

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education June 17, 2025, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on June 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. CT, via Teams.

SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee members

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| <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** Dr. Brian Huschle, **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. Jamie Wilke, **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson.

1. Agenda

Member Campbell requested that the committee add the new program approval that was postponed from a previous meeting; BSC's request for a behavioral health degree. The Chair and other committee members agreed to the agenda change.

Campbell moved, Black seconded, to approve the amended agenda.

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

2. Meeting Minutes

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to approve May 20, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented.

Approved by consensus.

3. New Academic Program Request (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)

a. [Bismarck State College](#)

- i. [UG Certificate in Education Foundation Early Childhood & Elementary](#)
- ii. [UG Certificate in Education Foundations Secondary](#)
- iii. [A.A.S. in Radiological Technology](#)
- iv. [A.A.S. in Strategic Communication](#)
- v. [B.A.S. in Foundations of Teaching](#)
- vi. [B.A.S. in Integrated Marketing and Communication](#)

- b. [Lake Region State College](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate in Surgical Technology](#)
- c. [North Dakota State University](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate in Energy Engineering Buildings](#)
 - ii. [UG Certificate in Energy Engineering Generation](#)
 - iii. [UG Certificate in Energy Engineering Vehicles](#)
 - iv. [UG Certificate and GR Certificate in Foundations of Mental Health Care](#)
 - v. [GR Certificate in Building Software Projects](#)
 - vi. [GR Certificate in Food Safety](#)
 - vii. [GR Certificate in Fundamentals of Software Engineering](#)
 - viii. [GR Certificate in Management of Software Engineering Projects](#)
 - ix. [GR Certificate in One Health](#)
 - x. [GR Certificate in Public Policy Evaluation](#)
- d. [Valley City State University](#)
 - i. [Minor in Addiction Studies](#)

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve all new program requests, items 3 a – d, as presented.

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

- 4. Academic Program Termination (conclusion at SBHE ASAC)
 - a. [Bismarck State College](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate in Dental Career Exploration](#)
 - b. [Dakota College at Bottineau](#)
 - i. [UG Certificate and A.A.S. in Industrial Hemp Production](#)
 - c. [Dickinson State University](#)
 - i. [B.S.Ed. in Technology Education](#)

Eriksrud moved, Black seconded, to approve BSC, DCB, and DSU's requests to terminate programs, items 4 a – c, as presented.

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

Added agenda item - BSC's BAS in Health Administration:

Bismarck State College has developed a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Health Administration, a non-licensure degree program designed to address critical gaps in the healthcare and human services sectors. This program was conceptualized and advanced in alignment with the State Board of Higher Education's 2018 directive to expand applied baccalaureate offerings. The BAS in Health Administration is tailored for individuals currently in the workforce who may hold an associate degree, some college credit, or no degree at all. It provides a stackable credential pathway, enabling career advancement without requiring licensure. The program is particularly relevant for community-based organizations and service providers seeking to upskill their workforce in administrative and leadership roles within non-clinical healthcare settings. There is faculty support for the program from PhD-level instructors, associate-level social work program faculty and regional adjunct instructors.

While the program itself does not lead to licensure, collaborative discussions have been initiated with institutions such as Minot State University to explore graduate-level pathways for students who may wish to pursue licensure in the future. These partnerships may include shared coursework and articulation agreements to ensure a seamless transition to master's-level programs.

The BAS in Health Administration is currently undergoing approval processes with the Higher Learning Commission and, where applicable, external accreditors. It represents a strategic

investment in workforce development and educational access for North Dakota's healthcare support infrastructure.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve BSC's request for a new program, BAS in Health Administration request, as presented.

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

4. Policy 510 Rights of Students Called to Active Military Service

VC Johnson reviewed the proposed amendments to [Policy 510](#), regarding veteran's educational benefits that were made to ensure stronger alignment with federal regulations concerning student refunds, particularly for those receiving educational benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The amended policy mandates that full refunds must be issued for any tuition and fees covered by VA funding; any fees not covered by the VA, institutions may apply a pro-rated refund structure. This change corrects a previous gap in institutional policy and has been reviewed and finalized under the guidance of Compliance Officer, Mr. Chris Peske.

Eriksrud moved, Campbell seconded, to recommend approval of Policy 510, as presented.

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

5. Policy 470 [State Authorization](#)

a. [Letter](#) from Adtalem Global Education

b. State Authorization Fees

VC Johnson reviewed proposed amendments to Policy 470, regarding state authorization(s):

The amendments implement components within Senate Bill 1064, including definitions and guidelines for state authorization, ensuring compliance with federal regulations. The proposed changes to Policy 470 address eligibility and compliance requirements for institutions seeking to operate in North Dakota under the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) framework. The policy revisions were prompted by a request from Adtalem, an online education provider, and reviewed by NDUS in collaboration with NDUS legal counsel and compliance. She provided clarification on the composite score factor and raised concerns that relying solely on a composite score could inadvertently overlook other critical disqualifying factors when reviewing applications. She also noted the policy now incorporates the NC-SARA definition of "adverse action", which includes sanctions, warnings, or regulatory actions issued by accrediting bodies, the U.S. Department of Education, licensing boards, or findings of consumer protection violations. This ensures a more comprehensive evaluation of institutional eligibility.

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

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

After the policy discussion, the committee discussed fees schedules; VC Johnson explained that NDUS would like to align with national standards to ensure equitable participation among institutions operating in North Dakota under NC-SARA. The committee members were presented with three options for committee consideration and/or the Board could set a fee of their choice:

Option 1 - Flat Annual Fee and maintain the current flat fee of \$250 annually for each participating institution:

- Pros: Simple, predictable, and easy to administer.
- Cons: Does not account for institutional size or enrollment, potentially undercharging larger institutions and overcharging smaller ones.

Option 2 - Tiered Fee Based on Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment, adopt a tiered fee model similar to NC-SARA's national structure, using FTE enrollment data reported to IPEDS:

- Pros: Scales fees based on institutional size, promoting fairness and consistency with NC-SARA practices.
- Cons: Requires regular updates and monitoring of enrollment data; NC-SARA reviews these tiers biennially.
 - Example: An institution with 2,500 FTE students would pay \$4,400 annually.

Option 3 - Median-Based Flat Fee Modeled on Other States

Set a flat fee between \$5,000 and \$7,000, based on a national review of what other states charge non-NC-SARA members.

- Pros: Aligns with national medians; simplifies budgeting for institutions.
- Cons: May require periodic benchmarking and policy updates to remain competitive and fair.

Examples:

- Nebraska: \$2,000 base fee + additional charges per degree offered.
- Other states: Tiered or program-specific fees based on degree level (associate, bachelor's, master's, etc.).

Each option presents a different balance of simplicity, scalability, and fairness. While Option 1 maintains the status quo, options 2 and 3 offer more nuanced approaches that reflect institutional size or national trends. A final decision will consider administrative feasibility, equity across institutions, and alignment with North Dakota Century Code and NC-SARA guidelines.

Campbell moved, Eriksrud seconded, to adopt the NC Sara fee structure in Option 2, as presented.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m. CT.

Approved July 22, 2025.