Application
- d) Human Development and Family Science Scholarship – 20917-Application
- e) Agricultural Scholarship Endowment – 20995-Application
- f) Endowed Scholarship – 21000-Application
- g) Memorial Scholarship – 25611-Application
- h) Memorial Scholarship – 26021-Application
- i) Fund Applications Support-All Fund Applications

O'Brian moved, Volk seconded, to approve NDSU's request, items 13b - i, as presented.

O'Brien, Burgum, Krebsbach Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, Black, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

14. NDSU ARE State Request: \$1,417,813

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) Ag Field Lab Facility – 30598-SCOPE
- c) Ag Field Lab Facility – 30598-Application
- d) Center for Risk & Trade Endowment Fund – 40139-Application
- e) Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives – 40275-Application
- f) Endowed Potato Breeder Professorship – 44007-Application
- g) Livestock Evaluation Faculty Fund – 40265-Application
- h) Fund Applications Support-All Fund Application

Sorvaag moved, O'Brian seconded, to approve NDSU's scope request, item 14b, as presented.

O'Brien, Krebsbach, Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, Black, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Volk moved, Krebsbach seconded, to approve NDSU's requests items 14c - h, as presented.

Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, Black, O'Brien, Burgum, Krebsbach, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

15. UND State Request: \$536,314

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) Educational Infrastructure-44656-Engineering -SCOPE
- c) Scholarship Endowment - 40261 – Engineering-Application
- d) Scholarship Endowment - 46179 - A&S-Application
- e) Scholarship Endowment - 41076 - Academic Affairs-Application
- f) Scholarship Endowment - 41080 – Business-Application
- g) Educational Infrastructure - 44656 – Engineering-Application
- h) Scholarship Endowment - 41097-099-101-103 – Business-Application
- i) Scholarship Endowment - 47230 – Business-Application
- j) Scholarship Endowment - 41139 - A&S-Application
- k) Fund Application Support-All Fund Applications

O'Brian moved, Sorvaag seconded, to approve UND's scope request, item 15b, as presented.

O'Brien, Burgum, Krebsbach, Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, Black, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Black moved, O'Brian seconded, to approve UND's requests, items 15c - k, as presented.

Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, O'Brien, Burgum, Krebsbach, Black, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

16. UND School of Law State Request: \$72,500

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) Scholarship Endowment - 41061 – Law-Application
- c) Scholarship Endowment - 46001 – Law-Application
- d) Scholarship Endowment - 41084 – Law-Application
- e) Fund Application Support-

O'Brian moved, Sorvaag seconded, to approve UND's School of Law requests, items 16b - e, as presented.

O'Brien, Krebsbach, Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Volk, Black, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

17. UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences (UND SMHS) State Request: \$1,195,000

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) Educational Infrastructure - 41129 – Medical-SCOPE
- c) Educational Infrastructure - 41143 – Medical-SCOPE
- d) Scholarship Endowment - 41105 – Medical-Application
- e) Educational Infrastructure - 41129 – Medical-Application
- f) Scholarship Endowment - 40241 – Medical-Application
- g) Scholarship Endowment - 41141 – Medical-Application
- h) Educational Infrastructure - 41143 – Medical-Application
- i) Fund Applications Support-All Fund Applications

O'Brian moved, Black seconded, to approve UND's School of Medicine & Health Sciences (UND SMHS) scope requests, items 17b - c, as presented.

Krebsbach, Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Black, Volk, O'Brien, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Burgum moved, O'Brian seconded, to approve UND's requests, items 17d - i, as presented.

Black, Volk, O'Brien, Krebsbach, Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

18. VCSU State Request: \$140,851

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) Endowed Scholarship Program-Application
- c) Fund Application Support-Endowed Scholarship Program
- d) Academic Scholarship Program-Application
- e) Fund Application Support-Scholarship Program

O'Brian moved, Krebsbach seconded, to approve VCSU's requests, items 18b - e, as presented.

Volk, O'Brien, Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Black, Krebsbach, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

19. WSC State Request: \$570,000

- a) Summary of Applications-For Information Only
- b) Healthcare Program Expansion-SCOPE
- c) Healthcare Program Expansion-Application
- d) Healthcare Program Scholarships-Application
- e) Fund Application Support-All Fund Applications

O'Brian moved, Sorvaag seconded, to approve WSC's scope request, items 19b, as presented.

Black, Krebsbach, Volk, O'Brien, Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Volk moved, Burgum seconded, to approve WSC's requests, items 19c -e, as presented.

O'Brien, Volk, Burgum, Martinson, Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Black, and Committee Chair Beehler. Motion passed 8 – 0.

20. **Pooled Funding Discussion**

Committee Chair Beehler stated that the committee had requested the system office work with the institutions on a proposal for distribution of pooled funds for the committee. The committee will review today, allow some time to consider, and take action at the next committee meeting.

Ms. Jamie Wilke proposed the following options based on feedback provided from the Foundations:

- Pooled Funding Scenario Option 1: (Equal distribution for each institution)
- Pooled Funding Scenario Option 2a & 2b: (Distribution based on Legislative Allocation to each institution requesting funding)
- Pooled Funding Scenario Option 3: (Distribution based on Legislative Allocation to each institution tier funding level)

The committee discussed the proposed options, a fourth option was proposed by member Volk to distribute the pooled funds in the order in which the request came in.

21. **Semi-Annual Report December 31, 2023**

Ms. Sturn provided the semi-annual report for the period ending December 31st, 2023, highlighting changes from the June 30th report excluding any current biennium activity.

22. **Private Match Pending Report, 2015-2017 Biennium**

The committee discussed living trusts, North Dakota Higher Education Challenge Fund Rules of Operation & Procedures, in accordance with N.D.C.C §15-10-50.

As of January 31, 2024, Institutions with private match donations pending from the 2015-2017 biennium would now have reached the specified seven-year deadline. Ultimately, it's the decision of the committee to approve an extended timeline outside of the seven years.

23. **Future meeting options**

The June 18th date for the next Challenge Grant meeting had a scheduling conflict and will need to be changed. Ms. Sturn will send out the new June date options after the meeting for consideration by the committee.

24. **Open Discussion – NA.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. CT.

Approved June 7, 2024.