



HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING REVIEW COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 19, 2026
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Ronald Sorvaag, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Senators Ronald Sorvaag, Scott Meyer,* Jamie Selzler, Jonathan Sickler; Representatives Karla Rose Hanson, Mike Nathe, Steve Swiontek; Citizen Members Bruce A. Bollinger, Erica Buchholz, Odella Fuqua, Keith Johnson, Joann Kitchens, Krista Lambrecht

Members absent: None

Others present: Senator Brad Bekkedahl and Representative LaurieBeth Hager, members of the Legislative Management

Brent Sanford and Jamie Wilke, North Dakota University System; Kerri Kraft, Department of Commerce

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

**Attended remotely*

It was moved by Representative Nathe, seconded by Representative Swiontek, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the June 3, 2026, meeting be approved as distributed.

Ms. Lisa Johnson, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System office, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding low completion programs at institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education. She noted 38 academic programs have been terminated in 2026, including multiple degrees and certificates in foreign languages and other liberal arts programs.

Ms. Jamie Wilke, Director of Finance, North Dakota University System office, commented regarding transfers between line items by the University System institutions. She noted the campuses have not made any transfers between line items during the current biennium.

Ms. Kerri Kraft, Workforce Development Division Work-Based Learning Program Coordinator, Department of Commerce, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding workforce development grants awarded to tribally controlled community colleges. She noted Turtle Mountain Community College was the only applicant for the grant and has been awarded the entire \$750,000 appropriated for the biennium.

In response to questions from committee members, Ms. Kraft noted the grant funding has historically been expended in its entirety each biennium and Turtle Mountain Community College has a goal of enrolling 210 students under the program.

Committee members expressed concern regarding the placement of the program under the Department of Commerce rather than the University System and questioned how the success of the program is measured.

Senator Jonathan Sickler presented information ([Appendix D](#)) regarding dual-credit costs in the state. He noted campus revenues relating to dual credit exceed the direct costs associated with dual credit; however, when indirect costs, including administration and campus facilities, are allocated across all credits awarded by the institution, the total direct and indirect costs exceed the revenues.

Mr. Alex J. Cronquist, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, presented a bill draft [\[27.0134.02000\]](#) regarding the higher education funding formula, the University System Capital Building Fund, and local fund sources for capital construction projects. He noted the bill draft is a revised version of the bill draft presented to the committee at the June 3, 2026, meeting and the revisions involved minor technical corrections.

A member of the committee requested information regarding how funding under the proposed formula would have compared to funding received by the campuses under the current higher education funding formula in prior bienniums.

Mr. Brent Sanford, Commissioner, North Dakota University System, commented regarding performance funding for degree completions included in the proposed formula. He noted the proposed formula does not include funding for certificates awarded.

Committee members expressed concern regarding the potential use of the University System Capital Building Fund for athletic facilities.

Chairman Sorvaag indicated the final meeting of the committee would be scheduled for October 6, 2026.

No further business appearing, Chairman Sorvaag adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Alex J. Cronquist
Senior Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:4