

 **North Idaho College**
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Edminster Student Union Building
February 25, 2026
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tarie Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and verified that a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE

Trustees: Brad Corkill
Mary Havercroft
Eve Knudtsen
Tarie Zimmerman

Also present: Nick Swayne, President

APPROVE AGENDA

Chair Tarie Zimmerman called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Brad Corkill made the motion which was seconded by Trustee Mary Havercroft. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously with four votes in favor. Chair Zimmerman then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Chair Zimmerman commented on the recent positive accreditation action by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and expressed appreciation to NIC employees, students, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) consultants Ken Burke and Dr. Debbie DiThomas, and the broader community for their support during the past four years.

The Chair also reported that she, President Swayne and Trustee Corkill attended the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., February 8-11, 2026 where they met with members of the Idaho congressional delegation regarding federal policy and funding affecting the College. Chair Zimmerman described the Summit as productive and beneficial in advancing the interests of NIC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Ives Celebrating Success
Christa Hazel Accreditation

CELEBRATING SUCCESS: BUS TOURS

Dean of Enrollment Services Tami Haft presented a summary of the recent 2026 High School Bus Tours attended by 375 Region 1 high school students. She described how the program introduces high school students to campus life and highlights academic programs and opportunities at NIC. Ms. Haft's presentation is included as an addendum to these minutes.

CONSTITUENT REPORTS

ASNIC

ASNIC President Blake Sanchez reported on student support initiatives, committee service, and the development of a Student Survival Guide for first-year students. He also announced that following recent University Innovation Fellows' (UIF) engagement with industry partners regarding artificial intelligence (AI), a Hackathon at NIC's X-Labs is scheduled for March 7, 2026. Mr. Sanchez further reported that ASNIC elections will be held April 10-17, 2026 and that transition planning is underway.

Faculty Assembly

Chair Jon Gardunia, DPT reported that the Assembly's recent meeting included standard committee reports and an update from the NIC Foundation on the February Employee Giving campaign. He also reported that a faculty committee has been formed to review Policy 3.02.34 (Teaching Focus), with recommendations to be forwarded to the Senate. Dr. Gardunia noted that Faculty Assembly leadership recently conducted an outreach visit to the Sandpoint campus and that additional visits to satellite sites are planned.

Staff Assembly

Chair Dan Adams reported that the Sterling Silver Awards program has resumed following a brief hiatus and that Student Success Advisor Kelsey Thies received the January 2026 award. Additional topics included a discussion of the College's return to good standing, an update from the NIC Foundation, and upcoming campus events. Mr. Adams also shared an example of student engagement involving an NIC Construction Management student who recently participated in a bid process through her family's contracting business.

Senate

Chair Matt Petersen, PhD reported that the Senate recently approved Policy 5.04 (Grading Policy) which will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. He also reported that, following a review of inactive or infrequently meeting standing committees, several committees were dissolved, with responsibilities reassigned through Senate bylaws or incorporated into existing duties. Dr. Petersen further noted that the Policy Review Subcommittee's work is nearly complete for the current academic year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Accreditation

President Swayne reported that the NWCCU issued a report on February 9, 2026 restoring NIC to good standing for the first time since April 2022. He expressed appreciation to the ACCT consultants, the College, and the community for their dedicated efforts over the years. Dr. Swayne also noted that NIC has completed its mid-cycle review and is returning to the regular accreditation reporting cycle.

Goal 1: Student Success and Access

President Swayne reported that spring enrollment increased 7% year-over-year, following an 11% increase last spring. Full-time enrollment rose 10.4%, adding approximately 250 additional students, for a total of 1,500 full-time students and more than 3,000 part-time students. Dr. Swayne also reported that dual enrollment includes 350 full-time students, primarily from local high schools. He noted that the College continues work on retention initiatives, including accelerated completion pathways and streamlined enrollment processes.

Goal 2: Academic Programs and Pathways

President Swayne reported on enrollment management challenges including fraudulent enrollment activity, and stated that the College is evaluating technology solutions. He noted that Chief Information Officer Ken Wardinsky has identified a new platform called Journey Management as a potential tool for better support.

Goal 3: Community Partnerships and Engagement

President Swayne reported that construction of the new American Indian Student Center is nearly complete and noted that the Trustees toured the facility prior to the meeting. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for May 2026, followed by a student focused opening event in the fall.

Dr. Swayne reported that the College plans to resubmit a NASA Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hub) grant proposal. He also noted that NIC has the potential to serve as the primary education partner for the American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center (AAMMC) Tech Hub in Spokane, WA, and stated that both initiatives support regional workforce development in aerospace and advanced manufacturing.

Goal 4: Institutional Systems and Integration

President Swayne reported that NIC Sandpoint continues to show growth in enrollment, workforce training, and dual credit programs. Enrollment increased from 16 to 75 students year-over-year, and the number of dual credit students matriculating to NIC as regular students after high school graduation increased by 33%.

Goal 5: Operational Excellence and Infrastructure

President Swayne proposed holding a strategic facilities workshop in March prior to the regular Board meeting to review ongoing and future facilities planning efforts.

General Updates

President Swayne reported that in addition to Idaho's 3% budget recall in September 2025, the legislature is considering an additional 1%-2% recall, with a decision expected in April 2026. He noted the challenges of a 2% mid-year reduction and said that the legislature is also preparing for a potential 1%-2% reduction in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. Dr. Swayne stated that the College is implementing cost saving measures, including consideration of an early retirement incentive to help manage FY2027 expenses.

