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**North Dakota State Board of Higher Education  
Research and Governance Committee**  
February 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 3:15 p.m. CT, via teams and/or conference call.

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. CT.

SBHE Research Committee members participating:

Dr. Casey Ryan, Chair  
Ms. Kathleen Neset  
Ms. Danita Bye

NDUS staff participating:

Chancellor Mark Hagerott, NDUS  
Ms. Kristie Hetzler, NDUS  
Ms. Tammy Dolan, NDUS  
Mr. Jerry Rostad, NDUS  
Ms. Terry Meyer, NDUS  
Mr. Jerry Rostad, NDUS

Others Participating:

President Armacost, UND  
Dr. John Mihalich, UND  
President Shirley, MISU  
Dr. Alena Kubatova, UND  
Dr. Dean Webster, UND  
President Bresciani, NDSU  
Dr. John Mihelich, UND  
Dr. Jane Schuh, NDSU  
Dr. David DeMuth, VCSU  
President LaFave, VCSU  
Dr. Katie Woehl, VCSU  
President Van Horn, MaSU  
Dr. Andre Delorme, VCSU  
President Darling, LRSC  
Dr. Casey Williams, VCSU  
Dr. Hilde van Gijssel, VCSU  
Dr. Emily Fenster, VCSU  
Dr. Marc Basson - presenter  
Dr. Steven Wonderlich - presenter  
Ms. Sharon Hunt - presenter  
Dr. Scott Engel - presenter  
Mr. Eric Olson, AG Office

RESEARCH PORTION

1. **Agenda**

And;

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Neset moved, Bye seconded, to approve the agenda as presented and the January 20, 2021, meeting minutes, as presented.

Neset, Bye, and Ryan voted yes.

3. **Research Presentations**

UND and NDSU representative presented on Biomedical Collaborations:

- Marc Basson, MBA, MD, PhD: Associate Dean for Research at UND's medical school and Director of the Center for Translational Research
- [Steven Wonderlich](#), PhD: Vice President for Research at Sanford Health and Co-Director of the Center for Biobehavioral Research (based in Fargo)
- [Sharon Hunt](#), MBA: VP of Operations for Sanford Research (based in Sioux Falls)
- [Scott Engel](#), Ph.D., Co-Director of the Center for Biobehavioral Research, Sanford

4. **Report on FY20 HERD survey numbers**

Drs. Mihalich and Schuh, briefed the committee on HERD data. The committee discussed how the data was submitted, expenditures, outputs and how more dollars are requested for research. The committee requested additional information at their next meeting to discuss how the data is compiled and more information about the plan to move forward.

GOVERNANCE PORTION

5. **Board Self-Assessment Prioritization**

Ms. Dina Cashman presented the proposed [Board Self-Assessment Prioritization](#) list for consideration. Chair Ryan explained the extensive process that was taken to narrow down the priority list that was initially based on input from all Board members. After the committee discussed, they determined the following items are ranked as priorities for 2021:

1. Mission/Vision/Core Values/ Strategic Planning.
2. Cybersecurity and other issues, both technical and non-technical that could affect Technology.
3. Continued advancement of online learning.

The other two items that ranked higher in the Board Assessment tool is increased communication between Chancellor and all board members and more face-to-face and on-campus Board meetings. These two items were noted by the committee as already in progress. The April, May, and June Board meetings are scheduled for face-to-face (on campus) and the Chancellor indicated he has already increased his communication with all members. The committee members also agreed that this would be a work in progress and the priorities will remain fluid and flexible, as other priorities may arise throughout the year, such as the pandemic this year.

Chair Ryan stated these items are reasonable and achievable; however, be mindful that certain items may require multi-year action/monitoring to accomplish to the fullest extent possible.

Bye moved, Neset seconded, to recommend approval of the top three priorities, as discussed.

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

Chair Ryan stated the attached document regarding the [update on Presidential Comprehensive Review\(s\)](#) is and will remain a fluid document throughout the review process. There are three reviews in progress; NDSU and MISU will need to be complete by June 2021, and LRSC will be around the September 2021 timeframe. He has talked with the three Presidents and

reminded the committee that their institutions are all very different and have various vision and missions; however, the process taken to compile data and input should be kept consistent. As noted previously, this is a fluid document, and the process can be re-visited after the first round of reviews.

The following components regarding the comprehensive reviews were also discussed and considered:

- Importance for Board members to re-connect with campuses (disrupted by the COVID pandemic in 2020). Members will be encouraged to visit the campuses once or twice a year.
- SBHE member(s) is only collecting data, the Chancellor will remain responsible for the Presidential Evaluations.
- Viewing data and recognizing trends is important.
- The Presidents are public figures and to acknowledge the sensitivity.
- Consider term length of Presidencies (by campus), the President's position to complete task(s) vs. popularity on campus and consider that larger goals/tasks could take one, three, and/or a five-year cycle(s).

Chair Ryan inquired if any Presidents currently on the meeting conference line had any further input/comments; no input or comments received.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. CT.

Approved April 21, 2021.