

**North Dakota State Board of Higher Education**

February 16, 2022, Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 3:15 p.m. CT, via teams and/or conference call.

Co-chairs Ryan and Bye called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. CT.

SBHE Research Committee members participating:

Dr. Casey Ryan, Co-chair  
Ms. Danita Bye, Co-chair  
Dr. John Warford  
Dr. Legerski, SBHE Faculty Adviser

NDUS staff participating:

Chancellor Mark Hagerott, NDUS  
Ms. Dina Cashman, NDUS  
Ms. Lisa Johnson, NDUS  
Ms. Karol Riedman, NDUS  
Mr. Jerry Rostad, NDUS  
Ms. Terry Meyer, NDUS  
Ms. Kristie Hetzler, NDUS  
Ms. Mindy Sturn, NDUS

Others Participating:

Dr. John Mihelich, UND  
Dr. Collen Fitzgerald, NDSU  
Dr. David DeMuth, VCSU  
President Dean Bresciani, NDSU  
President Easton, DSU  
Mr. Eric Olson, AG Office

1. **Agenda**

Warford moved, Bye seconded, to approve the agenda with an amendment to remove item ten, Policy 601.1.

Bye, Warford, and Ryan voted yes.

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Warford moved, Bye seconded, to approve the January 19, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

Bye, Warford, and Ryan voted yes.

RESEARCH ITEMS

3. **Update on ND EPSCoR Science and Technology Committee**

Dr. Warford provided an update from the sub-committee working on a new science and technology (S & T) plan. A questionnaire went out to a wide variety of industries (Tech, Oil, Ag, IT), governmental agencies, economic development, corporations, and non-

government organizations, in January. The S&T committee will take information received and correlate into a working document that identifies research topics. The committee meets every three to five weeks and the target date for completion of the S & T plan is July 2023.

**4. Update on State Research Group**

Drs. Fitzgerald and Mihelich provided an update on State Research Group. The group is an informal working group that creates an open channel on research across the NDUS institutions. All the NDUS institution Presidents have been asked to provide names of individuals from their campuses to participate, there are still a few we haven't heard from. The group will meet on a regular basis to continue collaborating on research activities and new initiatives.

**5. Update on 5-State USICA**

Drs. Fitzgerald and Mihelich, and Chancellor Hagerott provided an update on the 5-State [USICA; It's a five state consortium](#). The committee discussed focus areas, memberships of the subgroups, and next steps. They noted two possible legislative bills that address regional technology hubs, Senate Bill USICA [MIIA] and House Bill America COMPETES, including money for NSF. The subgroups will continue to provide updates at future meetings.

GOVERNANCE ITEMS

**6. Policy 311, Public Records**

Mr. Eric Olson provided an overview of amendments to [Policy 311](#), Public Records. The policy was originally brought forward in order to respond to changes over the past few years. The intent is to provide clarity in terms of how the NDUS will handle requests for public records and how certain types of records will be treated within the system. First reading has been approved, additional feedback from the relevant constituent groups and Board members were provided, including member Volk's, and further amendments were made.

Warford moved, Ryan seconded, to recommend approval of 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Policy 311, Public Records.

Ryan, Warford, and Bye voted yes.

**7. Discuss 2022 SBHE Self-Assessment:**

Ms. Dina Cashman review previous years' timeline, process, and tool used for the Board self-assessment. She explained options for the committee to consider:

- a. 2022 Board [Self-Assessment process](#)
- b. [Tool to use for the 2022 Board Self-Assessment](#)
- c. Method to use for the 2022 Board Self-Assessment

Per SBHE policy, 302.7, the Research and Governance Committee shall be responsible for leading the ongoing Board self-assessment to develop goals for SBHE performance and benchmarks for measuring SBHE effectiveness. The objective of the board self-assessment is to strengthen board culture, increase effectiveness, and to create a channel for feedback and/or address any concerns. The instrument was shorted in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. The committee members discussed options for the upcoming process and requested additional time to get feedback from all Board members on the option(s)

of utilizing the survey tool or an interview process for the annual assessment. Ms. Cashman will provide an update at the March committee meeting.

**8. Update on Strategic Plan**

Mr. Jerry Rostad provided the committee an update on the status of the [strategic planning process](#). He explained that over the past year, the system has been working on specific areas identified by the Board last Spring and are on schedule to review and discuss at the Board May retreat.

**9. Discuss Options on SBHE Committee Realignment**

Co-chair Bye requested the [options on SBHE Committee realignment](#) be discussed at their March meeting, due to time.

~~10. Discuss [Policy 601.1](#) Presidential searches~~

~~Policy 601.1 was removed from the agenda.~~

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

Approved March 16, 2022.