Board Chair Hjelmstad called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. CDT and announced the State Board of Higher Education members are meeting with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) team to review their report regarding Dickinson State University.

Members present:
Dr. Terry Hjelmstad, Chair
Mr. Grant Shaft
Mr. Chris McEwen
Ms. Janice Hoffarth, Staff Adviser

Ms. Kari Reichert
Dr. Kevin Melicher
Dr. Eric Murphy, Faculty Adviser

Interim Chancellor present: Dr. Larry C. Skogen

NDUS senior staff present:
Dr. Sonia Cowen, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Ms. Cynthia Goulet, General Counsel
Ms. Kristie Hetzler, Executive Assistant to the State Board of Higher Education

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) team:
Dr. Roberta C. Teahen, Chair - Associate Provost for Accreditation, Assessment, Compliance, and Evaluation - Ferris State University
Dr. Jim Dworkin - Chancellor at Purdue University North Central
Ms. Jenny Author - Provost and Vice President for Academics at Metropolitan State University
Dr. Sherilyn W. Poole - Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students (Retired) from Governors State University

Dr. Hjelmstad turned the meeting over to HLC Chair, Dr. Teahen.

Dr. Teahen indicated that today’s meeting will be regarding the following topics:
- Board governance of all eleven institutions
- Differences between the two and four year institutions
- Workforce Training needs
- The Roles of Regional Institutions within the Strategic Plan
- Strengths at DSU
- Challenges at DSU
- Retention and Completion
- Transition on Boards
The following is a brief summary of the SBHE responses:

- **Board governance of all eleven institutions**
  The SBHE in North Dakota is a constitutionally mandated Board that govern all eleven institutions with complete authority with the exception of appropriations, which is handled by the legislative assembly. Board members explained they attend conferences held by the Associated Governing Boards (AGB), Association of Community Colleges (ACCT), and Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) to remain current with common practices in higher education. Board members indicated that DSU President, Dr. Coston, along with the other Presidents, give a report on their institutions at Board meetings.

- **Differences between the two and four year institutions**
  The difference between two and four year institutions is the liberal arts education primarily offered at the four institutions. Some institutions have specialty programs; such as the teacher education program at Valley City State University. The two year colleges address many workforce training needs through an associate degree.

- **Workforce Training needs**
  The Board has and will continue to address the workforce training needs in North Dakota; however, it has been difficult to keep up with the economic boom.

- **The Roles of Regional Institutions within the Strategic Plan**
  The Board will continually work on aligning institution plans and the Presidents’ goals to the Strategic plan.

- **Strengths at DSU**
  The location and the needs of economic boom offer an opportunity to provide more workforce training to the state. Dickinson State University has been strongly working on improving its integrity and shown progress.

- **Challenges at DSU**
  The integrity of DSU Foundation has negatively affected DSU and the school struggles restoring the faith and the image to the community. It will be important to choose the right President to continue moving DSU forward. There is high turnover in the staff at DSU due to other job opportunities paying more than DSU. It is difficult to keep up with the fast growing population.

- **Retention and Completion**
  Retention and completion rates are currently being addressed by the Board and will continue to until improved. The Board has a new data system to assist them in tracking student performance on national testing; it is reviewed regionally and nationally.

- **Board Transition**
  The Board has several new members due to past members resigning or deciding not to continue serving on the Board for several different reasons, such as: health, business, or time commitments. There has been a significant improvement on new Board training and the SBHE also restructured the SBHE committees for audit, budget and finance, and academics.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m. CDT.

Approved on May 14, 2015 by the State Board of Higher Education.