

## **North Dakota State Board of Higher Education April 15, 2025, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**

The State Board of Higher Education Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on April 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CT., via Teams.

### SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <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, **DCB** Dean Carmen Simone, Mr. Corey Gorder, **DSU** Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC** President Doug Darling, Mr. Lloyd Halvorson, Mr. Casey Zehrer, **MaSU** Mr. Corday Goddard, **MISU** President Steve Shirley, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS** President Rod Flanigan, Dr. Lisa Karch, Ms. Melissa Johnson **NDSU** Dr. David Bertolini, **UND** Dr. Eric Link, **VCSU** Mr. Larry Brooks, Mr. Mark Nelson, **WSC** President Bernell Hirning, Dr. Zahi Atallah, Ms. Megan Kasner

### System Office/CTS/Guests

**NDUS** Chancellor Hagerott, VC. Lisa Johnson, VC. Jerry Rostad, VC. Tom Danford, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Jamie Wilke, **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson

1. Agenda  
Approved by consensus.
2. Meeting Minutes  
Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the March 18, 2025, [meeting minutes](#), as presented.

Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

### **Committee Business**

3. New Academic Program Request (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
  - a. [Bismarck State College](#)
    - i. [A.A.S. in Integrated Behavioral Sciences](#)

Eriksrud moved, Black seconded, to approve BSC's new program request, A.A.S. in Integrated Behavioral Sciences, item 3a(i), as presented.

Eriksrud, Black, Campbell, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

ii. B.A.S. in Behavioral Health

1. VC. Lisa Johnson shared that at the Academic Affairs Council meeting, 9 council members voted in support of the B.A.S. and 3 members abstained. The Chancellor's Cabinet 10 members voted in support of the B.A.S. and 1 abstained.
2. Dr. Dan Leingang shared that the B.A.S. in Behavioral Health will not lead to licensure; however, BSC is seeking partnerships with graduate schools that could eventually lead to licensure.
3. Dr. Leingang shared that BSC and MiSU have been collaborating as MiSU's Social Work degree contains similar coursework although the degrees may go to a different termination point.
4. Member Black asked for further clarification on the opposition that was discussed at the Academic Affairs Council. VC. Johnson stated that there was a question raised about program duplication. Furthermore, VC. Johnson shared that they have explored similar programs, and the following institutions offer a similar type of degree:
  - a. BSC offers a certificate in Eligibility Worker and an A.A.S. in Human Services with 14 students currently enrolled;
  - b. MiSU offers a B.S. in Social Work with 72 students enrolled;
  - c. VCSU offers a B.A. and B.S. in Human Services with 24 students enrolled;
  - d. UND has an array of program offerings in social work, public affairs, public administration, and a certificate in policy analysis. There are roughly 192 students enrolled in those programs overall at UND.
5. Member Black further asked if these programs are at capacity at each institution. VC. Johnson stated that the numbers provided were simply enrollment numbers and didn't specify program capacity.
6. President Shirley shared that he has shared his concerns with Interim President Sanford and Chancellor Hagerott on the philosophical approach to BSC's four-year degree offerings. President Shirley believes that the polytechnic mission at BSC should not include programs such as the B.A.S. in Behavioral Health and instead should focus on technology-based degree offerings.
7. Member Campbell shared that the Workforce Development Council has a list of in-demand occupations, and Behavioral Health is considered in-demand. Furthermore, because this specific degree does not lead to licensure, will this be communicated to prospective students? Dr. Leingang stated that when the program is up and running, those types of disclosures will be shared with incoming students.
8. Member Campbell asked if it has been determined if this particular degree will qualify graduates to move into a master's program. Dr. Leingang stated that when the program is approved, BSC will begin building the curriculum and engaging with possible master's partners.

9. Member Eriksrud asked if the degree is serving students the way that it should, as it does not lead to licensure. Furthermore, Member Eriksrud commented that he recognizes that this program is being offered to address a regional need, but with the lower program numbers in other areas of the state, does this now become less of a regional need? Member Eriksrud agreed with other committee members that exploring the Polytechnic mission at the SBHE retreat could be beneficial. Dr. Leingang stated that BSC strongly believes that this degree is not the same as others offered throughout the state and will meet a regional demand. Furthermore, Dr. Leingang stated that polytechnic institutions may have a broad range of degree offerings that can include education, art, design, graphics, etc., and they can be broader than a purely technology focused portfolio.
10. Dr. Lisa Montplaisir shared that CCF had previously asked former BSC President Doug Jensen if the BSC faculty were qualified per HLC requirements to teach these B.A.S. degrees. Dr. Leingang shared that for this particular degree, the HLC requires faculty to have a master's degree or higher. BSC currently has Ph.D. qualified faculty on site to teach the coursework. Furthermore, BSC will be looking to hire two additional positions.
11. Committee Chair Biller asked what the timing is for the rollout of this program. Dr. Leingang stated that the current steps are to seek approval and then accreditation, with the hopes of mid-fall approval and having either a fall or spring start for the program.
12. Member Black asked what type of industry outreach BSC has conducted for this particular degree. Dr. Leingang stated that entities in Bismarck, such as Heartview, Health and Human Services, and YouthWorks have expressed a need for this degree offering within the community. Committee Chair Biller further asked if BSC would be open to tabling this program request until the SBHE can have a more in-depth discussion on BSC's pathway and its polytechnic mission. Dr. Leingang asked for a rough timeline; Committee Chair Biller stated around 60 days to line up with the SBHE retreat in June. Dr. Leingang stated that BSC could work with that proposed timeline, especially if there were some kind of board action during the summer months.
13. Eriksrud moved, Black seconded, to postpone BSC's new program request for a B.A.S. in Behavioral Health, item 3a(ii); further, the committee and/or the full Board will continue to discuss and consider approval for the program no later than July of 2025.

Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

b. [North Dakota State College of Science](#)

i. [A.A.S. in Collision Engineering Technology](#)

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve NDSCS's New Program Request for the A.A.S. in Collision Engineering Technology, item b(i), as presented.

Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

- c. [University of North Dakota](#)
  - i. [Minor in Marketing](#)
  - ii. [UG Certificate in Esports](#)
  - iii. [UG Certificate in Indigenous Digital Humanities and Cultural Collections Care](#)
  - iv. [GR Certificate in Indigenous Digital Humanities and Cultural Collections Care](#)
  - v. [GR Certificate in Water Resources Engineering](#)

Eriksrud moved, Black seconded, to approve UND's new program requests; a Minor in Marketing, UG Certificate in Esports, UG Certificate in Indigenous Digital Humanities and Cultural Collections Care, GR Certificate in Indigenous Digital Humanities and Cultural Collections Care, and a GR Certificate in Water Resources Engineering, items c(i-v), as presented.

Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

- d. [Valley City State University](#)
  - i. [UG Certificate in American Sign Language](#)
    - 1. Mr. Larry Brooks shared that the UG Certificate in American Sign Language is a 15-credit certificate program in collaboration with LRSC. VCSU will be offering 8 credits, and LRSC will offer the remaining 7 credits. This program is offered online only.
  - ii. [UG Certificate in Game Design and Development](#)
    - 1. Mr. Brooks shared that the UG Certificate in Game Design and Development is a collaboration between VCSU's Computer Science department and the Art Department. Furthermore, VCSU has space on campus carved out for a game design lab.

Campbell moved, Black seconded, to approve VCSU's new program requests; a UG Certificate in American Sign Language and a UG Certificate in Game Design and Development, items d(i-ii), as presented.

Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

- 4. Academic Program Termination (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
  - a. [North Dakota State University](#)
    - i. [Major, B.A. and B.S. in French Education](#)
  - b. [University of North Dakota](#)
    - i. [Major in Honors](#)
    - ii. [Minor in Chinese Studies: Culture & Business](#)
    - iii. [Minor in Chinese Studies/Culture & Business](#)
    - iv. [B.A. in Chinese Studies](#)

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve NDSU's and UND's academic program terminations, items 4e-f(i-iv), as presented.

Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

5. Institution Organization Notice (conclusion at SBHE)

a. [University of North Dakota](#)

i. Center for Engineering Education Research

1. Dr. Eric Link shared that a couple of years ago, UND entertained a proposal from faculty and administrators from the College of Education and the College of Engineering and Mines for a collaborative center that would allow for both research and training for improved engineering education. The vision is to improve students' educational experience within the engineering programs and also to entice more students to become interested in becoming well-educated engineers. Furthermore, Dr. Link stated that UND put a little seed money on the table for proof of concept.
2. Committee Chair Biller asked if UND would be coming back to the SBHE for a budget request related to this center. Dr. Link stated that UND would not be submitting a budget request to the SBHE as funds would be supported through local UND investment. Furthermore, there is the hope that in the long run, this center's activities will be funded by grants.
3. Member Black asked if there is existing physical space for this center or will it be integrated into existing space. Dr. Link stated that there would be no construction of new space for this center.

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to recommend approval of UND's request for institution organization item 5(ai)a, as presented.

Eriksrud, Black, Campbell, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0

6. [Tenure and Faculty Appointments](#)

- a. VC. Johnson stated that each of the candidates has gone through the approval process at their respective institutions, and the recommendations have been endorsed by each respective institution's president.
- b. VC. Johnson shared that the faculty enrollment report details the number of tenure track positions at each institution and how many are on probation or working towards tenure.
- c. Member Black stated he would support the current request because it aligns with current SBHE Tenure Policies, and they meet the current criteria. He noted that the Board will be continuing their discussions regarding tenure at two-year institutions at a future meeting and/or the upcoming Board retreat.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the tenure and faculty appointment requests as presented.

Black, Campbell, Eriksrud, and Biller voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

- d. Dr. Lisa Montplaisir requested committee members to discuss HB 1437. Dr. Montplaisir asked if SB 2003 has an amendment related to HB 1437, will the Governor still have to weigh in and sign or veto, independent of this coming through.

- i. VC. Johnson shared that the Governor's staff have expressed concerns about the lack of an appeal process related to tenure appointments.
- ii. SB 2003 has an amendment that removes the detailed requirements for the composition of a post-tenure review committee.
- iii. It would still require that the faculty be evaluated three years after receiving tenure and every five years thereafter. It also provided a hearing and appeal process that would be adopted by the SBHE.

Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m. CT.

Approved May 20, 2025.