

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 February 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CT.

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 Interim President Brent Sanford, Dr. Dan Leingang, Dr. Kaylyn Bondy, **DCB** Dean Carmen Simone, Mr. Corey Gorder, **DSU** Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC** President Doug Darling, Mr. Lloyd Halvorson, Mr. Casey Zehrer, **MaSU** Dr. Brian Huschle, Mr. Corday Goddard, **MISU** President Steve Shirley, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS** Dr. Lisa Karch, **NDSU** Dr. David Bertolini, **UND** Dr. Eric Link, Dr. Art Malloy, **VCSU** Mr. Larry Brooks, Mr. Mark Nelson, **WSC** President Bernell Hirning, Dr. Zahi Atallah

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS Chancellor Hagerott, VC. Lisa Johnson, VC. Jerry Rostad, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Katie Fitzimmons, Mr. Chris Pieske, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Bethany Kadrmaz, Ms. Caitlin Magilke, Ms. Sharon Schwartzbauer, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Jamie Wilke, **CTS** VC. Tom Danford, **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. The agenda is unanimously approved as presented.

2. [Meeting Minutes](#)
 - a. Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the January 23, 2025, meeting minutes. The meeting minutes are unanimously approved as presented.

Committee Business

3. New Academic Program Request (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
 - a. [Bismarck State College](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate in Industrial Robotics](#)
 - ii. [UG Certificate in Mechanic I](#)
 - iii. [UG Certificate in Mechatronics I](#)
 - iv. [UG Certificate in Mechatronics II](#)
 - v. [UG Certificate in Operator I](#)

- vi. [UG Certificate in Petroleum Production Advanced Operator](#)
- vii. [UG Certificate in Petroleum Production Operator II](#)
- viii. [UG Certificate in Power Process Advanced Operator](#)
- ix. [UG Certificate in Power Process Operator II](#)
- x. [UG Certificate in Psychology](#)
 - 1. Dr. Dan Leingang shared that the UG Certificate in Psychology is a clustering of psychology coursework and BSC is starting to see more focus around prepping students towards completion for transfer programs.
- xi. [A.A.S. in Power Process Technology](#)
 - 1. Dr. Leingang stated that the A.A.S. in Power Process Technology is a combination of two existing associate degrees that BSC is looking to combine into one. Furthermore, Dr. Leingang shared that a number of the UG certificates are stackable and can support multiple associate degree combinations. These stackable certificates will create clearer pathways for students and will provide multiple start and stop points for individuals as they move into industry, energy, and manufacturing sectors.
 - 2. Member Campbell asked if the certificates outside of the UG Certificate in Psychology are offered at any other NDUS institutions. Dr. Leingang stated that the collection of courses within the certificates is somewhat unique but there are some courses such as mechatronics and robotics that are offered at other institutions. Overall, there is a uniqueness in the way that the course work is combined for each certificate.
 - 3. Member Eriksrud asked whether the impetus behind these offerings is coming from students or from industry. Dr. Leingang stated that it's a combination of both. The reality for BSC students is that they complete one or two semesters and are employable right away. When these students are in the workforce they must think differently around their enrollment and that is one reason why these programs are shifting to online courses.
 - 4. Committee Chair Biller requested Dr. Leingang to further expand on the transfer options for the UG Certificate in Psychology and asked if the coursework is new for BSC. Dr. Leingang stated that the program consists of existing coursework that BSC already offers within their transfer curriculum. Furthermore, Dr. Leingang stated that the certificate provides students with the option to work in different fields such as social psychology or behavioral psychology. Although the certificate would not allow for students to work as a practicing psychologist, they would have the option to pursue higher 300 and 400 level coursework.
 - a. Eriksrud moved, Black seconded, to approve BSC's new academic program requests, items a, i-xi. Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

b. [Mayville State University](#)

- i. [UG Certificate in Leadership](#)
- ii. [UG Certificate in Management](#)
- iii. [UG Certificate in Marketing](#)

