

Summary of Proposed Action State Board of Higher Education Meeting – September 27, 2018

- 1. Issue:** Higher Learning Commission requires Board action in order for BSC to apply for a mission change as a Polytechnic Institution routinely offering bachelor of applied science degrees.
- 2. Proposed actions:** Board should direct BSC to develop the structures necessary to respond to workforce needs with a new mission as [a Polytechnic Institution](#) that offers bachelor of applied science degrees while at the same time maintaining the College's current certificate, diploma, and associate degree offerings.
- 3. Background information:** In 2006, BSC responded to a business and industry's request to support the energy sector in providing additional education to currently employed technicians. There was a need to provide more training for employees with two-year technical degrees to fill workforce needs in management. The SBHE approved this request and BSC began offering the Bachelors of Applied Science (BAS) in Energy Management degree in 2007. Since then, 474 students have graduated from BSC's BAS in Energy Management program with many more served through the numerous non-credit technical training options. During the current fall 2018 semester, BSC has more than 200 students enrolled in this program.

Another partnership with business and industry led to the development a new BAS in Cybersecurity and Information Technology of which the SBHE approved in 2018. Using the College's model of securing industry collaboration, financial support was received in the amount of \$1.95M to maintain program operations over the first four years. With this secured external funding, BSC is positioned to make a local, regional, and national impact in meeting the cybersecurity challenges facing today's workforce. Pending Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approval, this new BAS degree will be implemented in Fall 2019.

The demand for additional technical bachelor degrees seems to be growing. Recently, industry leaders have shown support for the College's exploration of a new BAS in Instrumentation & Control. Additionally, Chancellor Hagerott has directed within the presidential goals document that BSC develop a Bachelor of Applied Science in Manufacturing over the next few years.

All of these indicators provide strong evidence of the need for an expanded mission allowing BSC to meet workforce needs.
- 4. Financial implications:** None
- 5. Legal/policy issues:** None
- 6. Academic issues:** None
- 7. Coordination:** Concept briefed to SBHE at May 2018 meeting regarding Envision 2030: "It is the desire of the SBHE, that western campuses, in response to anticipated surging workforce needs, will explore the possibility of dual mission models on their campuses (i.e. Polytechnic model)," as well as by President Skogen at the June 2018 retreat.
- 8. Attachments:** Bismarck State College Mission Change white paper
- 9. Contact information:** President Larry C. Skogen
- 10. Chancellor's recommendation:** Recommend approval.