

## **North Dakota State Board of Higher Education** Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met via Teams on January 23, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. CT.

### SBHE Research and Governance Committee members

- Dr. Casey Ryan, Co-Chair
- Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair
- Mr. DJ Campbell
- Mr. Max Eriksrud
- Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor

### Institution Presidents/Representatives

**BSC** Interim President Sanford, **DCB** Dean Carmen Simone, **MaSU** Dr. Brian Huschle, **MiSU** President Shirley, **NDSU** Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Mr. Marc Wallman, **UND** Dr. Scott Snyder, **VCSU** President LaFave, Dr. David DeMuth, **WSC** President Hirning

### System Office/CTS/Guests

**NDUS** Chancellor Hagerott, VC. Jerry Rostad, VC. Tom Danford, VC. David Krebsbach, VC. Lisa Johnson, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Dr. Jen Weber, Mr. Chris Pieske, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Bethany Kadrmaz, Ms. Caitlin Magilke, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Ms. Mindy Sturn, **CTS** Mr. Corey Quirk, Mr. Dirk Huggett, **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson, **Guests** Mr. Delore Zimmerman, Praxis Strategy Group

### **Call to Order**

Co-Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. CT.

1. Agenda
  - a. Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.  
Approved by consensus.
2. Meeting Minutes
  - a. Co-Chair Ryan made a correction to section 3, d related to the discussion of funding of EDRF.
  - b. Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the November 13, 2024, [meeting minutes](#), as amended.  
Approved by consensus.

### **Research items**

1. Report on EDRF Testimony to Senate Appropriations Committee E&E Division – Dr. Fitzgerald and Dr. Snyder
  - a. Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald shared that, in addition to President Shirley, herself and Dr. Snyder, there were 4 NDUS EDRF Principal Investigators – two from NDSU, one from UND, and one from MiSU, at the January 21, 2025, EDRF testimony, as well as two external advisory committee members – Dr. Kathryn Urich and Mr. Paul

- Steffes – and one internal advisory committee member – Mr. Kelvin Hulett from the Bank of North Dakota
- b. Dr. Scott Snyder shared a link to the [testimony video](#). Dr. Snyder shared that the system has requested \$25 million for the EDRF for the next biennium.
  - c. Dr. David DeMuth shared that President Shirley well represented the undergraduate research interests of the nine NDUS Primarily Undergraduate Institutions.
  - d. Mr. Delore Zimmerman shared that he believes the \$25 million is a reasonable next step; however, he also thought it was good that the external advisory committee members stated that it should be scaled up to \$250 million to have a lasting impact.
    - i. Co-Chair Bye asked if there have been any concerns from legislators. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that her conversations have been positive, and it seemed like during the hearing the legislators wanted to relate problems they see on a day-to-day basis with the various research projects.
    - ii. Co-Chair Ryan asked if there were any discussions related to the longevity to funding making it longer than two years. Dr. Snyder stated that the initial idea was to have funding coming out of the Legacy Fund and instead it came out of general appropriation. Furthermore, Dr. Snyder and Dr. Fitzgerald discussed the challenges of an 18-month timeline in regard to research projects and getting them to market.
    - iii. Co-Chair Ryan asked if Dr. Snyder, Dr. Fitzgerald, and Dr. DeMuth have provided the SBHE with the year-one summary. Dr. Snyder stated that UND's publicity team has put together a one-page report which he will send to Co-Chair Ryan.
    - iv. Co-Chair Ryan asked if there is a date scheduled during the session for a Research Legislative Showcase. Dr. DeMuth stated that there is a date scheduled, and he and Dr. Fitzgerald have been discussing shifting the focus of this event to EDRF projects.

### **Governance Discussion/Updates/Reports**

1. Follow-up Items for Institutions on [Post-Tenure Report](#) – VC. Lisa Johnson
  - a. VC. Johnson shared that she has reminded the Academic Affairs Council members that campuses must be prepared to report out actions they have taken to implement the SBHE Post Tenure Ad Hoc Committee report recommendations in their institutional policies and procedures by March 15, 2025. Additionally, the system office will be sending out a template to institutions to capture these changes so that the information can be easily shared with Governance committee members.
2. Update: Policy 604.1 Performance Evaluations: Presidents – Co-Chair Bye
  - a. Ms. Meredith Larson shared that as a state employer, employee personnel files are subject to open records. Employee evaluations should have clear expectations and if there are performance concerns, those should also be clearly outlined in performance evaluations.
  - b. Member Campbell stated that not every area of opportunity or challenge is worthy of corrective action on a performance evaluation. Furthermore, an employee performance evaluation should be a collection of interactions a leader has had with their direct reports over the course of a year.
  - c. Co-Chair Bye asked if there is a president that is not taking performance improvement coaching should a board member may be brought in to provide

