

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 February 18, 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 Brent Sanford, Dr. John Carroll, **DCB** Dean Carmen Simone, **LRSC** President Doug Darling, **MaSU** Dr. Brian Huschle, **MISU** President Steve Shirley, **NDSCS** President Rod Flanigan, **NDSU** President David Cook, Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Mr. Jace Beehler, Mr. Marc Wallman, **UND** President Andy Armacost, Dr. Scott Snyder, Dr. Ryan Adams, **WSC** President Bernell Hirning

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS Chancellor Mark Hagerott, VC. Jerry Rostad, VC. Lisa Johnson, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Dr. Jen Weber, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Dina Cashman, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Caitlin Magilke, **CTS** VC. Tom Danford, **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson

Call to Order

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

1. Agenda
 - a. Committee Co-chair Ryan requested to add item #5 - Update on Presentations at the Capitol if Dr. David DeMuth is available.
 - b. Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the agenda, as amended. Bye, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Ryan voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.
2. [Meeting Minutes](#)
 - a. Bye moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the January 23, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented. Bye, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Ryan voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

Research items

3. Strategic Goal #5: Research
 - a. Objective 5.1 Track Research Growth
 - i. Outcome 5.1a Increase Total Research Expenditures (sourced from NSF HERD Survey)
 - ii. Outcome 5.1b Increase Total number and amount of awards

- b. Objective 5.2 Improve Partnering Capacity
 - i. Outcome 5.2a Increase state research expenditures as compared to overall total research expenditures
 - ii. Outcome 5.2b Increase industry sponsored (business) research expenditures as compared to overall total research expenditures
- c. Objective 5.3 Improve pathways for economic development and innovation
 - i. Outcome 5.3a Increase Ph.D. Conferrals in NSF-funded fields
 - ii. Outcome 5.3b Increase federal research expenditures as compared to overall total research expenditures
- d. Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald shared that earlier in the semester a set of revised research metrics were put together given that some existing metrics had already been reached. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that these new metrics were appropriate for updating the SBHE strategic plan.
- e. Dr. Scott Snyder stated the reason for the suggested changes is because the old metrics were more for Carnegie classification, and they were difficult to understand.
- f. VC Jerry Rostad shared that the existing strategic plan was approved in 2021 by the SBHE. The governance subcommittee is methodically going through the six goals, and Strategic Goal #5 hasn't been reviewed or updated since 2023, so these new metrics are timely.
- g. Co-chair Bye asked if the objectives are reasonable from a tracking and reporting perspective. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that the metrics are made for efficiency and are what is used in reporting to the National Science Foundation's HERD data.

~~4. Update on Presentations at Capitol~~

Governance Items

- 5. # [Policy 1205.1](#) State Longitudinal Data System
 - a. Mr. Chris Pieske shared that Policy 1205.1 is up for regular periodic review with no substantive changes.
 - b. Ryan moved, Campbell seconded, to approve Policy 1205.1 as presented. Campbell, Eriksrud, Ryan, and Bye voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

Governance Discussion/Updates/Reports

- 6. Update on Post Tenure Report: Institution Reporting Process
 - i. VC Lisa Johnson stated that the findings and recommendations of the post-tenure report were transferred into a survey that was sent out to all institutions. Institutions have until March 3rd to return their survey results which will be shared with the Governance Committee during the March meeting. Co-chair Ryan asked if the survey results will be shared at the March Governance meeting. VC Johnson confirmed this.
 - ii. President Armacost asked if there are any updates on where the NDUS stands on legislative action regarding post tenure review. VC Johnson stated that HB 1437 was originally a tenure bill that would prohibit tenure at community colleges after 2026 for new hires. The bill sponsor was open to suggestions and has been working privately with individuals in order to gather feedback. VC Johnson further explained that HB 1437 now mimics a lot of the elements from the Post Tenure Report. Additionally, the original bill language stated that if there was an unsatisfactory outcome from the post tenure review of faculty, that faculty member's tenure could be

removed. However, the SBHE does not have policies that would allow for the removal of tenure. The new bill language would indicate that a faculty member could be removed from their position and that would be done in consultation with the employing institution and the SBHE.

7. Large IT Project Quarterly Report
 - a. VC. Tom Danford shared the Large IT Project Quarterly Report for the period ending December 31, 2024.
 - b. VC. Danford stated that no projects were completed, no projects were in the planning phase, and one project was in the execution phase, the University of North Dakota's migration of a campus network to a managed services provider. The implementation is ahead of schedule and on budget.
8. June Board Retreat – Continue Envision 2035 Strategic Planning
 - a. Chancellor Hagerott shared that during the January RGC meeting, SBHE Member Biller offered some concepts and ideas that could become the 10th Envision study.
 - b. VC Rostad shared that currently there are a lot of moving parts, and a determination needs to be made on what needs to be focused on. Furthermore, VC Rostad shared that SB 2242, which would recommend an interim study on higher education to Legislative Management, has passed the Senate Co-chair Ryan stated that this needs to be discussed at the board retreat and a plan should be laid out.
 - c. Co-chair Bye asked when the board should anticipate the Envision 2035 final report. Chancellor Hagerott stated that the report was completed and shared with board members in December and the idea was to get a meeting with the governor to discuss the report and allow adequate time for his feedback. As of now, the report has been put on hold due to no engagement thus far from the Governor, as well as the potential tenth study pillar to incorporate Member Biller's proposal.
9. 2025 Presidential Evaluation
 - a. [Comprehensive Evaluation Feedback](#)
 - b. [360 Feedback Summary of Information](#)
 - i. VC Rostad shared that there are four comprehensive evaluations coming up: MaSU and VCSU in the spring and NDSCS and NDSU in the fall. Board members are lined up to do listening sessions in March. The traditional annual evaluations for the remaining universities and research institutions will be conducted this spring, and the remaining two-year institutions will have their evaluations in the fall.
10. Policies in Progress
 - a. Policy 308.1 Officer and Employee Code of Conduct
 - b. Policy 401.1 Academic Freedom
 - i. Mr. Pieske shared that Policy 308.1 and Policy 401.1 will be run through the normal review process. Mr. Pieske has taken a first pass at revising the policies with the assistance of legal counsel.
 - ii. Policy 308.1 will go to VC Rostad and Policy 401.1 will go to VC Johnson for their reviews. Each policy will be reviewed by senior staff, the relevant council, and then Policy 308.1 will go to the Research and Governance Committee and Policy 401.1 will go to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Mr. Pieske stated that if Governance Committee members would like Policy 401.1 to run through their committee, he can run it concurrently with the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

Adjourn

Committee Co-Chair Bye adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m. CT.

Approved March 18, 2025.

Quick Links

[RGC Annual Calendar](#)