1. Dr. Brian Huschle shared that each of the certificates align within MaSU's Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration and the intent is to help students gain a certificate in an area that will complement their major. Additionally, MaSU has worked with their Advisory Board which believes there will be demand in these areas for incumbent workers who are looking to advance. These programs will be offered online and on campus.
 2. The UG Certificate in Leadership contains new coursework while the UG Certificate in Management and the UG Certificate in Marketing contain existing coursework.
 - a. Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve MaSU's new academic program requests, items b, i-iii. Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.
- c. [Minot State University](#)
- i. [Minor in Applied Artificial Intelligence](#)
 - ii. [UG Certificate in Applied Artificial Intelligence](#)
 1. Dr. Laurie Geller shared that the Minor in Applied Artificial Intelligence and the UG Certificate in Applied Artificial Intelligence are aimed at promoting or providing knowledge and skills in applied artificial intelligence. The minor contains three AI courses that are part of the UG certificate.
 - iii. [UG Certificate in Communication Sciences and Disorders Support](#)
 1. Dr. Geller shared the UG Certificate in Communication Sciences and Disorders Support is a packaging of existing courses for those in other fields that are interested or would like additional knowledge of speech language pathology.
 - iv. [A.A. in University Studies](#)
 1. Dr. Geller shared the A.A. in University Studies is intended to catch students who may want to transfer or who may attend MiSU but decide a four-year degree is not for them. MiSU has lost students in the past who have stopped out in their second year.
 - v. [B.S. in Biomedical Sciences](#)
 1. Dr. Geller shared the B.S. in Biomedical Sciences is an amalgamation of courses that help prepare students for graduate and professional schools in healthcare fields.
 2. There are three different tracks that students can choose from: primary healthcare, allied health, and research professional.
 - vi. [B.S. in Environmental Science](#)
 1. Dr. Geller shared that the B.S. in Environmental Science is a packaging of existing courses that will help better fit students' career goals.
 2. There are three different tracks that students can choose from: conservation (biology focus), earth systems science (geoscience focus), and environmental health (chemistry focus).
 - a. Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve MiSU's new academic program requests, items c, i-vi). Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.
- d. [North Dakota State College of Science](#)

- i. [UG Certificate in Commercial Construction](#)
 - 1. Dr. Lisa Karch shared the UG Certificate in Commercial Construction is made up of existing courses.
 - 2. Dr. Karch stated that NDSCS's advisory boards wanted to package together courses that take advantage of existing skill sets in their employees in which some of the course work would be on the job site and some would be didactic.
 - ii. [UG Certificate in Firefighter I](#)
 - iii. [UG Certificate in Firefighter II](#)
 - 1. Dr. Karch shared the UG Certificate in Firefighter I and the UG Certificate in Firefighter II is taking NDSCS's Fire Science program and breaking it out into two stackable certificates.
 - 2. Chair Biller asked how the Fire Science program is going and how many students are enrolled. Dr. Karch stated that Clint Gilbertson, program coordinator, has been traveling across the state to build relationships with fire chiefs. Furthermore, Dr. Karch shared that many of the students are getting credit for prior learning they can apply towards the full degree. Dr. Karch stated that the Fire Science program does not have a specific start and end date, and students are enrolled throughout the entire year. The program has a total of eight graduates.
 - 3. Member Eriksrud asked if these certificates would go towards someone who is looking to be a volunteer firefighter in a smaller community. Dr. Karch provided an example from the volunteer fire department in Horace, ND which is looking to hire full time firefighters. Candidates interested in those positions may need additional training so the program coordinator, Clint Gilbertson, will review the training these students have received and will fill in the gaps they need to complete the certificate.
 - a. Campbell moved, Black seconded, to approve NDSCS's new program requests, items d, i-iii.
Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.
- e. [University of North Dakota](#)
- i. [M.A. in Human-Technology Interaction](#)
 - 1. Dr. Eric Link shared that this interdisciplinary master's degree, which will be housed within the Department of Philosophy, will focus on how humans interact with technology and the ethical dimensions of those interactions.
 - a. Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve UND's new academic program request.
Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.
- f. [Valley City State University](#)
- i. [GR Certificate in Biology](#)
 - 1. Mr. Larry Brooks shared that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requires faculty who teach general education courses to either have a master's degree or higher in the discipline, or to have a master's degree outside of their discipline with an additional 18 credits in the discipline. Currently, VCSU offers 18 credits in biology

at the graduate level, which this GR certificate bundles together. Additionally, Mr. Brooks shared that the primary audience for this certificate would be high school faculty members who want to teach dual credit biology courses.

2. Member Eriksrud asked if this program would be an online offering. Mr. Brooks stated that it would be offered completely online.
 - a. Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve VCSU's new academic program request.
Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

SBHE Policy

4. [Policy 506](#) Immunizations

- a. Mr. Chris Pieske shared that the proposed changes came from UND's and NDSU's student health staff. The proposed edits would ensure that international students who come from countries that have different tuberculosis vaccine protocols meet our standards. The changes include an update to the policy name and a clarifying edit in the text would state that TB screening would only occur for students that are coming from a country that is classified by the World Health Organization as a high-burden country.
 - i. Black moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve Policy 506 as presented.
Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

5. [Policy 409](#) Degrees Offered

- a. VC. Lisa Johnson shared that the SBHE had approved NDSCS to offer a B.A.S. in Dental Hygiene; however, there is a separate policy that lists which degrees all the institutions are authorized to offer.
- b. The proposed edit to Policy 409 would include NDSCS in section f, i, as being authorized to offer B.A.S. degrees.
- c. Member Campbell asked if the B.A.S. in Dental Hygiene is the only B.A.S. degree that NDSCS is currently offering. Dr. Karch stated that currently the B.A.S. in Dental Hygiene is the only B.A.S. that NDSCS is offering; however, they are considering offering a B.A.S. in Fire Science, which is the only program of its kind in the state.
 - i. Black moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve Policy 409 as presented.
Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m. CT.

Approved March 18, 2025.