

Agenda

NDSU STAFF SENATE

Wednesday, March 4th, 2026

Reimers Conference Room – Alumni Center

[Zoom Link for Meeting](#)

We collectively acknowledge that we gather at NDSU, a land grant institution, on the traditional lands of the Oceti Sakowin (Dakota, Lakota, Nakoda) and Anishinaabe Peoples in addition to many diverse Indigenous Peoples still connected to these lands. We honor with gratitude Mother Earth and the Indigenous Peoples who have walked with her throughout generations. We will continue to learn how to live in unity with Mother Earth and build strong, mutually beneficial, trusting relationships with Indigenous Peoples of our region.

Shared governance is the collaborative process through which we develop campus policies, practices, and initiatives that support the common good of our institution. As members of the NDSU community, we are committed to living out our institutional mission and values toward our strategic goals and aspirations, in alignment with the shared governance principles of transparency, responsibility, good faith and respect. In doing so through shared governance, we shall adhere to the framework established by the Constitution of North Dakota and the North Dakota Century Code, while acknowledging the delegated authority granted to each institution and their respective presidents by the State Board of Higher Education.

Information and reminders can be found at the bottom of the agenda*.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Land Acknowledgement & Shared Governance Statement**
- III. Preliminary Attendance Report and Quorum Check** by Melissa Lamp
 - A. Final attendance report will be in the minutes.
- IV. Approval of Meeting Agenda**
- V. Approval of Wednesday, February 4th, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
- VI. Campus Kudos** by April Helgaas/Nazrin Ferdousi
 - A. Adriana Behl – AES Vet Diag Serv Dept
 - B. Cora Crane – AES Plant Science
 - C. Elijah Anderson – NCI
 - D. Haylee Hardin – Human Resources
 - E. Stanna Flom – Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute
- VII. Faculty Senate Report** by Lisa Montplaisir
- VIII. Student Government Report** by Nic Frello/Caleb Jarvis
- IX. Program**
 - A. Dr. Shari Veil – Provost
 - B. Lisa Samuelson – Office of Student Engagement
- X. President's Report** by Joshua Schroetter
 - A. Federal Actions
 1. [NDSU's Federal Actions Page](#)
 - B. President's Cabinet
 - C. Leadership Assembly
 - D. President Search by Shiloh Susag
- XI. Old Business**
 - A. Legislative priorities
- XII. New Business**
 - A. Bylaw revisions
 - B. Volunteering
 - C. Staff Senate recruitment

XIII. Senate Coordinating Council by Kay Hopkins

A. Consent Agenda

1. 344: Restricted Research
2. 724: Digital Accessibility

B. Input Agenda

1. None

XIV. Treasurer's Report by April Helgaas

- A. Appropriated: \$
- B. Local: \$
- C. Scholarship: \$
- D. Staff Senate Support Fund: \$

XV. Staff Senate Executive Committee by Shiloh Susag

XVI. Advisor's Comments by Mark Genkinger

XVII. Other Business Reports – Check end of agenda for more reports.

- A. Public Relations Officer Report by Libby Hardwick-Nelson
- B. Staff Senate Committees
 1. Elections by Kay Hopkins
 2. Legislative and Bylaws by Jeremy Kopp/Kristi Steinmann
 3. Information Technology by Daniel Erichsen
 4. Scholarship by Jenna Reno
 5. Staff Development by Melissa Lamp
 6. Staff Recognition by Nazrin Ferdousi/April Helgaas
 7. Campus Engagement by Maggie Latterell
 8. Gunkelman Award by Jenn Young/Tyre Leapaldt
 9. Access and Opportunity Committee by Val Jones
- C. State Staff Senate by Jenn Young
- D. Joint Committees
 1. Campus Space and Facilities by Jenn Young/Ben Bernard/Megan Hubbard
 2. Library by Alicia LaFerriere
 3. University Athletics by Connor Copeland/Matt Diischer
 4. Learning Space Advisory Committee by Alicia LaFerriere
- E. Ad Hoc Committees
- F. Day of Honor by Jeremy Kopp/Corey Landowski/Kristi Steinmann

XVIII. Announcements and Open Discussion

- A. Woodlands and High Plains Powwow volunteers
- B. Bison Guides

XIX. Adjourn

Future Staff Senate Meetings:

Regular meetings: All in Prairie Rose in the Memorial Union unless otherwise noted.

