

**North Dakota State Board of Higher Education
Research and Governance Committee**
January 20, 2021, Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 3:15 p.m. CT, via teams and/or conference call.

RESEARCH PORTION

1. **Agenda**

And;

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Neset moved to approve the agenda as presented and the December 16, 2020, meeting minutes.

Neset and Ryan voted yes.

3. **Lake Region State College Research Presentation**

President Darling presented on Research at Lake Region State College. The presentation has been [posted to ndus.edu](#).

GOVERNANCE PORTION

4. [Board Self-Assessment Prioritization](#)

Committee members will send the system office their top three priorities, the input will be collated for the Chair Ryan to determine next steps. Committee noted we are out of sync due to the pandemic in 2020; the document of priorities will be considered a working document as a starting point for 2021. The full Board will be given an update at their January meeting and the Committee will discuss further at their next meeting, scheduled for February 17th.

5. **NDUS Core Technology Services 2019-2020 Annual Report**

Mr. Darin King presented the [NDUS Core Technology Services 2019-2020 Annual Report](#). Committee Chair requested a full update to the Board on January 25th.

6. **Update on Presidential Comprehensive Review(s)**

Chancellor Hagerott gave an overview of the process and direction the Board has requested for more [comprehensive reviews for Presidents](#) and Chancellor over the past several years. He discussed options to hire outside consultants, campus surveys, and various other ways to move forward with more comprehensive reviews. Some Presidents expressed the following concerns with surveys and/or holding open forums:

- How the rating scale would be determined.
- Open ended questions and/or comments during the process could give others the ability to make a concerted effort to act against a President.
- It is an open record and the possibility it could have a negatively impact on potential Presidential candidates applying to open positions.
- These types of surveys and forums could potentially be taken out of context or misconceived.
- It may also appear like a climate survey, which many campuses already conduct and how would the input be reconciled between the two.

Presidents would like the process to be more focused on how they are aligning with current Higher Education trends and meeting campus mission/vision. They also recommended focusing on rating how the President and their Cabinets are working towards their set goals and focused campus initiatives.

The Committee discussed the current process is good and can continue to expand to enable the Presidents and Board to continuously improve. The Intention is to compliment the current process and add to it, not in place of. It will also provide Presidents an opportunity to meet with Board members one-on-one to discuss campus happenings, initiatives, challenges, and to inform members of all the good that is occurring at their campus. Committee Chair and member Neset recommended a modified process that has the Chancellor as the lead, as it falls under his duties and scope, with more Board member involvement to assist the process. The Committee discussed the following to consider:

- Clarifying the roles and responsibility of the Chancellor and the Board regarding Presidential evaluations.
- The workload has already been divided by tiers to allow more time and more in-depth reviews.
- Not in favor of 3rd party consultant(s)/ keeping the process in-house, streamline for efficiencies.
- Current timing, economics, and limited resources.
- Board member will have the opportunity to build confidence, relationships and a better understanding of campus needs and challenges.
- The need to resume meetings on campuses.
- On boarding of new Board members to include campus visits at the beginning of their term.

After discussion, Chair Ryan stated he will provide the full Board with a report and Committee will consider next steps at their February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. CT.

Approved February 17, 2021.