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North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

October 19, 2022, Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met on Wednesday, October 19th 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. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor

NDUS staff participating:

Chancellor Mark Hagerott, NDUS
Ms. Dina Cashman, NDUS
Ms. Kristie Hetzler, NDUS
Mr. David Krebsbach, NDUS
Mr. Darin King, CTS
Ms. Lisa Johnson, NDUS
Mr. Jerry Rostad, NDUS
Ms. Terry Meyer, NDUS

Others Participating:

Mr. Jeff Volk, SBHE member
Dr. David DeMuth, VCSU
Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, NDSU
Dr. John Mihelich, UND
President Darling, LRSC
President Cook, NDSU
President Armacost, UND
President Van Horn, MaSU
President Shirley, MiSU
Dr. John Miller, DSU
Valrey Kettner, NDSU
Dr. Delore Zimmerman, VPP
Dean Simone, DCB

1. **Agenda**

and

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Warford moved, Bye seconded, to approve the agenda and September 19, 2022, meeting Minutes.

Warford, Bye, and Ryan voted yes.

RESEARCH ITEMS

3. **Update CHIPS and Science Act of 2022**

Chancellor Hagerott and Dr. Mihelich provided a brief update on the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022; the consortium continues to have momentum for the State of North Dakota, and they will continue to keep the committee members informed to any updates and/or changes.

4. **Update on Research Working Group**

Dr. John Mihelich and Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald provided an update on the research working group. The group met after the September RGC meeting, the following were a few of the topics discussed:

- o EPSCOR transition
- o CHIPS and Science Act of 2022
- o Innovation hub
- o Collaborative grants
- o Research is an all-Inclusive endeavor, including all NDUS institutions and tribal colleges
 - geographical collaboration (east and western ND working together)

5. **Strengthening and Diversifying North Dakota's Economy by Investing in Research and Development**

Co-chair Ryan stated that there will be challenges when competing for State funding for research. There are legislators in transition and any new ones will have to be informed on the various research initiatives currently going on and in the foreseeable future. The state has funds available, however, several state agencies are competing for funding. The committee discussed the unique funding needs, as research often takes multiple years of funding before a return on investment, that will need to be laid out in a clear plan for legislation. Another challenge is that there will be legislators in transition this session, especially the ones in leadership roles that have experience and have historically supported Higher Education.

The Chancellor and institution Presidents emphasized that there are going to be challenges when investing in research if there is going to be an expectation of positive outcomes in one biennium. Many legislators could base their support on inputs and outputs, however, depending on the various kinds of research and variables involved, six years should be a minimum length in funding. There is a need to make some longer-term investments to leverage the funding/money.

Co-chair Ryan stated that the previous document completed by VPP and NDUS should be reviewed and amended if needed. The west also needs to be better integrated to gain support for statewide research initiative(s) and opportunities.

GOVERNANCE ITEMS

6. **Update on Presidential Comprehensive Review Process**

Co-chair Bye provided a background on the current process used for presidential comprehensive reviews. She stated that there is going to be positive and negatives whether the process is internal or external. Past discussions were based on getting to a well-balanced and an integrated process. It was also agreed that the process can be amended as needed. She stated the end of the meeting is approaching and requested Mr. Volk provide observations he's made on the current process.

Mr. Volk stated that he would like to re-visit the process, starting with a higher-level discussion of how and who does the evaluations. There have been a few comprehensive reviews completed and the process is due for a review. He also noted he was dissatisfied by last year's Board self-evaluation process.

Ms. Bye stated the committee will begin to look at what would be the right timing for implementing a review of the current process for comprehensive reviews.

7. **2022 Self-Assessment/Priority 3**

- Students
- Faculty
- Staff
- Administration

Ms. Bye stated that item seven is one that the Board identified; it is student enrollment, faculty retention, and administrator/staff employment will be reviewed and discussed on a regular basis. Mr. Rostad and Dr. Weber from the system office will be assisting as we move forward.

The committee discussed the following components to review:

- Resource for data/numbers and how often it is updated
- Categories and
- Items to track
- Power BI-analytics data

Dr. Weber explained and presented internal dashboards (used in-house only). There is a Fall census report that is updated every year, along with several other ways to review the data. She also presented the data/information collected and or tracked on the HR component for staff.

The committee discussed identifiers and predicative analytics, other components, such as retention and graduation with degrees in high demand workforce areas. They agreed that the data is helpful; however, would like to see more than annually and expand on parameters they can review. Member Ryan raised concerns about staff turnover and how data is collected on why. He noted that salary can be an issue and identified, however, the human aspect is difficult to identify. He inquired about staff surveys, culture surveys, and other types of resources that could provide specific indicators. He also stated that data is helpful, but it's important to determine how it's used and what we can compare it to.

Member Warford stated there are other variables that could be reviewed; Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs, Ms. Lisa Johnson, is heading a small subgroup of Presidents that are discussing some strategic enrollment practices.

The committee agreed to continue discussions at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. CT.

Approved November 16, 2022.