- April 1, 2026
- May 6, 2026

Exec committee:

- March 18, 2026
- April 15, 2026
- May 20, 2026

Business Reports Submitted through Form:

A. Public Relations Officer Report by Libby Hardwick-Nelson

- No report.

B. Staff Senate Committees

1. Elections by Kay Hopkins

- No report.

2. Legislative and Bylaws by Jeremy Kopp/Kristi Steinmann

- No report.

3. Information Technology by Daniel Erichsen

- No report.

4. Scholarship by Jenna Reno

- Will open staff and dependent scholarship application window from Feb 2nd to March 20th.
- We have some local corporate companies interested in sponsoring a scholarship, so checking with the Foundation if that is possible.

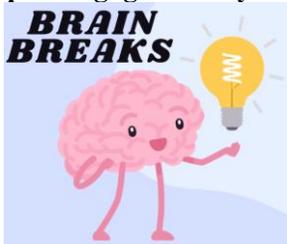
5. Staff Development by Melissa Lamp

- Joy Lab was held 2/26/2026.

6. Staff Recognition by Nazrin Ferdousi/April Helgaas

- Continue work on Campus Kudos
 1. Getting Tax Withholding Forms signed for those that received gifts in February
 2. Emailed nominees for March meeting
- Please let the committee know if you have any suggestions for them

7. Campus Engagement by Maggie Latterell



- 1. March 10th (1-3 pm) in MU – Nueta
 2. Theme: Learn About Staff Senate
- This year we're continuing to support Goods for the Herd but shifting how we do it. We'll be collecting empty egg cartons ALL YEAR. We can save money by buying eggs in bulk, but we need containers to put them in. We'll take paper, plastic, foam! Any type you have – we want!
 1. Drop off locations include:
 - a. ACE Tutoring (West Dining Center – Lower Level)
 - b. Admissions Office (Ceres)
 - c. Student Affairs and Institutional Equity Office (Old Main)
 - d. Student Government Office (Memorial Union)

8. Gunkelman Award by Jenn Young/Tyre Leapaldt

- Ceremony will be held on May 4th at 2:00 pm.
- Nominations are open! Nomination open period is March 2nd to the 29th.

9. Access and Opportunity Committee by Val Jones

- No report.

C. State Staff Senate by Jenn Young

1. SBHE Chair Kevin Black

- Introduction by SBHE Rep Anna Kinney
 1. Kevin Black serves as the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Creedence Energy Services, a leading specialty chemical provider in the oil and gas industry with operations in North Dakota, Montana, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Kevin has previously served higher education as a Trustee of the NDSU Development Foundation, Minot State Board of Regents, and past chair of the UND Petroleum Engineering Advisory Board. Kevin also serves on the board of the Minot Chamber EDC, Minot Sunrise Rotary Club, and the North Dakota Petroleum Council, and he was appointed by

Governor Doug Burgum to serve on the North Dakota Economic Development Foundation in 2019. Kevin earned a degree in Industrial Engineering & Management from NDSU in 2010, and he resides in Minot, ND, with his wife Kalli and three children Reagan, Rawley, and Reese.

