

## **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 January 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CT.

#### SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <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** Dr. Dan Leingang, **DCB** Dean Carmen Simone, Ms. Kayla O'Toole, Mr. Corey Gorder, Ms. Linda Burbidge, **DSU** Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC** Mr. Lloyd Halvorson, **MaSU** Dr. Brian Huschle, Mr. Corday Goddard, **MiSU** President Shirley, Mr. Alaric Williams, **NDSCS** President Flanigan, Dr. Lisa Karch, Ms. Melissa Johnson, **UND** Dr. Eric Link, Dr. Art Malloy, Ms. Janelle Kilgore, **VCSU** President LaFave, Ms. Katie Woehl, Mr. Mark Nelson, **WSC** President Hirning, Dr. Zahi Atallah

#### System Office/CTS/Guests

**NDUS** Chancellor Hagerott, VC. Lisa Johnson, VC. Tom Danford, VC. Jerry Rostad, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Dr. Jen Weber, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Mr. Chris Pieske, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Bethany Kadrmass, Ms. Caitlin Magilke **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson

#### **Call to Order**

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

1. Agenda
  - a. Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.  
Approved by consensus.
2. Meeting Minutes
  - a. Campbell moved, Black seconded, to approve the [November 8, 2024](#), [November 13, 2024](#), and [November 22, 2024](#), minutes, as presented.  
Approved by consensus.

#### **# Committee Business**

1. New Academic Program Request (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
  - a. [Dakota College at Bottineau](#)
    - i. [UG Certificate in Dental Office Manager](#)
      1. Ms. Kayla O'Toole shared that the UG Certificate in Dental Office Manager can serve as a standalone certificate or a stackable credential for other associate degree programs. This program would be offered hybrid at the DCB downtown location in Minot.
    - ii. [UG Certificate in Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#)

1. Ms. O'Toole shared that DCB has an industry leadership team that has requested this certificate which can serve as a standalone certificate or a stackable credential. This program would be offered hybrid with face-to-face classes on DCB's campus.
- b. [Dickinson State University](#)
    - i. [M.S. in Athletic Training](#)
      1. Dr. Holly Gruhke shared that the M.S. in Athletic Training is a high-demand program due to changes in the rules for athletic trainer certification which now require a master's degree.
  - c. [North Dakota State College of Science](#)
    - i. [UG Certificate in Civil Design Technician](#)
      1. Dr. Lisa Karch shared that the UG Certificate in Civil Design Technician is comprised of existing courses that NDSCS is packaging together into this certificate.
    - ii. [A.A.S. in Agriculture Communication and Marketing](#)
    - iii. [A.A.S. in Farm and Ranch Management](#)
      1. Dr. Karch shared the A.A.S. in Agriculture Communication and Marketing, and the A.A.S. in Farm and Ranch Management are previous subplans of the Agricultural degree program that will now be offered as standalone programs comprised of existing courses.
  - d. [University of North Dakota](#)
    - i. [Minor in Applied Humanities](#)
    - ii. [Minor in Kinesiology](#)
    - iii. [UG Certificate in Psychological and Philosophical Perspectives on Diversity](#)
    - iv. [UG Certificate in Sports Leadership](#)
    - v. [B.S.C.E. in Cybersecurity Engineering](#)
    - vi. [B.S.E.S. in Earth Science](#)
    - vii. [GR Certificate in Biomedical IoT Devices](#)
      1. Member Black inquired about the GR Certificate in Biomedical IoT Devices. Dr. Eric Link shared that in biomedical engineering there's a lot of thing-to-thing and artifact-to-artifact communication that must occur. This certificate will focus on that aspect. Furthermore, Chancellor Hagerott shared that this is a growing field and is a cross between a medical school and an engineering school.
    - viii. [GR Certificate in Sports Leadership](#)
    - ix. [M.S. in Athletic Administration and Coaching](#)
    - x. [M.S. in Forensic Science](#)
      1. Dr. Link shared the M.S. in Forensic Science will fill workforce needs within the state. UND's undergraduate forensics program has been growing and there is now the need to offer a master's degree.
    - xi. [Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence](#)
      1. Member Campbell asked if UND offers any other degrees or certificates in Artificial Intelligence. Dr. Link stated that this will be UND's first degree specifically designated for Artificial Intelligence, but they do have existing coursework that touches on artificial intelligence concepts and theories. Additionally, UND will be bringing forward a request for a master's degree, but final details are still being worked on.
      2. Chair Biller requested clarification on why the Ph.D. program is coming forward before the master's program. Dr. Link stated that

UND has many students who are currently receiving master's degrees in computer science and those students would be ready to advance into the AI Ph.D. program. The future master's degree would provide a specific focus in artificial intelligence.

