



HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 15, 2026

East Flex Lab, Advanced Technology Center, Bismarck State College
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Jonathan Sickler, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Members present: Senators Jonathan Sickler, Josh Boschee, Robert Erbele, Scott Meyer, Mike Wobbema; Representatives Landon Bahl, LaurieBeth Hager, Bob Martinson, Mark Sanford; Citizen Members Ann Ellefson, Maxwell Eriksrud, Genevieve Goven, Sarah Hall Lovas, Brent Sanford, Terri Zimmerman

Members absent: Citizen Members Kevin Black, Brent Lohnes

Others present: Senators Jerry Klein, Fessenden, and Ronald Sorvaag, Fargo, members of the Legislative Management

David Boehm, Northern Crops Institute; Kaylyn Bondy, Dave Farnsworth, Kari Knudson, Daniel Leingang, Kennedy Stormer, and Alicia Uhde, Bismarck State College; Thomas Claeys, Forest Service; Tom Erickson, Energy and Environmental Research Center; Jeff Fastnacht, Bismarck Public Schools; David Krebsbach and Brenda Zastoupil, North Dakota University System office; Greg Lardy, North Dakota State University Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station; Brenda Nagel, Bismarck-Mandan Chamber and Economic Development Corporation; Denver Tolliver, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute; Brenda Wyland, NDeavor

It was moved by Senator Boschee, seconded by Senator Wobbema, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the October 28-29, 2025, meeting be approved as distributed.

Ms. Brenda Zastoupil, Director of Financial Aid, North Dakota University System office, presented information ([Appendix A](#)) regarding tuition waivers. She also distributed the *North Dakota University System Tuition Waiver Report* for the 2024-25 academic year ([Appendix B](#)). She noted:

- Over 24 percent of resident students received a full or partial tuition waiver.
- Over 53 percent of international students received a full or partial tuition waiver.
- Over 80 percent of tuition waived is at the discretion of the institution.
- Tuition waiver percentages by institution were as follows:

Institution	Tuition Waived	Students With Waiver
Bismarck State College	6.15%	11.81%
Dakota College at Bottineau	7.98%	9.86%
Lake Region State College	11.54%	12.93%
North Dakota State College of Science	5.77%	25.98%
Williston State College	4.19%	2.76%
Dickinson State University	20.59%	57.74%
Mayville State University	10.86%	33.30%
Minot State University	12.07%	30.36%
Valley City State University	11.25%	30.07%
North Dakota State University	15.46%	46.63%
University of North Dakota	8.11%	12.72%
Total	10.97%	26.62%

Mr. David Krebsbach, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer, North Dakota University System office, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding tuition rates, net tuition revenue, and other sources of higher education funding. He also distributed a schedule of institutional charges ([Appendix D](#)) detailing tuition and fees charged by residency at each institution. He noted that of funding received from tuition and General Fund appropriations, North Dakota State University (NDSU) receives 43.85 percent from the General Fund and the University of North Dakota, excluding the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, receives 39.35 percent from the General Fund.

Mr. Alex J. Cronquist, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, presented a memorandum entitled [Funding for Other Entities Under the Control of the State Board of Higher Education](#). He noted other entities associated with NDSU include the Main Research Center, branch research centers, Extension Service, Agronomy Seed Farm, Northern Crops Institute, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, Forest Service, and NDeavor.

Dr. Greg Lardy, Director, North Dakota State University Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station, presented information ([Appendix E](#)) regarding governance, coordination and cooperation with NDSU, revenues by source, and research outcomes. He noted the Extension Service and Main Research Center receive 54 and 49 percent, respectively, of their funding from state appropriations.

Mr. David Boehm, Director, Northern Crops Institute, presented information ([Appendix F](#)) regarding governance, coordination and cooperation with NDSU, revenues by source, and agency outcomes. He noted the agency's mission is to support agriculture through educational programs and technical services that expand markets for northern-grown crops. He noted the agency is a collaborative effort between North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and South Dakota.

Dr. Denver Tolliver, Director, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, presented information ([Appendix G](#)) regarding governance, coordination and cooperation with NDSU, revenues by source, and agency outcomes. He noted the agency receives 21.5 percent of its funding from the General Fund, 50.8 percent from federal funds, and 27.7 percent from other funds primarily from grants and contracts with state agencies and local governments. He noted that of the amount from state agencies and local governments, approximately 80 percent is from the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Thomas Claeys, State Forester, Forest Service, presented information ([Appendix H](#)) regarding governance, coordination and cooperation with NDSU, revenues by source, and agency outcomes. He noted NDSU assists the agency with payroll, human resources, finance and operations, grants and contracts, purchasing, and information technology services.

Ms. Brenda Wyland, Chief Executive Officer, NDeavor, presented information ([Appendix I](#)) regarding governance, coordination and cooperation with NDSU, revenues by source, and research outcomes.

Dr. Tom Erickson, Chief Operations Officer and Vice President for Intellectual Property, Energy and Environmental Research Center, presented information ([Appendix J](#)) regarding governance, coordination and cooperation with the University of North Dakota, revenues by source, and research outcomes. He noted the State Energy Research Center operates as part of the Energy and Environmental Research Center and receives an allocation of \$7.5 million per biennium from state oil and gas tax revenues.

Dr. Daniel Leingang, Interim President, Bismarck State College, presented an overview ([Appendix K](#)) of the institution.

Dr. Kaylyn Bondy, Vice President for Student Affairs, Bismarck State College, presented information ([Appendix L](#)) regarding enrollment at the institution.

Ms. Kennedy Stormer, student, Bismarck State College, commented regarding her experience at Bismarck State College (BSC).

Ms. Brenda Nagel, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bismarck-Mandan Chamber and Economic Development Corporation, presented information ([Appendix M](#)) regarding the impact of BSC on the community.

Mr. Dave Farnsworth, Chair, Business and Industry Leadership Team, Bismarck State College, presented information ([Appendix N](#)) regarding the business and industry leadership team model.

Ms. Alicia Uhde, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Bismarck State College, presented information ([Appendix O](#)) regarding academic programs at the institution.

Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Superintendent, Bismarck Public Schools, presented information ([Appendix P](#)) regarding dual credit and the school district's relationship with BSC.

Ms. Kari Knudson, Vice President for College Advancement, Bismarck State College, presented information ([Appendix Q](#)) regarding fundraising at the institution.

Dr. Leingang presented information ([Appendix R](#)) regarding the future of BSC.

No further business appearing, Chairman Sickler adjourned the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Alex J. Cronquist
Senior Fiscal Analyst

Casey Orvedal
Counsel

ATTACH:18