



The North Dakota State Staff Senate met on November 9, 2020 via TEAMS.

- I. Call to order
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 2:32pm CT on November 9, 2020 by ND State Staff Senate President Michael Linnell
- II. Roll call
  - a. **Bismarck State College (BSC):** Retha Mattern, Kara Welk
  - b. **Core Technology Services Office (CTSO):** Ramona Breuer, Benjamin Ford, Crystal Tangsrud
  - c. **Dakota College Bottineau (DCB):** JaLee Lynnes
  - d. **Dickinson State University (DSU):** Laura Fetting, Wynter Miller
  - e. **Lake Region State College (LRSC):** Andy Wakeford
  - f. **Mayville State University (MaSU):** Susan Cordahl, Heather Johnson, Misti Wuori
  - g. **Minot State University (MiSU):** Lindsey Benson, Michael Linnell
  - h. **North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS):** Mindi Beasley, Lisa Braun, Leslie Shriek
  - i. **North Dakota State University (NDSU):** Al Bernardo, April Helgaas
  - j. **University of North Dakota (UND):**
  - k. **Valley City State University (VCSU):** Kelsey Carter
  - l. **Williston State College (WSC):** Kristina Kitchens
  - m. **NDUS Representative:** (Absent)
  - n. **HRC Representative (DSU):** Laura Fetting
  - o. **HRC Liaison:** (Absent)
  - p. **SBHE Representative (BSC):** Retha Mattern
- III. Approval of Agenda
  - a. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Lisa Braun (NDSCS) and seconded by Megan Wasylow (UND). Following a vote, motion carried, agenda approved as is.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - a. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lindsey Benson (MiSU) and seconded by Al Bernardo (NDSU). Following a vote, motion carried, minutes approved as is.
- V. Reports
  - a. Campus Updates – Campus updates can be submitted via the NDSSS website (<https://staffsenate.ndus.edu/>). Have updates submitted by November 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. SBHE Staff Advisor Report – Retha Mattern (BSC) reported that the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) met on October 29<sup>th</sup> via distance. Topics of discussion were COVID, update from Dr. Wynne on testing among campuses, policy updates, NDUS retirement plan changes, WSC Presidential Search, survey on student needs, workforce migration, and the upcoming legislative session. The next SBHE meeting is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will be available at <https://ndus.edu/sbhe-overview/agendas-minutes-videos/>.
  - c. HRC – Laura Fetting (DSU) reported that the HRC met on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. One topic of discussion was held regarding campus closures/storm days and how those will be handled with more individuals working remotely. This will be discussed further at the December meeting.
- VI. Business Agenda –
  - i. Taskforce Chair Updates Legislative – Andy Wakeford (LRSC) has contacted the NDUS about the committee and having a working relationship during the legislative session. If you would like to join the committee, contact Andy.
  - b. Tuition Waivers – Discussion was held regarding extending tuition waivers for all NDUS campuses, so employees could take courses from any campus and use the waivers. Megan Wasylow (UND) asked if this would be for employees only or their dependents and

spouses. Currently all benefited employees can utilize the 50% off waiver for institutions outside of their own. Retha Mattern (BSC) stated that the SBHE wanted to look into this in the past. An NDUS office employee's dependent gets 50% off tuition at any campus institution since they don't have a home campus. Each campus has their own discounts/waiver policies for dependents and spouses. The challenge that comes up is who pays the other 50% of the tuition. This could have an adverse financial impact on campuses. Would this part of the tuition have to be paid or could it be waived? Megan Wasylow (UND) made a motion to have NDSSS start looking into this topic. Wynter Miller (DSU) seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried. If you would like to volunteer for this taskforce, contact Michael Linnell.

- c. Friday After Thanksgiving and/or Christmas Break – The SBHE noted that this is not something that they can grant and would need to be brought to the legislature for a decision.
- d. January Meeting – Discussion was held whether to keep the January meeting or cancel. It has typically been cancelled in the past. Send your thoughts to Michael Linnell.

VII. Open Discussion –

- a. Wynter Miller (DSU) brought up the discussion from the October meeting regarding surveys on campuses. DSU is sending out the survey this week and will share it with those who have requested to see it. April Helgaas (NDSU) stated that they recently sent out their survey. If you are interested in seeing this survey, contact April. Crystal Tangsrud (CTS) mentioned that this was the year they sent out their bi-annual survey.

VIII. Future Meetings

- a. The next meeting will be held on December 14, 2020, from 2:30-4:00pm CST. Send agenda items to President Michael Linnell (MiSU).

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 3:56pm CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Fetting (DSU)  
ND SSS Secretary 2020-21