

North Dakota State Staff Senate Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2025 @ 2:30pm CT via MS Teams

~~The NDUS Staff Senate serves to represent staff employees from the eleven academic institutions and employees throughout the university system.~~

~~The Senate identifies staff interests and issues; acts as a forum for the discussion of staff-related matters; and facilitates communication on behalf of the campus staff members with the NDUS Chancellor and the State Board of Higher Education.~~



NORTH DAKOTA
STATE STAFF SENATE

- 1) Call to Order at 2:31 pm.
- 2) Roll Call
 - a) BSC –
 - b) CTSO – Greg Carlson
 - c) DCB – Jennifer Cote, Misty Lindgren, Mike O'Toole, Carissa Pollman
 - d) DSU – Laura Fetting, Mackenzie Hicks, Ashley Tillman
 - e) LRSC –
 - f) MaSU – Shannon Hofer, Mindy Oconnor
 - g) MiSU – Heather Halverson
 - h) NDSCS – Andrew Bouressa, Lisa Braun
 - i) NDSU – Corey Landowski, Andrea Ludwig, Jenn Young
 - j) UND – Anna Kinney, Brandon Wallace
 - k) VCSU – Erin Edinger
 - l) WSC – Carol Campbell
 - m) HRC Rep (???) –
 - n) SBHE Rep (Anna Kinney) – Present
- 3) Approval of Agenda
 - a) Motion by Carol Campbell; 2nd by Anna Kinney; Agenda approved.
- 4) Approval of June Meeting Minutes
 - a) Motion by Greg Carlson; 2nd by Andrea Ludwig; Minutes approved.
- 5) Reports
 - a) Campus Updates – Submit to website
 - i) Mike O'Toole – interim campus dean currently, not sure where that process is currently; were in a parade at ND State Fair
 - ii) Anna Kinney – Orientation at UND, have largest incoming freshman class; have a lot of summer camps; ongoing construction projects
 - iii) Carol Campbell – Kudos to UND for orientation from a couple of students that have attended.
 - iv) Jenn Young – NDSU same boat as UND with orientation, summer camps, and construction projects
 - (1) Andrea Ludwig added that our VP for Research and Creative Activity left with her last day being 7/16.
 - v) Mindy Oconnor – quiet student-wise; Old Main renovation is on track – should be open Summer 2026 and ready for students Fall 2026
 - vi) Erin Edinger – Renovations in building where Education is housed are almost done; Elected the rest of their exec committee.
 - (1) Question about updating list to get the information. Heather should be updating the website.
 - (2) According to bylaws, Secretary keeps track of membership.
 - (3) Please let Mike, Heather, or Jenn to know who is supposed to be the representatives from each campus.
 - vii) Please submit campus updates through the website.
 - b) SBHE Staff Advisor Report:
 - i) Minutes, agendas, and any videos are available at the following link: [North Dakota University System | Agendas, Minutes & Videos](#)
 - ii) Attended meeting at the end of June; had a retirement for Pres. Doug at LRSC.
 - iii) Lot of wrap up information and reports for end of year.

- iv) Continue to work on tenure issues. Provided 2 options for post-tenure review. Will start in earnest in the fall at all campuses.
- v) Presidential compensation – retain our leadership across the system and be able to recruit excellent folks for the open positions
- vi) Roll of Chancellor on campuses – have an interim chancellor currently – over the next year, will be looking at what is wanted/needed from the chancellor position. Do they want to hire a consultant for this or handle it within house?
- c) HRC Update
 - i) Nomination for Mindy Oconnor – Mindy accepted the nomination
 - (1) Heather Halverson moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot; 2nd by Greg Carlson; Mindy elected
 - (2) Laura will let HRC know to update email list and event invitations to Mindy Oconnor; main role is to attend and let them know concerns from us and let us know what happens there
- 6) Business Agenda
 - a) HRC Rep Election
 - i) Mindy Oconnor nominated at June meeting, tabled until July meeting to seek Mindy's acceptance
 - b) Taskforce Chair Updates –
 - i) Legislative Taskforce / Bylaws (Anna Kinney)
 - (1) Only have had one person that has contacted her.
 - (2) Anna said she'll reach out to campuses if they don't reach out to her.
 - ii) Staff Recognition (Heather Halvorson)
 - (1) Have a couple of people that have reached out.
 - iii) Professional Development (Greg Carlson)
 - (1) Hasn't had anyone reach out to him yet.
 - iv) Staff Affairs (Carol Campbell)
 - (1) Has had one person reach out to join.
 - v) Executive Committee (Mike O'Toole)
 - (1) Has not met. Has not had a need to meet.
 - c) Employee morale-open discussion, idea sharing.
 - i) Mike O'Toole – staff senate hosted a picnic a couple weeks ago to do some professional development – trying to do more purposeful staff acknowledgment and let other departments know what each department does
 - ii) Brandon Wallace – UND had a team building activity in July; also had someone speak on opportunities offered at UND and have a document of the list as well
 - iii) Carol Campbell – Williston Foundation helps provide an opportunity to do picnics every other week each summer – this year has been well attended; construction – some paving done recently that makes it look nicer
 - iv) Heather Halverson – having fall kickoff coming up on Aug. 20th in the evening off-campus
 - v) Erin Edinger – Had a lot of time serving on campus – storm recovery from damage (rake leaves, pick up branches); help facilities crew to plant flowers end of spring/beginning of summer
- 7) Open Discussion
 - a) Anna Kinney – conference on metrics and alignments – made a connection with someone from Utah – the Utah system just reconfigured their educational benefits to be system-wide, not just campus specific – don't know what the original configuration was or what the negotiated terms were.
 - i) If know someone in the Utah, maybe reach out. Also if you know of other systems that do a system-wide tuition waiver.
 - ii) Could possibly bring someone in to speak about how another system negotiated their benefits.
- 8) Future Meetings: August 11, 2:30-4:00 CT.
- 9) Adjournment at 3:21 pm.

Additional Information:

- NDSSS Website - <https://staffsenate.ndus.edu/>

- Campus Updates Submission - <https://staffsenate.ndus.edu/campus-update-submission-form/>