

### **North Dakota State Board of Higher Education**

March 7, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education met on Friday, March 7, 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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Jeffrey Volk        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Curtis Biller  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Michael Linnell, Staff Advisor | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor (left at 2:26 p.m.) |

#### Institutions

**BSC**, Interim President Sanford, **DCB** Dean Simone, **DSU** Acting President Orton, **LRSC** President Darling, Mr. Lloyd Halvorson, **MaSU** President Van Horn, **MISU** Ms. Krista Lambrecht, **NDSCS** President Flanigan, **NDSU** Mr. Jace Beehler, **UND** President Armacost, **VCSU** President LaFave, **WSC** President Hirning.

#### System Office/Guests

**NDUS** Chancellor Hagerott, VC David Krebsbach, VC Jerry Rostad, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Dr. Jen Weber, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Tammy Dolan, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Bethany Kadrmas, Ms. Caitlin Magilke, Mr. Eric Jensen, **CTS** Mr. Corey Quirk, **Others** Mr. Thomas Claeys.

#### **Call to Order**

##### 1. Recap of Week's Activity

Ms. Dolan provided updates on two significant bills: HB 1179, which received a Do Not Pass recommendation from the Senate Education Committee and is expected to fail on the Senate floor, and SB 2242, which involves a legislative study of the board and institution structure, among other topics. This bill was amended to include a student board member and additional study topics, and it is moving forward for final approval next week.

##### 2. [Forest Service Conservation Tree Initiative](#)

Mr. Claeys presented the Forest Service Conservation Tree Initiative. The initiative focuses on addressing staffing issues at the Towner Nursery due to difficulties in hiring part-time staff. The proposal includes shifting a \$350,000 request for two full-time equivalent positions from general funds to special funds, which are generated through tree sales. This shift would increase the nursery's Special Fund authority from \$1.2 million to \$1.55 million, allowing the nursery to self-fund the positions.

Ryan moved, Volk seconded to approve the request for the funding transfer, as presented.

Eriksrud, Bye, Campbell, Volk, Black, Ryan, and Chair Mihalick voted yes. Biller absent. Motion passed 7-0.

### 3. Preview of Next Week's Legislative Hearings

Ms. Dolan highlighted the bills the NDUS is tracking which are scheduled for a hearing next week. The appropriations hearings on SB 2003 will begin on Monday morning and continue through Friday, covering all institutions. The System Office will present the total budget request on Tuesday, emphasizing support for the Senate's provisions and potential increases in funding for various system wide initiatives, including Challenge Grant, AI initiatives, and Workforce Education Innovation funds. HB 1437, concerning tenure and post-tenure review processes, will be heard on Tuesday morning, with VC Johnson testifying. On Wednesday, HB 1064, related to state authorization processes for online education providers, will be discussed, with the board previously taking a supportive position.

Ryan moved, Black seconded to approve the System Office to advocate for legislation which reflects the recent changes in tenure-related policies passed by the SBHE at its January 30, 2025, meeting.

Biller, Ryan, Bye, Volk, Campbell, Eriksrud, Black, and Chair Mihalick voted yes. Biller absent. Motion passed 7-0.

### 4. Discussion of SBHE Legislative Priorities and Positions

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m. CT.

Approved March 27, 2025.