

## **North Dakota State Board of Higher Education**

### Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met via Teams on January 10, 2024, at 3:15 p.m. CT.

#### SBHE Research and Governance Committee members

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Casey Ryan, Co-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Sadie Hanson           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. John Warford         |  |

#### Institution Presidents/Representatives

**BSC**, **DCB** Dean Carmen Simone, **DSU** President Easton, **LRSC** President Darling, **MaSU** Dr. Brian Huschle, **MISU**, **NDS**, **NDSU** Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Dr. Kristen Fellows, Mr. Bruce Bollinger, Ms. Karin Hegstad, Dr. Khang Hoang, Ms. Cynthia Rott, Mr. Marc Wallman, **UND** President Armacost, Dr. John Mihelich, Dr. Ryan Adams, Mr. Aaron Bergstrom, Dr. Robert Newman, Dr. Scott Snyder, **VCSU** Dr. David DeMuth, **WSC** President Hirning

#### System Office/CTS/Guests

**NDUS** Chancellor Hagerott, VC. Lisa Johnson, VC. Jerry Rostad, VC. Darin King, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Ms. Bethany Kadrmars, Ms. Caitlin Magilke, Dr. Billie Jo Lorus, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Mindy Sturn, Dr. Jennifer Weber, Ms. Jamie Wilke, **CTS** Mr. Corey Quirk, **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson

#### **Call to Order**

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

1. Agenda  
And,
2. Meeting Minutes
  - a. Co-Chair Ryan stated a request was made to move agenda item #9 – Introduction of Dr. Scott Snyder up to item #3 under Research Discussion. Member Warford moved, Co-Chair Bye seconded, to approve the agenda as amended and the [November 15, 2023](#), meeting minutes, as presented. Bye, Hanson, Ryan, and Warford voted yes. Motion carries 4-0.

#### **Research Discussion/Updates/Reports**

3. Introduction of Dr. Scott Snyder, UND VP of Research – President Andrew Armacost
  - a. President Armacost introduced Dr. Scott Snyder, UND VP of Research. President Armacost shared Dr. Snyder's background which included serving as both Dean of Engineering and VPR at Idaho State University; Chief of Research at University of Nebraska-Omaha; Program Director for the National Science Foundation; and President of the Nebraska Applied Research Institute.

4. Research Initiative Updates
  - a. Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald announced a joint funding initiative between UND and NDSU using \$100,000 of their Economic Diversification Research Funds to facilitate collaboration between UND and NDSU and other NDUS institutions or tribal colleges.
    - i. Co-Chair Ryan asked if the funding is \$100,000 per institution, or \$100,000 total for all. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that UND and NDSU will each contribute \$100,000 each fiscal year from their EDRF funds. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that submitters will pick which institution is the lead institution. NDSU will pay for its portion, UND will pay for its own portion, and the cost for the third institution will be split between each institution.
    - ii. Member Warford asked if a third institution has been selected and, if not, what the process is for selection. Dr. Mihelich shared that the winning projects will determine what institution receives the funding.
5. Report out from NDUS Research Working Group – Dr. John Mihelich, Dr. David DeMuth, Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald
  - a. The NDUS Research Working Group meeting on December 15, 2023, focused on EDRF grants and how implementation of Year One projects worked on the individual campuses. In addition, the group discussed possible process revisions for Year Two and recommendations for preparing for NDUS budget process and next legislative cycle.
  - b. The Working Group recommends prioritizing strategic actions to ensure that the next legislative session includes and ideally increases EDRF funding in the higher education appropriations.
  - c. Dr. DeMuth shared that the group felt they should meet more often, particularly as we move into the legislative session.
6. Economic Diversification Research Grant Funds – Mr. Mark Gorenflo
  - a. [Guidelines](#)

Mr. Mark Gorenflo shared the guidelines approved by the State Board of Higher Education per North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.)
  - b. [Advisory Committee Members](#)

Mr. Mark Gorenflo shared that the advisory committees are fully set up with the help of input from NDUS institutions.
  - c. [2023-2024 Biennium Timeline](#)
    - i. Mr. Mark Gorenflo shared the 2023-2024 Biennium Timeline and due dates coming up.
    - ii. Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald suggested sifting Year One reports later in the year since Year One funds weren't received until December 9, 2023
    - iii. Mr. Mark Gorenflo shared N.D.C.C. does not require a specific date when annual reports are due. Dr. Fitzgerald suggested reporting on Year One funds could be conducted in October or November when institutions have had funds for close to a year.
    - iv. Mr. Gorenflo, Dr. Fitzgerald, and Dr. Mihelich will work offline to revise the timeline and will report to Chair Ryan via email when an updated timeline is established.
    - v. Chair Ryan agreed that this was a sensible way ahead.
7. FY22 HERD Data – UND/NDSU
  - a. Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald shared for FY22 NDSU's research expenditures came out to \$174.9 million up from FY21 which was at \$164 million and FY20 which was at \$155.6 million.

