

## Dickinson State University Presidential Search Committee

The Dickinson State University Presidential Search Committee met on February 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CT.

### Call to Order

Co-Chair Bye called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. CT.

### DSU Presidential Search Committee members

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Dallis Mitchell                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Ty Orton, Co-Chair   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Thadd O'Donnell                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Carl Askins          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Steve Perdue                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Liz Freedman         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. McKenzie Springer                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Holly Gruhlke        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Mark Gorenflo ( <i>ex officio</i> )   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Bernell Hirning      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chancellor Hagerott ( <i>ex officio</i> ) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Vaune Johnson        |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Chris Meek           |   |

### NDUS/Search Consultants/Guests

**NDUS** Ms. Caitlin Magilke **AGB** Dr. Jim McCormick, Ms. Janice Fitzgerald **Assistant Attorney General** Ms. Meredith Larson

### Approval of Agenda

1. Perdue moved, Gruhlke seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Approved by consensus.

### Approval of December 3, 2024, [Meeting Minutes](#)

2. Hirning moved, O'Donnell seconded, to approve the December 3, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Approved by consensus.

### Executive Session (10:14 a.m. CT.)

Gorenflo moved, Gruhlke seconded, to enter Executive Session to consider and select semi-finalists for the Dickinson State University presidency. The executive session shall be limited to members of the committee, invited NDUS office staff, AGB Search consultants, and NDUS legal counsel. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code sections 15-10-17(1)(d), 44-04-18.27, and 44-04-19.2.

Present:

Dickinson State University Presidential Search Committee

- Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair
- Mr. Ty Orton, Co-Chair
- Mr. Carl Askins
- Dr. Liz Freedman

- ☒ Dr. Holly Gruhlke
- ☒ Dr. Bernell Hirning
- ☒ Ms. Vaune Johnson
- ☒ Mr. Chris Meek
- ☒ Mr. Thadd O'Donnell
- ☒ Mr. Steve Perdue
- ☒ Ms. McKenzie Springer
- ☒ Mr. Mark Gorenflo (*ex officio*)
- ☒ Chancellor Hagerott (*ex officio*)

#### System Office/Guests

Ms. Caitlin Magilke, Assistant Attorney General - Ms. Meredith Larson

The Executive Session adjourned, and the open meeting reconvened at 11:10 a.m. CT.

Hirning moved, Gruhlke seconded, for the DSU Presidential Search Committee to interview the semifinalist candidates during the week of March 3, 2025.

Askins, Freedman, Gruhlke, Hirning, Johnson, Meek, O'Donnell, Perdue, Springer, Gorenflo, Orton and Bye voted yes. Motion passed 12-0.

#### **Review Updated Search Timeline**

3. Mr. Mark Gorenflo reviewed the updated search timeline with committee members.
  - a. Mr. Gorenflo shared the next task on the timeline will be for the search consultants to contact the semifinalists and begin background and reference checks.
  - b. The semifinalist interviews will be scheduled during the week of March 3, 2025. Additionally, the search committee will conduct their third meeting on March 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CT to review interview evaluations and to determine the finalists.
  - c. During the week of March 17-21, finalist candidates will visit Dickinson State University in person and will have the opportunity to meet with various constituencies.
  - d. The final meeting of the search committee will occur on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> in which committee members will review feedback from the campus visits.
  - e. Finalist candidates will then come back to Dickinson on March 27<sup>th</sup> to attend the SBHE meeting at which they will be interviewed by the State Board of Higher Education, which will then determine the candidate to offer the presidency position.
  - f. Co-chair Bye asked what a typical campus visit looks like for the candidates. Ms. Janice Fitzgerald shared that typically the visit begins with the candidate's arrival with an evening meal with the search committee. The next day would include meetings with the President's Cabinet, student leadership, etc., followed by an open forum for the entire Dickinson community and a campus tour.

#### **Committee Questions**

4. Dr. Bernell Hirning asked if the search committee has determined which days during the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup> that interviews will be conducted. Committee members discussed their availability. It was determined that the System Office will send out a Doodle Poll to committee members to gather committee members' availability.

5. Mr. Mark Gorenflo stated that Co-chairs Bye and Orton have approved the interview questions. The questions are linked to the attributes that were identified and advertised in the DSU presidential search. All candidates will be asked the same questions, and each question will be assigned to the same committee member to ask each candidate. Ms. Caitlin Magilke will send the interview questions to all committee members following this meeting.

### **Next Steps**

6. Co-chair Bye shared the next steps will be to send out a scheduling Doodle Poll to committee members to gather their availability for the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Magilke will send the list of interview questions to all committee members for their review prior to the interviews.

### **Adjourn**

Co-Chair Bye adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. CT.

Approved March 7, 2025.