

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

July 31, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education met on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. CT., via Teams.

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

Roll Call

SBHE Members

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

Institutions

BSC President Jensen, **DCB** Dean Simone, **DSU** President Easton, **LRSC** President Darling, **MaSU** President Van Horn, **MISU** President Shirley, **NDSCS** President Flanigan, **NDSU** President Cook, **UND** Dr. Marc Askelson, **VCSU** President LaFave, **WSC** President Hirning.

System Office/Guests

NDUS Chancellor Hagerott, VC Lisa Johnson, VC David Krebsbach, VC Jerry Rostad, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Jamie Wilke, **CTS** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Assistant Attorney General** Ms. Meredith Larson.

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

1. **Agenda**

Biller moved, Ryan seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Approved by consensus.

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Black moved, Ryan seconded, to approve the [June 25, 2024](#), and [July 10, 2024](#), (special meeting) meeting minutes.

Approved by consensus.

3. **Executive Session – Dickinson State University Acting President** (8:33 a.m. CT.)

Black moved, Biller seconded, to enter Executive Session to (1) consider the appointment of an acting President for Dickinson State University, and any contract terms (2) limit the executive session to voting Board members, nonvoting advisers, Chancellor, selected NDUS Office Staff, and board counsel. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section 15-10-17(1)(d).

Began at 8:35 a.m. CT.

Present:

SBHE Members

Mr. Tim Mihalick, Chair

Mr. Kevin Black

Mr. Jeffry Volk

Mr. Max Eriksrud

Mr. Michael Linnell, Staff Advisor

Ms. Danita Bye, Vice Chair

Dr. Casey Ryan

Mr. Curtis Biller

Mr. DJ Campbell

Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor

Others:

Chancellor Hagerott, VC David Krebsbach, VC Jerry Rostad, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Kristie Hetzler, Ms. Bethany Kadmas, and Ms. Meredith Larson (Assistant Attorney General).

Executive session adjourned at 8:58 a.m. CT.

4. Reconvene in open meeting to appoint an Acting President at Dickinson State University

Volk moved, Eriksrud seconded, to adopt Chancellor Hagerott's recommendation to appoint Mr. Ty Orton as the Acting President of Dickinson State University, effective August 3, 2024.

Campbell, Black, Volk, Bye, Ryan, Biller, Eriksrud and Mihalick voted yes. Motion passed 8 – 0.

5. Dickinson State University Interim Presidential Search Timeline

Chancellor Hagerott proposed a [timeline for Dickinson State University interim presidential search](#), as a working document to be adjusted as needed. The Board discussed the composition of the search committee and various resources available to assist in the search process. Chancellor Hagerott noted that there are also external agencies that can assist in identifying and recruiting qualified individuals.

6. President Easton Transition and Farewell

The Board and Chancellor Hagerott expressed their gratitude and thanked President Easton for his work and accomplishments at Dickinson State University. Chancellor Hagerott expressed his admiration for President Easton, noting he is a leading scholar of law in the upper Midwest. The Chancellor stated that while his preference would be to have President Easton continue in the NDUS system as a tenured professor, Easton has decided to move on.

President Easton thanked the Chancellor for his support and offer to have the Board consider him for tenured position. He also expressed deep gratitude for the Board's support. He explained his reasoning for his decision to move on; the current circumstances and presence on the faculty could be a potential distraction for the acting, interim, and new DSU President. He stated that he has a deep connection with DSU; he is the third of four generations in his family to graduate from there. The institution and the role it plays in the North Dakota University System provides a place for many students to thrive. There have been many difficult decisions that had to be made during his Presidency, but his focus has been, and will continue to be, to always put the students' interests first. He thanked the Chancellor and the Board for the opportunity to lead DSU for the last four and a half years and will continue to support the institution and community.

The Board members thanked President Easton for his leadership and contributions to DSU through difficult and challenging times. During his leadership at DSU, he faced tough decisions, and they were appreciative that he worked through them by keeping the students', institution's, and community's best interest to the fore.

7. SBHE Ad Hoc Funding Formula Committee Recommendations

Member Black reviewed his presentation that he provided to the interim legislative committee last month. Member Black covered the history and evolution of the current [funding formula](#), the mathematical function, and recommendations for optimization, including improving the equity/parity for all NDUS institutions. In particular, the cost averaging function within the funding formula is problematic and should be revised. Member Black reiterated that the Legislature is the authoritative body that approves tuition/funds for the NDUS institutions and that the goal of the ad hoc committee is to provide legislators with information and to be an additional resource for the upcoming session. Board members agreed that endorsing the committee's findings could provide an avenue for further discussions with legislators to address and potentially revise the funding formula.

Volk moved, Biller seconded, to endorse the Ad Hoc Funding Formula Review Committee's recommendations to refine the funding formula.

Campbell, Black, Volk, Bye, Ryan, Biller, Eriksrud and Mihalick voted yes. Motion passed 8 – 0.

8. Update on Cabinet Retreat/Envision 2035

Chancellor Hagerott and VC Rostad reviewed the prioritized initiatives from Envision 2035. Member Volk raised concerns regarding the clarity of the process and how the Board's priorities that were identified at the May retreat align with the initiatives the Chancellor is advancing.

After Board discussion, Chair Mihalick stated that discussions can continue at a future meeting; the Board will continue working towards strategic alignment between the Board's vision and the initiatives being pursued.

9. Update on August Interim Legislative Committee Meeting

VC Krebsbach shared the schedule and topics for the upcoming Interim Higher Education Committee meeting. The Board requested the system office continue to respond to the committee's requests for information and/or presentations. More information will be provided as the meeting date approaches.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Ryan moved, Black seconded, to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. CT.
Approved by consensus.

Approved September 24, 2024.