

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education June 17, 2025, Audit Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Audit Committee met on June 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. CT., via Teams.

SBHE Audit Committee Members

- ☒ Mr. Jeffry Volk, Chair
- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick
- ☒ Dr. Casey Ryan

Institution Presidents/Representatives

BSC Ms. Sonya Koble, **DSU** Mr. Les Wietstock, **LRSC** Ms. Joann Kitchens, **MaSU** President Van Horn, Ms. Amber Hill, **MiSU** President Shirley, Ms. Krista Lambrecht, **NDSU** Ms. Charlene Glur, Mr. Bruce Bollinger, Ms. Karin Hegstad, Ms. Lisa Ripplinger **UND** President Armacost, Ms. Odella Fuqua, Mr. Tanner Bjerke, **VCSU** Ms. Erica Buchholz, **WSC** President Hirning, Ms. Deborah Halvorson.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS – Interim Chancellor Sanford, VC Lisa Johnson, VC Tom Danford, VC David Krebsbach, Ms. Dina Cashman, Mr. Dustin Walcker, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Robin Putnam, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Jacqueline Miller, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Ms. Jamie Wilke, Mr. Corey Quirk **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson.

Committee Chair Volk called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. CT.

1. Agenda

Ryan moved, Mihalick seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Approved by consensus.

2. May 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Ryan moved, Mihalick seconded, to approve the May 20, 2025, meeting minutes, as presented.

Approved by consensus.

3. Executive session

Mihalick moved, Ryan seconded to enter Executive Session to consider (1) the State Auditor's draft report for Bismarck State College operational audit for fiscal years 2023 and 2024, (2) any response from Bismarck State College to the draft report and associated recommendations. The executive session shall be limited to members of the Committee, Chancellor, Board counsel, representatives of the State Auditor's Office

and invited campus officials. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code, section 44-04-19.2 and 54-10-26.

Executive session began at 9:05 a.m. CT.

Present:

SBHE Audit Committee Members

- ☒ Mr. Jeffry Volk, Chair
- ☒ Mr. Tim Mihalick
- ☒ Dr. Casey Ryan

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS – Interim Chancellor Sanford, VC Tom Danford, VC David Krebsbach, Ms. Dina Cashman, Ms. Kristie Hetzler, **BSC** – Interim President Dr. Dan Leingang, Ms. Sonya Koble, **AG** – Ms. Meredith Larson, **SAO** – Ms. Robyn Hoffman

Open meeting reconvened at 9:15 a.m. CT.

4. NDUS Internal Audit Strategic Plan

Ms. Dina Cashman presented the [NDUS Internal Audit Strategic Plan](#); the three year strategic plan is new to the committee and it aligns with internal audit standards and SBHE objectives. Ms. Cashman noted that the plan had been vetted through all NDUS Councils and the Chancellor's Cabinet; there were no changes since the committee's review at their May meeting.

Ryan moved, Mihalick seconded, to recommend approval of the NDUS Internal Audit Strategic Plan, as presented.

Ryan, Mihalick, and Volk voted yes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

5. NDUS FY26 Audit Plan

Ms. Dina Cashman presented the [NDUS FY26 Audit Plan](#); the plan was developed based on risk assessment, interviews, and feedback surveys, and includes specific engagements for Bismarck State College, Lake Region State College, and Mayville State University. Ms. Cashman highlighted an additional project; it's a system-wide analysis of student credit hours and re-iterated it will be an analysis rather than a consultant-led project.

Mihalick moved, Ryan seconded, to recommend approval of the NDUS FY26 Audit Plan, as presented.

Ryan, Mihalick, and Volk voted yes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

6. Audit Independent Confirmation

Ms. Dina Cashman presented the annual [audit independent confirmation](#); it's in accordance with SBHE Policy and Global Internal Audit Standards. The document serves as the annual confirmation of organizational independence of internal audit activity. Audit standards require the Chief Audit Executive (CAE) to confirm the organizational independence of the internal audit function with the Board on an annual basis. Organizational independence is considered effectively achieved when

the CAE reports functionally to the Board or the Board's Audit Committee; by accepting this document, the Audit Committee acknowledges and affirms the independence of the Internal Audit activity for the year 2025.

Mihalick moved, Ryan seconded, to recommend approval of the independent audit confirmation, as presented.

Ryan, Mihalick, and Volk voted yes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

7. Compliance Independent Confirmation

Mr. Chris Pieske presented the annual [compliance independent confirmation](#), it aligns with the explanation Ms. Cashman just provided; it's an annual verification of the independence of my role as the NDUS Chief Compliance Officer.

Ryan moved, Mihalick seconded, to recommend approval of the compliance independent confirmation, as presented.

Ryan, Mihalick, and Volk voted yes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

8. Compliance Plan and Report

Mr. Chris Pieske presented the [Compliance Plan](#); the report reflects the same content and priorities presented last month, with one key update. Previously, one of the listed priorities was to update internal policy to align with legislation passed during the most recent legislative session. As that work is now nearly complete, it no longer represents a forward-looking priority for the coming year. The new priority will be developing informational materials for the Audit Committee and the Board regarding the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) guidelines for corporate compliance programs. It's intended to provide the Audit Committee and the Board with a strong foundational understanding of compliance expectations and best practices, supporting informed oversight and governance. The materials also outline key factors that can be used to measure and benchmark the NDUS Compliance function.

Ryan moved, Mihalick seconded, to recommend approval of the Compliance Plan, as presented.

Ryan, Mihalick, and Volk voted yes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Discussion Items

9. Report on FY26 approved NDSU and UND Internal Audit Plan

Committee Chair Volk stated that the internal auditors at NDSU and UND will provide their audit plans to the Audit committee after the Institutions President has approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m. CT.

Approved July 22, 2025.