

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met via Teams on May 20, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. CT.

SBHE Research and Governance Committee members

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Casey Ryan, Co-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell | |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC Interim President Leingang, **DCB** Dean Simone, **LRSC** President Darling, **MaSU** Dr. Khwaja Hossain, **NDSU** Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Mr. Jace Beehler **UND** President Armacost, Dr. Scott Snyder, Dr. Robert Newman, Mr. Marc Wallman **VCSU** Dr. David DeMuth, **WSC** President Hirning

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS Interim Chancellor Sanford, VC. Jerry Rostad, VC. Tom Danford, Dr. Jen Weber, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Mr. Chris Pieske, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Caitlin Magilke, Ms. Bethany Kadrmass, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Jamie Wilke **CTS** Mr. Corey Quirk, **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson.

1. Agenda
And,
2. March 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes
Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the agenda and [March 20, 2025](#), meeting minutes, as presented.

Campbell, Eriksrud, Bye, and Ryan voted yes.

Governance Discussion/Updates/Reports

3. Core Technology Updates
 - a. IT Security Briefing
Mr. Corey Quirk and Mr. Brad Miller provided an information technology [security brief](#). They covered metrics, major incidents, threat landscape, and strategic initiatives.
 - b. Large IT Project Quarterly Report
VC Tom Danford provided an update on the [large IT project](#) quarterly report; he noted that the ongoing project at the University of North Dakota has had minor schedule issues, but should finish ahead of schedule and on budget. Future IT projects include addressing the aging PeopleSoft ERP system, which was installed in 2005 and last updated in 2018. There is a possible movement towards ERP cloud alternatives for the PeopleSoft system, which would offer new capabilities for recruiting, registering, and retaining students. He also highlighted the potential use

of artificial intelligence to automate and monitor various operations contributing to student success and organizational efficiency.

c. Legislative Update around the ERP

Mr. Corey Quirk gave a legislative update on the ERP system, discussing the challenges faced in securing funding. He explained that funding, including the initial request for \$10M, was not supported; at one point, there was an allocation of \$3M, but later revoked. There will be an upcoming legislative interim study on ERP systems for the state and higher education institutions; the study will analyze the cost benefits of continuing with one ERP system and the potential need for modernization. He explained the need for ERP modernization, including the transition to cloud-based systems and the reduction of customizations in the current PeopleSoft system.

4. Revised Calculation of Tenure Faculty

VC Johnson explained the [revised calculation of tenure percentages](#), addressing the inclusion of non-ranked faculty and the impact on reported tenure percentages. The committee discussed how the calculation of tenure percentages can vary depending on the factors used, such as, inclusion of non-ranked faculty and temporary non-benefited faculty. VC Johnson will continue to work with the campuses to provide periodic reports to the committee; she noted that the institutions are aware of the October 31, 2025, deadline set by the SBHE and will work toward that goal. This will also support a follow-on statutory report date of June 2026.

5. New Board Member Orientation Update

Ms. Kristie Hetzler provided an update on the new board member Orientation. She requested feedback on materials and strategies for the upcoming orientation; Members Campbell and Montplaisir offered to assist in the process and others were asked to email Ms. Hetzler if they have additional recommendations. A draft orientation manual will be reviewed at the committee's June meeting.

Policy

6. Policy 1203.1, Digital Accessibility

Mr. Chris Pieske presented the proposed amendments to Policy 1203.1, explaining the changes are needed to comply with new federal regulations.

Ryan moved, Eriksrud seconded, to recommend approval of [Policy 1203.1](#), as presented.

Campbell, Eriksrud, Bye, and Ryan voted yes.

Committee Co-Chair Bye adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m. CDT.

Approved June 17, 2025.