

## **North Dakota State Board of Higher Education May 20, 2025, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**

The State Board of Higher Education Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on May 20, 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 Leingang, Ms. Sonja Koble, **DCB** Dean Simone, Mr. Corey Gorder, **DSU** Dr. Holly Gruhlke, **LRSC** President Darling, Mr. Lloyd Halvorson, Mr. Casey Zehrer, **MaSU** Mr. Corday Goddard, **MiSU** President Shirley, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSCS** President Flanigan, Dr. Lisa Karch, Ms. Melissa Johnson **NDSU** Dr. David Bertolini, **UND** Dr. Eric Link, **VCSU** Mr. Larry Brooks, Mr. Mark Nelson, **WSC** President Hirning, Dr. Zahi Atallah, Ms. Megan Kasner

### System Office/CTS/Guests

**NDUS** Chancellor Sanford, 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

Black moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

#### 2. April 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the April 15, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented.

Campbell, Black, 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. [UG Certificate in CPA Accounting](#)

Eriksrud moved, Black seconded, to approve BSC's new program certificate request, item 3a(i), as presented.

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

- b. [Dickinson State University](#)
  - i. [UG Certificate in Sports Production and Broadcasting](#)

Black moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve DSU's new program certificate request, item 3b(i), as presented.

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

- c. [North Dakota State University](#)
  - i. [Minor in Energy Engineering](#)
  - ii. [UG Certificate in Human Factors in Artificial Intelligence](#)
  - iii. [UG Certificate in Meat Science](#)
  - iv. [Minor, Major, and B.F.A. in Graphic Design](#)
  - v. [GR Certificate in Advanced Physical Education Teaching](#)
  - vi. [GR Certificate in Applied Epidemiology](#)
  - vii. [GR Certificate in Applied Nutrition and Grazing Management](#)
  - viii. [GR Certificate in Critical Skills in Agricultural Sciences](#)
  - ix. [GR Certificate in Crop Production](#)
  - x. [GR Certificate in Crop Protection](#)
  - xi. [GR Certificate in Energy Engineering Buildings](#)
  - xii. [GR Certificate in Energy Engineering Generation](#)
  - xiii. [GR Certificate in Energy Engineering Vehicles](#)
  - xiv. [GR Certificate in Horticulture Management](#)
  - xv. [GR Certificate in Malting and Brewing](#)
  - xvi. [GR Certificate in Milling, Baking, and Pasta Making](#)
  - xvii. [GR Certificate in Plant Pathology](#)
  - xviii. [GR Certificate in Quantitative Genetics](#)
  - xix. [GR Certificate in Rangeland Ecology and Management](#)
  - xx. [GR Certificate in Soil Conservation and Management](#)
  - xxi. [GR Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture and Ecosystem Services](#)
  - xxii. [M.A.G. in Agriculture](#)

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve all NDSU's new program requests, items 3c(i - xxii), as presented.

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

- d. [University of North Dakota](#)
  - i. [UG Certificate in Visual Impairment](#)

Campbell moved, Black seconded, to approve UND's new program certificate request, item d(i), as presented.

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

#### **SBHE Policy:**

- 4. Policy 470, State Authorization

VC Johnson and Ms. Claire Gunwall provided background information on the new policy regarding [state authorization \(SARA\). Policy 470](#). The policy aims to clarify and modernize the regulatory framework for out-of-state educational providers operating in

North Dakota, primarily those offering online programs. Some providers have longstanding concerns about outdated and ambiguous state statutes, and the recently enacted House Bill 1064.

The proposed policy aligns with House Bill 1064 to include clearer definitions and minimum standards for both in-state institutions with a physical presence and out-of-state institutions offering distance education to North Dakota students:

In-State Institutions must meet:

- A minimum 1.5 Financial Composite Index (FCI) score.
- Accreditation and other compliance standards.

Out-of-State Institutions:

- Must be members of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).
- If ineligible for NC-SARA, they may apply for an exemption:
  - They must have an FCI score of 1.5 or higher.
  - They must be participating in federal financial aid programs.

Member Eriksrud asked for clarification on the legality of requirements; board legal counsel, Ms. Meredith Larson, explained that it's function similarly to an insurance policy; it serves as a safeguard, allowing students to transfer, recover tuition, or cover related debts in case of circumstances such as institutional closure and/or financial instability.

The Board has the authority to set application, processing, and other fees separately; however, the proposed new policy doesn't address fees. Ms. Gunwall explained that some states charge additional program fees on top of the baseline application fee; VC Johnson informed the committee that she has created a comparative map of other state's fees but would like additional time to continue collecting data on what other fee schedules include, prior to the board taking action to include fees within policy. The committee agreed to allow additional time and re-visit at a future meeting.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to recommend approval of Policy 470, as presented.

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

### **Reports/Updates/Discussions**

Committee Chair Biller requested an update on a previous agenda topic regarding NDUS institutions offering reduced credit degrees. VC Johnson informed the committee that reduced credit degrees is a topic on the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Academic Affairs Council (AAC) agenda. The council meeting is face-to-face and consists of representatives from all NDUS institutions; the recommendations from AAC will be discussed at the June ASAC meeting.

Committee Chair Biller adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m. CT.

Approved June 17, 2025.