

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

February 21, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education met on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. via Teams.

Chair Mihalick called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. CT.

Roll Call

SBHE Members

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tim Mihalick, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Danita Bye, Vice Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Kevin Black | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Casey Ryan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Jeffrey Volk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Michael Linnell, Staff Advisor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |

Institutions

BSC, Interim President Sanford, Ms. Rebecca Collins, **DCB** Dean Simone, **DSU** Acting President Orton, **LRSC** President Darling, **MaSU** President Van Horn, **MISU** President Shirley, **NDSU** President Cook, Mr. Jace Beehler, **UND** President Armacost, **VCSU** President LaFave, **WSC** President Hirning.

System Office/Guests

NDUS Chancellor Hagerott, VC Lisa Johnson, VC David Krebsbach, Dr. Jen Weber, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Tammy Dolan, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Jane Grinde, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Caitlin Magilke, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Maryann Olson, Ms. Dina Cashman, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, **CTS** VC Tom Danford, Mr. Corey Quirk, **Others** Assistant Attorney General Meredith Larson.

Call to Order

1. Agenda

The meeting proceeded according to the established agenda.

2. Recap of Week's Activity

Ms. Dolan provided a legislative recap, mentioning that most bills are currently in the Appropriations Committee or waiting to be voted upon. She highlighted HB 1161, which would create a vacant FTE pool at OMB, and thanked the board members and staff for their efforts in opposing the bill. Ms. Dolan explained that HB 1161, which initially required campuses to request permission to access funds for vacant FTEs, was amended to allow campuses to spend from a special appropriation line within their budget but requires extensive quarterly reporting on vacant FTEs.

VC Johnson mentioned that SB 2392, which addressed prohibited discriminatory practices, was recommended for a "do not pass" by the bill sponsor due to overlap with a previous bill. The bill is expected to be rejected on the Senate floor.

VC Johnson also discussed HB 1064, which deals with state authorizations of online out-of-state education providers. Amendments proposed by outside entities allow exemptions for certain providers. NDUS plans to oppose these amendments on the Senate side and will seek the board's endorsement, likely at the February 27, 2025, SBHE meeting.

VC Johnson provided an update on HB 1437, which initially aimed to prevent the award of tenure at community colleges after 2026. The amended bill now reflects the board's recommendations and revised tenure policies. NDUS will address concerns about the proposed review committee on the Senate side.

VC Krebsbach reported on SB 2003, the main NDUS appropriations bill, which includes various funding allocations and amendments. The bill is expected to be presented to the full Appropriations Committee and the Senate floor next week.

3. Preview of Next Week's Legislative Hearings

Ms. Dolan reported that all NDUS-tracked bills scheduled for next week are in committee work.

4. Discussion of SBHE Legislative Priorities and Positions

Board members reviewed the SBHE stance on the specific bills that NDUS is tracking.

5. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m. CT.

Approved March 27, 2025.