- e. [Valley City State University](#)
    - i. [UG Certificate in Graphic Design](#)
    - ii. [UG Certificate in Photography](#)
      - 1. Ms. Katie Woehl shared that the UG Certificate in Graphic Design and the UG Certificate in Photography are comprised of existing courses and will be offered both face-to-face and online.
  - f. Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the new program requests for Dakota College at Bottineau, Dickinson State University, North Dakota State College of Science, University of North Dakota, and Valley City State University.  
Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.
2. Degree Type Change (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
- a. [University of North Dakota](#)
    - i. [B.S. in Aerospace Engineering to B.S.A.E in Aerospace Engineering](#)
    - ii. [B.S. in Biomedical Engineering to B.S.B.E. in Biomedical Engineering](#)
    - iii. [B.S. in Data Science to B.S.D.S. in Data Science](#)
      - 1. Dr. Link shared that there are no substantive changes to the above degree types and are instead retitleing.
      - 2. Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the degree type change requests for the University of North Dakota.  
Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.
3. Institution Organization Notice (conclusion at SBHE)
- a. [North Dakota State University](#)
    - i. Peltier Institute for Advancement in Agriculture Technology
      - 1. VC. Lisa Johnson shared that the institution organization notice has gone through the Academic Affairs Council with no opposition.
      - 2. Campbell moved, Black seconded, to approve the institution organization notice for North Dakota State University.  
Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.
4. [Tenure Recommendations](#) - VC. Lisa Johnson
- a. VC. Johnson shared that the tenure recommendations for North Dakota State University have all been unanimously recommended by the campus through their review process and by President Cook.
  - b. Black moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the tenure recommendations for North Dakota State University.  
Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

### **Reports/Updates/Discussions**

5. ASAC Institution [Survey](#) – VC. Lisa Johnson
- a. VC. Johnson shared that in a previous ASAC meeting, Chair Biller had requested campuses to provide more information on topics such as their current priorities, their vision, their future priorities, etc. Additionally, the survey asked campuses to describe programs or disciplines they plan to expand or enhance in the next 3-5 years, and if campuses had considered reduced credit bachelor's degrees. VC.

Johnson stated that this information has been helpful during testimony before the legislature.

- i. Survey results have indicated that several community college campuses are actively looking into offering reduced credit programs.
- ii. VC. Johnson shared that the limiting factor is the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) which has a very prescribed accreditation method for bachelor programs. Institutions will not be able to submit multiple reduced credit programs and have them approved quickly. The first program must demonstrate that the reduced credit program did not compromise the program quality or fail to meet licensure requirements in any state. The second program would build off the success of the first. The third program could be a simple desk review as described by HLC.
- iii. Chair Biller shared that his review indicated that some campuses have a clear mission and direction, and some campuses are continuing down their normal path. Furthermore, Committee Chair Biller expressed that it's important that the SBHE understands the direction and mission of all campuses.

b. [Policy 409 Degrees Offered](#)

c. [HLC Guidelines](#)

d. [HLC Substantive Change Application](#)

- i. VC. Johnson shared that a reduced credit bachelor's degree is considered a substantive change. The request must follow HLC's timeline which can take a minimum of 8 months for the program to go through the approval process.

6. [NDUS Institutional Accreditation Notification](#) – VC. Lisa Johnson

- a. VC. Johnson shared there are 3 campuses that will be having an upcoming HLC visit. The NDUS typically will send a board member who might be in the region to a campus for the visits if HLC were to have any questions about SBHE governance.

7. Legislative Update

- a. Chair Biller requested that VC. Johnson provided any updates or highlights from the legislative session thus far.
  - i. VC. Johnson shared that HB 1064 related to out-of-state authorization is still at the House Education Committee. Walden University was in attendance for the bill introduction and testified to the committee that the requirement to join a compact or the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement was problematic.
  - ii. VC. Johnson shared there is a bill related to faculty paid time off for faculty on 12-month contracts. The House Education Committee is drafting language to make this a study.
  - iii. HB 1161 related to the return of funds to OMB for unfilled FTEs passed out of the House Education Committee. Member Black stated that it was shared at the SBHE Budget and Finance Committee meeting that the bill was pulled from the House floor schedule and will be referred back to the House Education Committee.
  - iv. HB 1220 related to accelerated degrees in high demand occupations includes language that says the degrees would be devoid of any general education requirements. The NDUS testified in opposition citing campuses were already working on reduced credit degrees and that eliminating all

general education courses could run afoul of HLC accreditation requirements and many state licensure requirements.

- v. HB 1221 related to the Workforce Innovation Fund was passed out of the House Education Committee.
- vi. HB 1937 prohibits tenure at two-year colleges for new hires after July 1, 2026.
- vii. HCR 3002 related to sports betting which the committee passed a Do Not Recommend. Similarly, the House floor received a do not pass.
- viii. SB 2330 would require a two-hour course or education awareness around human trafficking and exploitation.

### **Adjourn**

Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m. CT.

Approved February 18, 2025.