

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 July 17th at 9:30 a.m. CT., via Teams.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Kevin Black | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, faculty advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell | |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC President Jensen, Mr. Dan Leingang, **DCB** Dean Simone, Ms. Kayla O'Toole, **DSU** Ms. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC** President Darling, **MaSU** Mr. Brian Huschle, **MiSU** President Shirley, Ms. Laurie Geller, **NDS** President Flanigan, **NDSU** President Cook, Mr. David Bertolini, Ms. Karin Hegstad, Ms. Laura Oster-Aaland, **UND** Mr. Eric Link, Mr. Art Malloy, **VCSU** Dr. Kerry Gregory, **WSC** Mr. Zahi Atallah.

System Office/CTS/Guests

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

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

1. **Agenda**

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Approved by consensus.

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Committee Chair Biller indicated that he couldn't access the UND link on the [June 12, 2024](#), meeting minutes and requested to move the minutes to the September agenda.

3. **Overview and Role of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

VC Johnson provided a high-level overview of roles and responsibilities of the SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC). The ASAC reviews academic programs, policies, and topics that affect student health and well-being. Policies pertaining to academics and student affairs are reviewed by ASAC; the committee provides input or a recommendation to the full Board for final action. ASAC has the authority to approve new programs and program termination; however, any institution or Board member can request a full Board review of a program decision made by ASAC.

The ASAC consists of at least three voting members of the State Board of Higher Education, including the student member, and the Chancellor and Board Faculty Representative (both ex-officio). When policies come through, a lead SBHE Committee is designated based on the topic. There are several NDUS councils, which consist of NDUS campus representatives to include the Academic Affairs Council (AAC), Administrative Affairs Council, and Student Affairs Council (SAC). The councils vet changes to SBHE policies and NDUS procedures, providing their input to the Chancellor's Cabinet (which is comprised of the campus presidents). The Cabinet has the authority to approve or amend NDUS procedures but is a recommending body for SBHE policies. The NDUS system office documents decisions made by the recommending entities for SBHE Committees to review, consider, and make a recommendation to the full Board for final action.

4. **Update on Dual Credit**

VC Lisa Johnson, provided an overview of Policy 469:

- a. [Policy 469](#) College Credit in High School and 805.1 Tuition
And;
- b. [Policy 805.1](#) Tuition

The committee discussed dual credit and early entry courses, including distinguishing between the two. They emphasized the need for clear and well-defined policies, along with collaboration among institutions to serve students effectively. There are ongoing efforts to refine and improve educational offerings for high school students. The committee also discussed the potential impact on institutions such as NDSCS if NDSU is approved to offer the same courses. Relevant policies and any changes to accommodate new dual credit proposals would need to involve review and input from all NDUS institutions to ensure fairness and transparency. There were concerns about creating financial barriers that could limit students' access to dual credit courses. The committee will review and discuss NDSU's proposals, along with all other input provided by other institutions and the system office.

President Jensen clarified the current discussion is only regarding dual credit, not early entry courses. The committee noted they have not seen the proposal yet and that if early entry is included, there will be clarification at a future meeting. Chair Biller requested that dual credit is on their next meeting agenda to continue discussing. Ms. Hegstad requested the committee also consider discussing early entry courses and how the tuition rate should be included in SBHE Policy, rather than NDUS Procedure.

5. **Update on Tenure**

Dr. Lisa Montplaisir and VC Johnson provided an update on the Ad Hoc Tenure Review Committee that has been meeting over the past year. The committee has been reviewing/studying the process and procedures regarding the award of tenure to faculty. A draft report has been created and will be reviewed by the SBHE Research & Governance Committee (RGC) which will be the lead in making recommendations to the full Board. If the full Board concurs with RGC's recommendations on any changes and/or process and metrics to be followed, those would be developed by the ASAC Committee.

Dr. Montplaisir provided an overview of the Council of College Faculties' (CCF) perspective on the draft tenure report. CCF has been actively involved in providing

feedback and recommendations throughout the tenure policy update process, ensuring that faculty perspectives are considered and that the policies align with accreditation standards and institutional goals. She indicated that there may need to be some clarification on the completion date for policy review, the date policies will be effective, and the term of the year for implementation. She is hopeful the post-tenure review timeline will be agreed upon in the final version. She noted concerns raised about the percentage of tenure track faculty proposed in the draft report. CCF is still waiting to receive the institutional data regarding faculty's highest degree attained; those discussions are still taking place and have not been resolved yet.

CCF is planning to hold a meeting at the beginning of September to finalize their input.

The committee agreed that tenure is complex and NDUS is unique with varying levels of institutional tiers that it serves, which elevates the complexity.

6. Update on Dickinson State University

Chancellor Mark Hagerott and VC Lisa Johnson addressed the concerns about the Dickinson State University (DSU) nursing program's challenges due to the decision of seven nursing faculty to not sign new contracts. The committee discussed the need to continue supporting students and faculty during transitions. Chancellor Hagerott also noted the transition of leadership at DSU; he expressed high regard for President Easton's leadership at DSU, noting his significant contributions and the positive changes he has brought to the institution, including students and community. He will ensure a smooth leadership transition that prioritizes student welfare. The Chancellor informed the committee an acting President for DSU will be identified, and an interim selection will be proposed to the Board at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. CT.

Approved September 11, 2024.