

Approved  
University Cabinet Minutes  
February 25, 2026

**Present:** Celeste Simmons, Ella Gilkerson, Steven Shirley Rick Hedberg, Cole Krueger, Krista Lambrecht, David Soares, Jolene Nichiporenko, Tiffnay Heth, Sara Abrahamson, Katy Allers, Janna Mckechnie, Amanda Francis, Hilory Liccini, Aundrey Livingston, Andy Heitkamp, Lisa Haman, Michelle Sayler, Cari Olson, Nathan Anderson, Melissa Cantone, Lisa Dooley, Laurie Geller, Michael Linnell

**Absent:** Courtenay Brekhus, Kevin Harmon, Annette Mennem, Jacek Mrozik, Darren Olson, Leon Perzinski, David Paterno, James Sturm, Maggie Backen, Jeremy Feller, Deb Haman, Maleeha Latif, Heather Martin, Karina Stander, Jonelle Watson, Paul Brekke

**Approval of minutes:** January 21, 2026, meeting minutes approved as presented.

## **New Business**

### **1. Senate Reports**

#### **SGA**

- Looking forward to elections next year
- SDSA S. Kemple to visit March 2
- Resolution pass on reduced credit degree programs

#### **Faculty Senate**

#### **Staff Senate**

- Staff Senate Elections: Upcoming elections are being planned. Additional details will be shared soon.
- Handbook and Bylaws Updates: A refreshed version of the Staff Handbook is currently in development in collaboration with HR. Updates to the Bylaws are also in progress.
- Staff Satisfaction Survey: The annual staff satisfaction survey will be distributed on March 1.
- Silent Auction Update: The Staff Senate Silent Auction has been renamed to “Minot State Silent Auction sponsored by Staff Senate.”
- High 5 Award (February): Congratulations to J. Sturm for receiving the February High 5 Award.
- Webpage Accessibility: Improvements to webpage accessibility are currently underway

### **2. President’s Report**

- The Native American Engineering and Science Fair is being held today.
- The TMBC Tribe Council visited the Native American Center on Monday to view the recent furniture donation.
- The Graduate Expo is being held today in Harnett Hall.
- Demolition of Dakota Hall has officially begun.
- Budget books are due by Friday, February 27.
- The university continues to face financial challenges. The goal is to better prepare for next year and move toward a more balanced budget.

- A 5% tuition increase has been approved.
- Budget forms are expected to be distributed at the end of April or early May.
- C. Gorder has been hired at Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) to serve as Campus Dean.
- The State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) will meet on February 26.
- A Workforce Development Officer has been hired for the Engineering program.
- An offer has been extended to fill the open engineering faculty position.

### **Acknowledgements/Announcements:**

Advancement– Busy with alumni events; Music Bingo was held last night at Spicy Pie; gearing up for the Arizona Alumni and Friends events on March 5, 6, and 7; MSU Gala will be held in the Dome on May 1, with the theme *Be Our Guest*; the Alumni Association is currently accepting Golden Award nominations; Giving Day is April 8 – approximately \$450,000 was raised last year; preparing for summer events

Marketing – Minot State has a strong presence at the regional basketball tournaments being held in the Dome; recognition was given to J. Feller and C. Clementich for their efforts.

Facilities – Dakota Hall demolition began today; all Dome restrooms have been upgraded and are fully operational; the Student Center renovation is underway; a Defensive Driving course will be held Tuesday, February 3; D. Mosser, custodian of Cook Hall, will retire Friday

Library – All library staff have completed accessibility training; the webpage is in progress; the library is now using Starfish for scheduling; two book displays are currently being showcased, featuring Rock and Roll and Black History Month; in March, to celebrate Women’s History Month, Barb Solberg, author of *What We Leave Behind*, will present at the library on March 24 at 2:00 p.m.; the 6th Annual Egg Hunt will be held April 1

Bookstore – The Grad Expo is today, where graduation regalia will be showcased along with information on how to purchase; the Bookstore will be closed March 6.

HR – Staff Annual Evaluation forms have been distributed; employees are reminded to use their PTO, as unused time will be forfeited.

TRiO - ASCM Education Fair March 3; Career Expo March 4; National TRiO Day is February 28 but will be celebrating February 27; Annual Performance Reviews are completed; working alongside NDCCPD in supporting students

Athletics – Winter sports seasons are wrapping up; Sports on Tap is hosting a Men’s and Women’s Basketball watch party this evening; Softball is hosting Bismarck State in the bubble today; Dome bathrooms are upgraded and operational; Dome is currently hosting the Region A Basketball tournament

Design and Print - Connections have been sent off to press

NDCCPD – ASTEP will be hosting a luncheon following their graduation ceremony in May, Nelson room is getting upgrades; Partnering with Hot Tots to host an evening called *Limitless* showcasing persons with disabilities

Security– Moving forward with the Clery Program; Dome is hosting the Region basketball tournament, reminder if you see something say something

MRC- Reestablished a Vet Center on campus, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month; Chronic Pain Clinic support group can be found on the webpage; updating website accessibility is in process

IT– Adobe Acrobat can be found in the software center and is available for fulltime faculty and staff to download; If you need IT help make sure to submit a work ticket

Enrollment– Hosted preview day this past Saturday- great turn out; hired a new Administration Specialist T. Whiting; Hosting South Prairie students on campus today

IR – Administration Satisfaction Survey is in progress; Federal Government Acts survey is in progress and due March 18; updating the webpage with the accessibility guidelines

Assessment– Assessment Day was last week some negatives and positives

Registrar - Registration is coming up; Graduate and Undergraduate Catalog is due March 1

Title IX- Business as usual

VPAA – Hired a philosophy candidate A. Barker; Hired psychology professor; Filled B. Crackle's position in science; Grants have been sent off; MOU sign with Williston State

UComm- Connections has been sent to press, need to update DCB Campus Dean C. Gorder as hired for the full-time position

HR – System changes; Cooper reporting approval; Change in background check company, S2 verification

VPAF – Bond sale set for mid-February; Contracts and bids for projects needs boards approval after bond sale

Financial Aid – Preparing for Spring disbursement, January 28; February 1, deadline for scholarships; 26/27 FFSA is open; Gift Aid requires 12 completed credits from MSU campus to be eligible

Adjourned at 10:07

Respectfully submitted, Sydney Yale