

## **Senate Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes February 25, 2026**

December 17, 2025 meeting minutes were approved (Lisa motioned, Schwa seconded, motion carried).

### **Policy 724: Digital Accessibility (Laura Oster-Aaland and Chris Wilson)**

- LOA provided context – Federal law going into effect in April 2026, policy and procedures have emerged from the Digital Accessibility Steering Committee
- Chris – SBHE policy requires individual institutions to have their own policies; part of a more holistic overview of policy to avoid conflicts between NDSU and SBHE policy; this policy is short because we are linking to the SBHE policy; we are also required to appoint an EIT (will be part of the Equity portfolio under VPSAIE)
- LOA adds that she is the reporting party (EIT), but Marc Wallman will be formally appointed as the EIT evaluator for software purchasing purposes

#### *Feedback from SCC:*

- Faculty Senate: The link to the SBHE policy is not working
  - SCC decided we should leave links out of our policy manual because they change too often – Does this need to be formalized in our procedures?
- Staff Senate: Do we always need to reference our compliance with the SBHE policy at the start of the NDSU policy? It is not included in most of our policies.

#### *Placement on Agendas:*

- Faculty Senate – Consent
- Staff Senate – Consent
- Student Senate – Consent

### **344: ~~Classified~~ Restricted Research (Kyle Hackney)**

- Kyle has been the Research & Consulting Committee Chair for 2 years
- He did not know that classified research policy existed until recently
- Policy was last amended in 1992; some terminology is confusing
- Committee looked at policies from Iowa State, Montana State, Carnegie Mellon
- Most policies consider classified research to be one type of restricted research
- The committee could not locate anyone doing classified research at NDSU, though NDSU does have a lot of research that has contract restrictions
- The policy is now titled restricted research, with classified research as one part
- Peer institutions have more guidance for faculty and students on handling data in restricted research; the group has added that guidance to the revised policy
- They also incorporated graduate school guidance on defending theses/dissertations with restricted research
- Not much changes for most faculty doing restricted research, based on consultations with those doing DoD research and other forms of restricted research

*Feedback from SCC:*

- Faculty Senate: Can Dr. Hackney attend the Faculty Senate meeting on March 16? Faculty are likely to have questions that Lisa would not think of
- Staff Senate: RCA or SPA may have some questions
  - Kyle: Group consulted with RCA and SPA; process for submitting proposals is unlikely to change; there may be some changes for negotiating the award
- Student Senate: Graduate student senators will have questions about how the new policy will impact them (particularly time to graduation).
- General feedback: Separating policy and procedures/guidelines in future research (group may also be asked to do this work if Chris Wilson overhauls policy manual)

*Placement on Agendas:*

- Faculty – New Business
- Staff – Consent
- Student – New Business

**Other Business**

- SCC was unsure which changes had been made to Policy 326
  - Can we share the red-lined version and summary of changes?
  - Can we adopt the same process for all Expedited approvals?

Meeting adjourned at 2:37pm

Submitted by Carrie Anne Platt