

North Dakota State Board of Higher Education

November 16, 2022, Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met on Wednesday, November 16th at 3:15 p.m.

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. Kristie Hetzler, NDUS
Mr. David Krebsbach, NDUS
Mr. Darin King, CTS
Ms. Lisa Johnson, NDUS
Mr. Jerry Rostad, NDUS
Mr. Dustin Walcker, NDUS

Others Participating:

President Darling, LRSC
Dr. David DeMuth, VCSU
Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, NDSU
Dr. John Mihelich, UND
President Armacost, UND
President Hirling, WSC
Dean Simone, DCB
Dr. David Demuth, VCSU
President Jensen, BSC
President Easton, DSU
Mr. Brian Huschle, MaSU
Dr. Delore Zimmerman, VPP

1. **Agenda**

And;

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Bye moved, Warford seconded, to approve the agendas and October 19, 2022, meeting minutes, as presented.

Warford, Bye, and Ryan voted yes.

RESEARCH ITEMS

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

Chancellor Hagerott stated the Mountains and Plains University Innovation Alliance is now in existence with five States and thirteen universities. The discussions have moved forward to the Governors; Chancellor Hagerott has already convened with Governor Burgum's office to offer details on the business, innovation, and research alliance. Mr. Mihelich explained that the MOU's have been signed and includes the CHIPS Act and several similar opportunities. The network and alliances were created for both research and academic program collaboration across the states. The committee discussed analyzing what avenues could benefit the tribal colleges directly and/or in collaboration efforts. The committee discussed member Warford joining Drs. Mihelich and Fitzgerald when reaching out to the tribal colleges; Member Warford stated it is essential to maintain collaboration/inclusion of the NDUS four regional universities and five community colleges. The committee agreed there is a workforce element, along with research component. Dr. Fitzgerald informed the committee that she recently attended an Association of Public Land grant universities meeting, which opened an opportunity to set the foundation for networking/relationship building. It will be important to know and utilize each other's strengths and networks; there will be various ways to collaborate on larger federal projects.

4. **Update on Research Working Group**

Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald stated that the group plans on meeting in December and one of topics will be in regard to the legacy request, another topic is a collective infrastructure that is needed for supporting undergraduate research. Dr. Demuth stated there is an interest in deploying an undergraduate research program that could be useful to all NDUS campuses; there are other universities with similar programs that NDUS institutions could use as a model.

Dr. Warford informed the committee that during the last EPSCoR meeting, there was confirmation that all participants are collaborating and moving in the right direction. He also indicated the team is confident that the 2024 deadline will be met for track one.

Dr. Delore Zimmerman from Valley Prosperity stated the executive committee will be meeting within the next couple days to discuss next steps forward with their research initiative.

Committee Co-chair Ryan requested a December meeting; he asked members to review the Valley Prosperity document and if they have amendments to be prepared to propose them at that meeting.

GOVERNANCE

5. **2023 Meeting Schedule Change**

Moved, seconded, to approve recommending a change to the 2023 meeting schedule for May Board retreat and meeting to 22 and 23.

Warford, Ryan, and Bye voted yes.

6. **Unit Cost Summary Presentation**

Bismarck State College President, Dr. Doug Jensen reviewed his [unit cost summary](#) with the committee. He stated the unit cost is focused on improving fiscal efficiencies and program vitality. He explained that conducting a fiscal analysis is necessary, but other components need to be factored in to achieve positive results. Other components to consider are institutional missions, workforce needs/community supported programs, and possible collaboration with other NDUS institutions. The unit cost continually measures fiscal versus mission bottom lines as economic changes are constant. He explained that there are challenges such as inflation being at a record high, the past few year's budget cuts, retaining employees, and maintaining student affordability while maintaining the campus's financial stability.

7. **2022 Self-Assessment, Focus on Students**

Vice Chancellor Johnson informed the committee on [student focus](#) data, such as, but not limited to NDUS historical enrollment, high school graduates nationally, k-12 projected graduates, post-secondary enrollment/ND high school graduates, and ND residents with some college and/or no degree. The committee had a thorough discussion regarding ND students with some college experience and how data identifying key factors for noncompletion could be utilized to attract that specific group. Ms. Johnson stated she works closely with the ND Student Association, and they may have some ideas about surveying students to gain more detailed information. The committee noted a future discussion on how we communicate with students and things NDUS campuses are proactively doing in this regard. The committee also discussed a previous marketing plan that didn't have enough state agency/funding support to move forward. The plan will be reviewed and amended to align with current workforce needs, opportunities/resources, and/or challenges.

8. **Update on Governor's Red Tape Reduction Working Group**

Chair Ryan explained there's two different components, one is the Governor's statewide initiative to reduce barriers and red tape to increase state efficiencies in operation and processes, Vice Chancellor Krebsbach will be the system lead. The second component is the Board will have an ad hoc committee, consisting of SBHE members Hacker, Warford, and Black; the chair of the committee will be Hacker. The committee will identify, prioritize, and address opportunities, efficiencies, or barriers regarding NDUS operations and processes. The committee can address each item through policies, request the appropriate SBHE committee to address it, and/or another direction as they deem appropriate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. CT.

Approved December 21, 2022.