

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

June 23, 2022, Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met on Wednesday, June 23rd at 4:00 p.m. CT, via teams and/or conference call.

Co-chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 4:00 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
Mr. Jerry Rostad, NDUS
Ms. Terry Meyer, NDUS

Others Participating:

President Darling, LRSC
President Hirling, WSC
President Cook, NDSU
Dean Migler, DCB
President Armacost, UND
President Van Horn, MaSU
President Shirley, MiSU
President Easton, DSU
Dr. David DeMuth, VCSU
Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, NDSU
Dr. John Mihelich, UND

1. **Agenda**

And

2. **May 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Warford moved, Bye seconded, to approve the agenda and the May 18, 2022, meeting minutes, as presented.

Warford, Bye, and Ryan voted yes.

3. **Update on USICA**

Chancellor Hagerott informed the committee that USICA remains strongly supported, but there has been no final action as of June 14th. He has been in communication with the Chancellor of

the Montana regarding the Federal Legislation for research dollars for low population consortium and Senator Tester's strong support of it. He also stated that he briefed the Interim Legislative Committee on USICA, along with legacy stream for research enterprise. Dr. Fitzgerald stated she has heard some concerns from other VPs and AVPs regarding support for a low population consortium going forward, however, there is still issues with the size of the bill and around foreign security and research security.

The committee will continue to receive updates going forward.

4. Update on Research

Dr. Delore Zimmerman was unavailable to provide an update at this meeting.

5. Update on Research Working Group

Dr. John Mihelich and Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald stated that they continue to inform legislators, individuals from economic development, and others on components of the legacy research initiative. The committee members also discussed previous legislation regarding funding for research, the amendments that were made to previous bills, and how to frame the proposal going forward this legislative year. The research working group will tentatively meet once more over the summer and reconvene the meetings in the fall to continue their work.

Committee member Bye stated she attended the Interim higher Education Committee meeting in Minot, and they were given a tour of the Minot State University facilities, including a highlight on their undergraduate research work. She stated MiSU representatives were very clear and appreciative on working in collaboration with UND and NDSU on research initiatives.

Dr. Ryan thanked Dr. Legerski, SBHE Faculty Advisor, for her service on the Board and her input on the Research and Governance Committee (her SBHE term expires 6/30/2022).

GOVERNANCE ITEMS

6. Board Self-Assessment Priorities

Ms. Dina Cashman reported the outcomes of the [Board self-assessment priorities](#); the committee discussed the various components and noted specific areas that were discussed at their May SBHE retreat/meeting. She explained the attached draft document is organized by categories created by the board development instrument. Each category has a chart with the responses related to the topic and comments below.

The committee discussed several items identified, including but not limited to:

- Board communication, limited by open meeting/record laws – piloted BFC with five members (increased from three)
- Meeting process and effectiveness/more face-to-face meetings post COVID pandemic
- Chancellor's goal and evaluation process – addressed with new legislation
- Tracking student and faculty retention

Ryan moved, Warford seconded, to prioritize as follows:

1. Meeting Process/Effectiveness
 - BFC Committee will have five members to allow board members better collaboration and communication, this will be a pilot project.
2. Communication
 - Hold more face-to-face board meetings to build a relationship and improve communication with board members
3. Student Enrollment and Faculty Retention
 - Review and discuss student enrollment and faculty retention on a regular basis.

Warford, Bye, and Ryan voted yes.

7. CTS Project Report

Mr. Darin King reviewed the [CTS Project report](#); the committee had no concerns.

8. Strategic Plan

Mr. Jerry Rostad explained the [Strategic Plan](#) was introduced to the Board at their May meeting and is being brought back for additional discussion, if needed, and action. He stated that last year, when we updated the strategic plan, there were three outcomes that were tabled and sent back for further review; two of the three were student successful (goal 3) and a unified system (goal 4). After review, it's recommended we do not proceed with those for the reasons cited in the documentation. Research, Goal 5 an outcome identified in the documentation attached, along with goal 6 (workforce). The committee noted that metrics need to be applied to the research goal and requested that those discussions be an agenda item at a future RGC meeting. Chancellor Hagerott agreed.

Ryan moved, Warford seconded, to recommend approval of the strategic plan amendments, as presented. Further, additional metrics to be determined and reported to the committee at a future meeting.

Warford, Bye, and Ryan voted yes.

9. Strategic Topics

Chancellor Hagerott proposed the attached [strategic topics](#) for the SBHE to support during the upcoming legislative session. He explained that the SBHE already recognized the rapidly changing conditions and the significant impacts on the near term and long-term future of higher education in North Dakota. Six strategic priorities were identified by the NDUS executive staff. They include dynamic enrollment environment, educational pathways, challenges in talent recruitment and retention, changing economic funding conditions, technical transformation (energy economy) and digitization of society, and legislative relations and policy implications. Study groups were established and consisted of one board member, campus presidents, system office personnel, and members from throughout the university system's eleven public colleges and universities. The study groups developed working assumptions that aimed to move toward evidence-based conclusions. This culminated in the SBHE annual retreat, and a summary of process and conclusions were provided to the full board, presidents, and system office staff. The attached conclusions and recommendations were made by their respective priority team leads and were characterized as either Board action or legislative request(s).

The committee also discussed, retention, inflation, and salary increases, noting discussions will continue through the fall at this committee or another SBHE committee, depending on the subject matter.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. CT.

Approved September 21, 2022.