

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

April 13, 2022, Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met on Wednesday, April 13th, at 3:15 p.m. CT, via teams and/or conference call.

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

SBHE Committee members participating:

Dr. Casey Ryan, Co-Chair
Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair
Dr. John Warford
Dr. Elizabeth Legerski, Faculty Advisor

NDUS staff participating:

Chancellor Mark Hagerott, NDUS
Ms. Dina Cashman, NDUS
Ms. Kristie Hetzler, NDUS
Mr. David Krebsbach, NDUS
Ms. Karol Riedman, NDUS
Mr. Darin King, CTS
Ms. Katie Fitzsimmons, NDUS

Others Participating:

President Darling, LRSC
President Bresciani, NDSU
President Armacost, UND
Dr. Michael E. Kjelland, MaSU
President Van Horn, MaSU
Dr. David DeMuth, VCSU
Dr. John Mihelich, UND
Dr. Delore Zimmerman, VPP

1. **Agenda**

And;

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Warford moved, Bye seconded, to approve the agenda and the March 16, 2022, meeting minutes.

Warford, Bye, and Ryan voted yes.

RESEARCH ITEMS

3. **Update on USICA**

Chancellor Hagerott provided an update on the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA). The US Senate's bill on innovation and Competition (USICA) of 2021, sending it back to the House, which is expected to be rejected, leaving many unknowns on what the outcome will be. It will most likely have a conference committee appointed to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills. He explained the bills include large funding to hub(s) that are dedicated

to low population states; however, the House bill (American Competes Act) and is more of an EPSCOR driven. He stated that conversations have happened with the Governor's office and the Commerce department regarding pulling more business partners in to collaborate, including individuals from Valley Prosperity.

The RGC Committee discussed supporting one bill over the other, expanding support through state and private businesses sector, being proactive on the academic needs, North Dakota politics, and having no delegation on the key committee.

Mr. Mihelich noted that passing of the bill is for authorization and the funding piece would follow, so there is time to organize well and work through some of the details.

Chancellor Hagerott stated that one of the ten hubs in the bills has been identified as a low population area/demographic and if Senator Tester of MT continues to support our concept and collaborates with ND, we need to keep momentum to move forward and strategize.

Dr. Mihelich stated that both him and Dr. Fitzgerald have been and will continue to work on committees that involve the five-state consortium, ND, SD, MT, WV, and VT.

4. **Update on Working Group**

Dr. Mihelich stated that him and Dr. Fitzgerald from NDSU formed a working group based on the work RGC has done for research across the system. The group involves other researchers from the other institutions in the system and is a pathway for collaboration and communication. The group will share ideas, organize strategic efforts on research, cultivate, and collaborate across the system. The working group provides insight on what others are doing and working and opens opportunities to assist one another. The group is an informal network that anticipates meeting three or four times a year, more often if need be.

5. **Update on Legacy plans**

Dr. Ryan invited Dr. Zimmerman that represents the Valley Prosperity Partnership (VPP) to talk about the research document developed over the last couple years. The document will be used to propose permanent research funding for the research universities and other nine campuses within the NDUS. Dr. Zimmerman stated there is an upcoming meeting scheduled that includes VPP, VPs of Research, the Chancellor, and Chair Ryan to review the Legacy Plan created, create the message, and reach out to legislators to support. The goal is to acquire additional funding for research and expand a coalition across the state.

GOVERNANCE ITEMS

6. **SBHE Self-Assessment**

Ms. Dina Cashman proposed a timeline for next steps regarding the draft [SBHE Self-Assessment](#) data. The committee members agreed that Co-chair Bye will work with Ms. Cashman, the Chancellor, and legal counsel and streamline the data into a summary format to move forward to the full Board. If the full Board approves on April 28th, the data will return to the SBHE Governance Committee to identify the top priorities for the Board to address during the upcoming retreat in May and/or June timeframe.

7. **Chancellor's Evaluation Process**

Ms. Karol Riedman reviewed a proposal for the [chancellor's evaluation process](#) and timeline. The Chancellor's Cabinet members have already completed an anonymous Qualtrics survey and SBHE Chair Ryan stated he would be having informal conversations with each President for further input. Chair Ryan also requested that the system office staff complete a Qualtrics survey for the Board to review.

Warford moved, Ryan seconded, to approve the evaluation process, timeline, and additional resources to collect more information for SBHE Chair Ryan to share at the June meeting, in executive session.

8. Update on Strategic Priorities for SBHE Retreat

Mr. Jerry Rostad provided an update on [Strategic Priorities](#) for SBHE Retreat.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. CT.

Approved May 18, 2022.