more accountability. Chancellor Hagerott suggested adding this discussion strategic governance list for the SBHE Retreat. Member Campbell suggests, unless an employee reports directly to the SBHE, that board members not be included in those sensitive discussions.

3. [CTS Annual Report](#) – VC. Thomas Danford
  - a. VC. Danford shared the top five projects for the 2023-2024 reporting period.
    - i. The ERP Modernization Study identified what's new in the market, as well as identified a number of risk factors that the system has with the current software.
    - ii. There have been continuous improvements to CTS ServiceOne. CTS has adopted ITIL (Information Technology Infrastructure Library) which is used to identify best practices and better ways of improving services to the system.
    - iii. The North Dakota State Aid Management systems has been updated so that all 11 institutions, including students, can now go to one single location to access financial aid resources, such as applying for aid.
    - iv. The FAFSA recently was updated by the Department of Education and CTS has been working with the institutions to put together a streamlined process for students.
    - v. The Security Operation Center which is responsible for providing security to the 11 institutions caught a number of security risks over the year.
4. [Strategic Goal #1: Financials](#) – VC. Jerry Rostad
  - a. VC. Rostad shared the objectives of Goal 1
    - i. Object 1.1: Ensure the price to attend NDUS institutions is clearly stated and regionally competitive. Outcome 1.1 will be changed from: Annual tuition & fees at or below regional average to 1.1a: Annual tuition & fees competitive with regional and border state averages.
5. Strategic Goal #5: Research – Update from November/December RGC Meeting – Co-Chair Ryan
  - a. There are three objectives within Strategic Goal #5:
    - i. IR development and expenditures,
    - ii. External research dollars per FTE of tenure track and non-faculty Ph.D., and
    - iii. R&D expenditures and improving the research reputation.
  - b. Objectives 2 and 3 are okay but objective 1 will need some work.
6. Strategic Goal #2: Responsive: Provide Access to new programs people want, where and when they need them – VC. Jerry Rostad
  - a. Objective 1 has three outcomes; Objective 2 has two outcomes; Objective 3 has one outcome. These outcomes will be thoroughly reviewed.
7. SBHE and System Governance Study – Co-Chair Ryan
  - a. Committee members expressed the importance of this study and the time that it will take to work through.
  - b. Member Biller stated that he has had discussions with Governor Armstrong, that there is an expectation for continued innovation and efficiency moving forward and that he has discussed his concept with the Governor, among others.
  - c. Co-Chair Bye asked Co-Chair Ryan how this study and the work of the RFP Ad-Hoc Committee could be combined, and do they conflict with each other or are they synergistic? Co-Chair Ryan stated that the RFP Committee is discussing the proposed scope of the study, which Co-Chair Ryan believes is too broad, given Chair Mihalick's tasking to the RFP Ad Hoc Committee

- d. Member Biller recommends adding his concept to the SBHE meeting agenda for January 30, 2025.
  - i. Co-Chair Ryan moved, Eriksrud seconded, to add Member Biller's concept to the January 30, 2025, SBHE agenda setting up a timetable for the study being worked on by the RFP Ad Hoc Committee.
  - ii. Co-Chair Bye asked if the SBHE put forth that they are going to study this, would it oppose Senator Myrdal's bill. Co-Chair Ryan stated that he believes the bill is different.
  - iii. Co-Chair Bye stated that she does not feel comfortable in presenting this to the full board on January 30, 2025, and instead suggests coming back to the committee and involving Mr. Chris Pieske and Ms. Meredith Larson in the discussions.
  - iv. Co-Chair Ryan and Member Eriksrud withdrew their motion and second. The Governance Committee will discuss Member Biller's concept at a future meeting.

### **Adjourn**

Committee Co-Chair Bye adjourned the meeting at 4:37 CT.

### **Quick Links**

[RGC Annual Calendar](#)

Approved February 18, 2025.