

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education Special Academic and Student Affairs Committee Minutes

November 8, 2024

The State Board of Higher Education Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on November 8th at 1:00 p.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 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 Dr. Dan Leingang, Mr. John Carroll, **DCB** Dean Simone, Ms. Kayla O'Toole, Mr. Corey Gorder, **DSU** Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC** President Darling, Mr. Lloyd Halvorson, **MaSU** Dr. Brian Huschle, Mr. Corday Goddard, **MISU** President Shirley, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS** President Flanigan, Dr. Lisa Karch, Ms. Melissa Johnson, **NDSU** Dr. David Bertolini, **UND** President Armacost, Dr. Eric Link, **VCSU** President LaFave, Mr. Larry Brooks, **WSC** Dr. Zahi Atallah.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS Chancellor Hagerott, VC Lisa Johnson, Mr. Chris Pieske, VC Jerry Rostad, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Dr. Jen Weber, Ms. Jamie Wilke, **Assistant Attorney General** Ms. Meredith Larson.

Committee Chair Biller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. CT.

Chair Biller made an opening statement and informed the committee that the primary focus for the special meeting of ASAC is to discuss how dual credit courses can best serve students' interests and development, rather than focusing on the financial implications for institutions.

1. College Credit in High School
 - o [Policy 469 College Credit in High School and Policy 805.1 Tuition](#)
 - o [Procedure 469.1 Early Entry Coursework](#)
 - o [Procedure 469.2 Dual Credit Coursework](#)
 - o [Dual Credit Proposal](#)
 - o [College Credit in High School Dashboard](#)

VC Johnson provided an overview of the current policy and history; she highlighted the materials available for the committee's discussion.

NDSU President Cook provided background to the initial dual credit proposal they submitted for consideration; the proposal was drafted in September 2023 and the

proposal was sent to Chancellor Hagerott and VC Johnson. In June, a proposal was made to implement dual credit in Cass County; since then, there has been additional collaboration with VCSU President LaFave's team, and NDSCS President Flanigan's team to refine the proposal.

Dr. Lisa Montplaisir stated school choice is about the students and their needs. She supports NDSU offering dual credit courses if they're new courses/programs and aren't currently offered through an NDUS institution(s). Dr. Montplaisir stated that if NDSU doesn't offer students dual credit courses they want or need, they will take them from another online institution outside of NDUS. There is a need for advanced and/or specific courses that are not available locally, but she doesn't support duplication of existing dual credit courses within NDUS.

NDUS two-year institution Presidents expressed the importance of serving the needs of all students and asked that the board consider the value and role of two-year institutions in the dual credit. They also raised concerns about potential negative impacts on two-year institutions if NDSU's proposal is approved.

NDSU and VCSU explained their ongoing efforts to reach an agreement on the dual credit proposal, noting it is complex but there are efforts to avoid duplication of courses while expanding opportunities for students. BSC advocated for local decision-making in dual credit partnerships, highlighting the role of school districts in determining their students' needs and engaging with local institutions.

The committee discussed Board policy as it relates to the proposal. Chair Biller explained that if the proposal is approved, the Board would review the policy, and amend it as needed to enact the proposal.

After a thorough discussion, the committee agreed to prioritize what is best for students, such as providing more dual credit opportunities; however, they requested the institutions work together to finalize an agreement to be reviewed at the November 13th ASAC meeting. The agreement should include clear and concise guardrails and avoid destabilizing successful courses currently offered by the other NDUS institutions.

Campbell moved to approve the NDSU proposal regarding dual credit.

The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Eriksrud moved, Biller seconded, to table the NDSU proposal until the next committee meeting.

Eriksrud, Campbell, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

2. NDUS Institution Academic Program Offerings
 - a. [Policy 409 Degree Offered](#)
 - b. [NDUS Institution Mission Statements and NDUS Institution Vision Statements](#)

The discussion focused on clarifying the missions and visions of individual institutions; the goal is to understand each institution's core strengths. The committee requested institutions better define their strategic priorities and identify any new areas of focus. The

system office will compile and prepare the information to be discussed at a future meeting.

3. Reduced-Credit Bachelor's Degree Programs
 - a. [HLC Guidelines](#)
 - b. [HLC Substantive Change Application](#)

The discussion centered on the feasibility and appropriateness of NDUS offering reduced-credit bachelor's degree programs. The committee discussed the concept of reduced-credit bachelor programs, considering the implications for professional licensure and the need to align with workforce demands. There was acknowledgment of the competitive aspect of being the first to offer such programs in the region, but the importance of thoughtful implementation to ensure academic integrity and compliance with accreditation guidelines.

The committee request the system office to gather the following information:

- Higher Learning Commission's initiative to evaluate reduced-credit bachelor's degree programs and what, if any, action should the institutions and/or the Board be considering.
- If bordering states offer reduced-credit programs or anything similar.
- If NDUS institutions are considering offering reduced-credit bachelor's degree programs. If they do plan to offer, what are the top three programs.

The system office will compile and prepare the information to be discussed at a future meeting.

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

Approved January 23, 2025.