President Swayne announced the following upcoming athletic events and campus highlights:

The men's and women's basketball teams will host Snow College at Christianson Gym on February 26, 2026. Their final home games of the season will be on February 28 against Utah State Eastern.

NIC wrestling is currently ranked sixth nationally and will compete in the NJCAA National Championships March 6–7 in Council Bluffs, IA. The event will be available for live viewing via the NIC Athletics website.

Softball will host Snow College for doubleheaders on March 6 and 7, 2026 at Spokane Community College.

The Jazz Ambassadors of the U.S. Army Field Band will perform at the Boswell Hall Schuler Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on March 12, 2026. The concert is free and open to the public.

Recent positive media coverage in the North Idaho Business Journal and other local publications featured stories on various NIC programs, partnerships, and the College's recent affirmation of accreditation.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Instruction – Transfer and General Education

Dean of Instruction, Transfer and General Education Dr. Sherry Simkins provided an overview of the Transfer and General Education program, including program offerings and enrollment statistics. Her presentation is included as an addendum to these minutes.

Adult Education Center (AEC)

Director - Adult Education Center Dr. Dilnoza Khasilova presented on NIC's Adult Education Center (AEC) which provides free classes for individuals age 16 and older. She introduced two AEC students who shared their positive experiences. Dr. Khasilova's presentation is included as an addendum to these minutes.

Trending Student Needs

Dean of Students Alex Harris gave a presentation on trending student needs which included information on the Coordination, Assessment, Response, Education (CARE) reporting process as well as fall 2025 statistical data. His presentation is included as an addendum to these minutes.

Fall Athletics

Athletics & Recreation Director Shawn Noël provided a Fall Athletics recap which included team standings, student athlete grade point averages (GPA), and upcoming events. Mr. Noël's presentation is included as an addendum to these minutes.

Accreditation Update and Budget Discussion

President Swayne stated that these items were covered in the President's Report and that Sarah Garcia, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs will present on the budget at a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Tab 1 and 2: Approve Board Regular Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2026, and Approve Head Start Eligibility Criteria

Chair Zimmerman requested a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Trustee Eve Knudtsen made the motion which was seconded by Trustee Mary Havercroft. Chair Zimmerman called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously with four votes in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Documenting the Accreditation Experience

President Swayne suggested the creation of a written historical record of the College's recent unique experiences, specifically regarding the accreditation process, to serve as a resource and provide insight for other institutions. Following his recommendation, Chair Zimmerman requested a motion to discuss documenting the accreditation experience. Trustee Knudtsen made the motion which was seconded by Trustee Corkill and unanimously agreed to by all Trustees. Discussion ensued.

Following discussion, the Chair asked for a motion to direct the President to engage with someone in order to document the accreditation experience. Trustee Knudtsen made the motion which was seconded by Trustee Havercroft. With no further discussion, Chair Zimmerman called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Tab 3: First Reading Policy 2.01.08 (Board of Trustees Performance Review)

Chair Zimmerman requested a motion to approve Policy 2.01.08 (Board of Trustees Performance Review). Trustee Corkill made the motion which was seconded by Trustee Knudtsen.

Chair Zimmerman explained that the policy subcommittee met in December 2025 and January 2026. She and Trustee Havercroft described updates made to the policy during those meetings. Chair Zimmerman then recommended another change and called for a vote to approve the amended policy with the additional edit. The motion passed unanimously with four votes in favor.

Tab 4: First Reading Policy 2.01.09 (Trustee Emeritus Status)

Chair Zimmerman requested a motion to approve Policy 2.01.09 (Trustee Emeritus Status) with the proposed revisions as presented. Trustee Corkill made the motion which was seconded by Trustee Knudtsen. Trustee Havercroft described the changes to the policy and Chair Zimmerman called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously with four votes in favor.

Tab 5: First Reading Policy 2.01.10 (Board General Conduct Policy)

Chair Zimmerman requested a motion to approve Policy 2.01.10 (Board General Conduct Policy) with the proposed revisions as presented. Trustee Corkill made the motion which was seconded by Trustee Havercroft. Following comments from the Chair and Trustee Havercroft, Chair Zimmerman restated the motion and noted that the Trustees would resign the Annual Affirmation at the next regular Board of Trustees meeting. She then called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously with four votes in favor.

Tab 6): First Reading Policy 2.01.11 (New Board Member Orientation)

Chair Zimmerman requested a motion to approve Policy 2.01.11 (New Board Member Orientation) with the proposed revisions as presented. Trustee Havercroft made the motion which was seconded by Trustee Corkill. President Swayne, Chair Zimmerman and Trustee Havercroft explained the changes made to the policy. The Chair then called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously with four votes in favor.

TRUSTEE REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Trustees Corkill expressed his gratitude to Chair Zimmerman and Trustee Havercroft for their service on the Board Policy Subcommittee.

Trustee Knudtsen extended her appreciation to Chair Zimmerman and Trustee Havercroft for their work on the Board policy subcommittee. She also commented on the Board's self-evaluation process, noting that the process used by the NIC Board is among the most thorough and objective that she has participated in.

Trustee Havercroft reported that she attended the Head Start Shared Governance Training and Policy Council Meeting on February 20, 2026. She noted the program's strong community impact and expressed appreciation for NIC's partnership with Head Start.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzy Scura, Board Clerk

Addenda:

- 1) Bus Tours Presentation
- 2) Adult Education Center Presentation
- 3) Instruction – Transfer and General Education Presentation
- 4) Trending Student Needs Presentation
- 5) Fall Athletics Presentation