

**North Dakota State Board of Higher Education**  
July 10, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education met on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. CT., via Teams.

Chair Mihalick called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. CT.

**Roll Call**

SBHE Members

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tim Mihalick, Chair            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Danita Bye, Vice Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. D.J. Campbell                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Casey Ryan             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Jeffry Volk                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Kevin Black            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Maxwell Eriksrud               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Michael Linnell, Staff Advisor | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |

Institutions

**BSC** President Jensen, **DCB** Dean Simone, **DSU** President Easton, **LRSC** Mr. Lloyd Halvorson, **MaSU** President Van Horn, **MISU** President Shirley, **NDSCS** President Flanigan, **UND** President Armacost, **VCSU** President LaFave, **WSC** President Hirning.

System Office/Guests

**NDUS** Chancellor Hagerott, VC Lisa Johnson, VC Jerry Rostad, VC David Krebsbach, Ms. Billie Jo Lorius, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Dina Cashman, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Claire Gunwall, **CTS** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General** Ms. Meredith Larson, Ms. Rachel Sinness.

Chair Mihalick called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. CT.

Chair Mihalick provided an opening statement regarding concerns the Board members have received following their June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The June 25<sup>th</sup> Board meeting process and actions were within the authority of the State Board of Higher Education. He noted the Board not only has the authority but a responsibility to make decisions that impact the state's institutions, students, and workforce and they will continue to work in a deliberate manner. Today's special meeting was scheduled to allow adequate time for Board members to get fully informed on BSC's new program request, prior to taking action. He reminded the Board that today's meeting is a special meeting and only items listed on the agenda can be addressed.

**1. New Academic Program Requests**

- a. [Bismarck State College](#)
  - i. A.A.S. in [Dental Assisting](#)
  - ii. A.A.S. in [Dental Hygiene](#)

The Board discussed multiple facets regarding BSC's request for new programs for dental assistants and dental hygienists:

- The State's workforce needs and challenges.
  - Specifically critical shortage of dental assistants and hygienists.
- The status of student enrollment and retainment in NDSCS's current dental programs that have been established for multiple decades.
- Number/percent of students that graduate from the current programs in place.
- The risk of creating programs at BSC before assessing the capacity and success of established and newly established programs at NDSCS and DCB/MiSU, respectively.
- Dental professionals' involvement and responsibility to recruit qualified dental students.
  - BSC President noted the unique public-private partnership model that will be in place, including industry support for funding, student recruitment, tuition, and employment.
- Cost per student in dental programs, including differences in funding models.
- Status and success of the current ND Career builder's scholarships.
- Offering additional scholarships for dental programs, including scholarships funded by the private sector to fulfill their workforce needs.

Some Board members raised concerns and expressed opposition to approving BSC's new dental programs at this time, recommending the Board revisit BSC's request after the new DCB/MiSU programs are up and running.

Other Board members emphasized the significant demand and the need for bold action to address the workforce challenges, while also acknowledging the concerns others expressed.

Black moved, Bye seconded, to approve BSC's new dental assistant and dental hygiene programs.

Black, Bye, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Mihalick voted yes. Biller, Ryan, and Volk voted no. Motion passed 5 -3.

Ryan proposed an additional motion to create a scholarship for dental programs, with prioritization to students attending the NDSCS and DCB dental programs. Legal counsel advised that the motion is not within the scope of the agenda and recommended placing it on a future SBHE agenda to consider.

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m. CT.

Approved July 31, 2024.