



BUDGET SECTION - EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Room 327C, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Mike Nathe, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m.

Members present: Representatives Mike Nathe, Karla Rose Hanson, Bob Martinson, David Richter, Mark Sanford, Steve Swiontek; Senators Cole Conley, Scott Meyer, Donald Schaible, Ronald Sorvaag, Paul J. Thomas

Member absent: Representative Scott Louser

Others present: Mark Askelson, University of North Dakota; David Cook, North Dakota State University

See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

It was moved by Senator Schaible, seconded by Representative Swiontek, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the June 25, 2025, meeting be approved as distributed.

Ms. Meredith Larson, Deputy Commissioner of Operations and Chief Operating Officer, North Dakota University System office, introduced herself to the committee as the new Chief Operating Officer of the North Dakota University System office.

Ms. Jane Grinde, Director of Human Resources, North Dakota University System office, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding personnel by campus, including historical trends in instructional and noninstructional personnel levels. She noted the number of instructional full-time equivalent (FTE) positions increased from 3,367.4 on January 1, 2021, to 3,662.6 on January 1, 2025. She added that noninstructional FTE positions increased from 5,201.3 on January 1, 2021, to 5,506.1 on January 1, 2025.

In response to a request from the committee, Ms. Grinde indicated she would provide the committee with additional information regarding:

- The sources of funding for the positions.
- The number of positions employed by the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the UND Energy and Environmental Research Center, and the North Dakota State University agricultural research and extension entities.
- A comparison of FTE positions to student enrollment.
- Personnel data since January 1, 2016.

Ms. Lisa Johnson, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System office, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding workforce education innovation grants. She noted funding was granted to expand nursing education, to establish a cybersecurity and artificial intelligence degree at Dickinson State University, and to establish new health care training programs at Williston State College. She noted not every campus request for funding was granted and the University System would report to the 2027 Legislative Assembly regarding the grant program, including the state's return on investment.

Dr. Mark Askelson, Associate Vice President for Research - National Security, University of North Dakota, presented information ([Appendix D](#)) regarding national security crossroads funding at the institution. He noted UND allocated the funding for a secured classified information facility (\$5 million); counter unmanned aircraft systems (\$2.5 million); satellite testbeds (\$2 million); space development agency digital twin (\$500,000); radar intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance laboratory (\$2 million); and cybersecurity research infrastructure (\$2 million).

Dr. David Cook, President, North Dakota State University, presented information ([Appendix E](#)) regarding New Horizon Program funding at the institution. He noted the funding will be used to support student success, engineering and agriculture, and health sciences programs.

Dr. Jennifer Weber, Director of Institutional Research and Analytics and Chief Data Analyst, North Dakota University System office, presented information ([Appendix F](#)) regarding enrollment trends by campus and delivery method. She noted:

- FTE enrollment is 36,148 for the fall 2025 semester, an increase of 3.9 percent from the fall 2024 semester.
- A full-time undergraduate student is defined as an undergraduate student enrolled in 12 or more credits; however, the number of FTE undergraduate students is determined by dividing the total number of undergraduate credit hours by 15.
- There is difficulty in identifying which online students never spend time in the state and a specific definition for nonresident remote students is needed.

Ms. Johnson presented information ([Appendix G](#)) regarding strategies to engage high school graduates and returning adults. She noted the direct from high school college-going rate has decreased from 73 percent in 2006 to 61 percent in 2022. She noted over 100,000 residents of the state have completed some college but not received a degree.

Dr. Weber presented information ([Appendix H](#)) regarding the impact of remote nonresident students on higher education funding in the state. She noted:

- Credits completed by remote nonresident students, excluding those with a physical presence in North Dakota and residents of Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota, have a \$31.5 million impact on the higher education funding formula.
- The residency information was reported by the institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education, the data was manually aggregated by the University System office, and the results are not able to be audited and will vary.

Ms. Jamie Wilke, Director of Finance, North Dakota University System office, commented regarding the impact of remote nonresident students on the higher education funding formula.

Mr. Corey Quirk, Chief Information Officer, North Dakota University System office, presented information ([Appendix I](#)) regarding the functionality of the enterprise resource planning system and potential options to replace the system. He noted:

- The current enterprise resource planning system, PeopleSoft, is outdated and reaching end-of-life.
- The new system would need to include student information system, academic and curriculum management, human capital management, and finance and grants management components.
- The estimated total cost of the new system is between \$100 million and \$145 million, and the system could be implemented by 2034.

No further business appearing, Chairman Nathe adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Sheila M. Sandness
Senior Fiscal Analyst

Alex J. Cronquist
Senior Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:9