2. Kevin Black shared his appreciation for all that staff do and the impact that staff had on him during his time in higher ed. He thanked staff for all that they do to serve students as that is the purpose of higher ed.
- Open discussion, Q&A
 1. Priorities
 - a. Funding formula
 - i. Started asking about it when he asked about it when he started on SBHE 4 years ago.
 - ii. Very tricky and a lot of things go into it.
 - iii. Can do better. Need a formula but need something better. Can simplify it. Make it outcome driven.
 - iv. Interim legislative committees –
 1. working on funding formula; VPs of finance from several of the institutions; good to see UND and NDSU working together
 2. other higher ed committee – really catch all
 - b. Dual credit
 - i. SBHE voted to allow NDSU & UND expand dual credit into their home counties
 - ii. Might be allowed to fully expand it.
 - iii. Black is a big fan of dual credit.
 - iv. Students get into the system earlier and it saves families and students a ton of money. Need to ensure that it's quality and accessible.
 - c. Tenure
 - i. Big topic last 2 legislative sessions
 - ii. Goal is to make sure it doesn't get mentioned at the next legislative session
 - d. Reduced credit degree programs
 - i. Pressure was coming; don't want to be the last one
 - ii. Wanted to be thoughtful and have good guard rails around it
 - iii. Better to do it right than fast so conversation lasted 7 months
 - iv. Only 2 programs at each institution and can only be Bachelor of Applied Science
 - e. Shared resources/services
 - i. Be very strategic about what to do with shared resources/services
 - ii. Black is from Williston and realizes how hard it would be to get a Director of HR from Williston
 - f. 3 Presidential Searches
 - Tuition waivers
 1. Carol
 - a. In gathering stage for tuition waivers
 - b. Get data to better develop a proposal
 - c. 4 areas of focus
 - i. Current policies at each institution and financial impact of waivers for both employees and spouse/dependent
 - ii. Policies from across the country
 - iii. Looking at proposals that were brought forth in the past and what were the obstacles to them being implemented
 - iv. Soliciting input for a wish list that is narrowed down to feasible proposals
 2. Black – won't be easy – not easy anytime you are talking about money; thinks we can't afford not to look at this and modify it; it's an investment in our employees and their professional development

3. Look on Teams for what others are doing, wish list file, etc.
 4. Meredith Larson said there are people that are willing to help with Century Code if it has to be rewritten. Anna said she'd work with CCF when we're ready.
2. Campus updates:
- DCB – Narrowed search for Campus Dean and will be having in-person interviews next week.
 - DSU – Hosting an alumna that is a clinical addiction counselor to come talk about understanding behavioral health
 - MaSU – Hired a new Dean of Students, Rhonda Nelson; Renovations of Old Main are on track to move in next fall.
 - MiSU – Renovations starting in the Student Center; Some logistical moves. Upcoming Silent Auction in March.
 - NDSCS – Afternoon for Staff Professional Development next month – motivational speaker and Title IX training.
 - UND – Brandon – lot of conversations about weather closures/delays; Mariah has accepted a position out of state so will no longer be at UND and on their Staff Senate nor on State Staff Senate – do have a nominee to replace her
 - WSC – SBHE met at Williston last month – encouraged people to attend the meeting if it comes to your institution
3. SBHE update:
- Levi Bachmeier's former role on SBHE has been filled by Michelle Kommer.
4. HRC Update (Mindy Oconnor):
- Looking at getting a new background check vendor
 - Policy reviews
 - HRC policy updates will no longer go to Admin affairs, they will go to Presidents Council instead.
 - Future HRC votes if HRC needs input from VP, Finance Business, etc. that will need to be requested from the appropriate parties before HRC meeting/vote.
 - It was requested by leadership and the commissioner to put the commissioner back in the positions to make some decisions because he is listed as the manager of the plan. - voted on and passed
5. Committees:
- Bylaws: edits were voted on and approved
 1. Jenn Young is NDSU rep on committee
 - Staff Recognition: approved and email went out to our campus already
 - Professional Development: Key topics include discussion of topics along with determining and leveraging existing resources for sharing across the system
 1. Kristina Astrup is NDSU rep on committee
 - Staff Affairs: included above with Black (tuition waivers)
 1. Corey Landowski is NDSU rep on committee

D. Joint Committees

- 1. Campus Space and Facilities by Jenn Young/Ben Bernard/Megan Hubbard**
 - No report.
- 2. Library by Alicia LaFerriere**
 - No report.
- 3. University Athletics by Connor Copeland/Matt Diischer**
 - No report.
- 4. Learning Space Advisory Committee by Alicia LaFerriere**
 - No report.

E. Ad Hoc Committees

F. Day of Honor by Jeremy Kopp/Corey Landowski/Kristi Steinmann

- Ceremony was held on Feb. 19th at 2:00 pm in the Oceti Sakowin Ballroom and on Zoom.