- b. Dr. Mihelich shared for FY22 UND's overall research and development expenditures came out to \$147 million which is a 32% increase from FY20. Dr. Mihelich shared from FY20 to FY22 federal dollars increased from \$44 million to \$63 million. Dr. Mihelich shared that UND's institutional funds increased 7% from \$40 million to \$44 million.
  - c. Co-Chair Bye asked what the relationship is between the HERD expenditure data and metrics and the NDUS strategic directives. Chancellor Hagerott shared that when he joined NDUS, there were no research goals, leading to the creation of the Research & Governance committee with input from the VPRs at each institution. Chancellor shared that the Board now has a set of accountable goals and each research institution helped to build those goals. Co-Chair Ryan shared that he has conversations with the VPRs to relook at the metrics and frame them so that others can understand what we're trying to achieve.
8. Research Computing Infrastructure and Support Update – Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald
- a. Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald recommended that a presentation on the type of computing infrastructure research institutions should have for the future.
  - b. Co-Chair Ryan asked about the briefing timeline. Dr. Fitzgerald stated a 20-minute presentation at the next meeting would suffice. Co-Chair Ryan supports this type of presentation and stated that it will be a main item for discussion at the next meeting.
9. CHIPS/NSF Engines FARMS Updates – Chancellor Hagerott and Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald
- a. Chancellor Hagerott provided an update on the CHIPS. The Chancellor stated that the Tech Hub will be in Missoula, MT. He expects NDUS institutions will be important partners for Tech Hub research. Dr. Mihelich shared the phase 2 application from the Tech Hub is due in February to the federal Department of Commerce.
  - b. Co-Chair Ryan asked if North Dakota institutions were included in writing up what Montana has or was it solely Montana. Chancellor Hagerott shared that the ideas initially came from North Dakota.
  - c. Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald provided an NSF Engines FARMS update. Dr. Fitzgerald shared that awardees have not yet been announced. Dr. Fitzgerald shared that a fifth core partner has been added – North Dakota Tribal College system.

### **Governance Items:**

10. # [Policy 705.1](#) Executive Compensation – Chancellor Hagerott gave a brief history of the rationale behind the suggested changes to remove senior NDUS staff members from the policy. In addition, no automobile grants have ever been made so this section is also recommended for deletion.
- a. Chancellor Hagerott provided a brief history of Policy 705.1. Chancellor stated that in the past his senior staff members' salaries were discussed at a public level. Updates to Policy 705.1 would remove the language in paragraphs 1 and 3 referring to vice chancellors and NDUS senior officers. Chancellor shared that paragraph 5 was removed from the policy as vehicle allowances were phased out in 2008.

Co-Chair Ryan moved, Member Warford seconded, to approve Policy 705.1 as presented.

Bye, Hanson, Ryan, and Warford voted yes. Motion carries 4-0.

11. # [Policy 303.1](#) SBHE Meetings and Agendas – VC. Jerry Rostad
- a. VC. Jerry Rostad shared that Policy 303.1 was up for regular review. VC. Rostad shared that minor edits were made to the policy to clarify language.
  - b. Co-Chair Ryan asked for clarification around the language of president vs. chair. In the first sentence of the policy, it states president and in other portions of the policy it states chair. Mr. Chris Pieske stated that he is working on correcting language within policies to be more consistent and will update language within Policy 303.1 to state SBHE Chair.
  - c. Co-Chair Bye stated that legal counsel has shared that SBHE meetings loosely follow Robert's Rules of Order and does the word generally in section 2 cover the Chairs. Mr. Chris Pieske stated that is correct and the Chair of the meeting decides how the meeting will be run.

Co-Chair Ryan moved, Member Warford seconded, to approve Policy 303.1 as presented with updates to changing language from president to SBHE Chair. Bye, Hanson, Ryan, and Warford voted yes. Motion carries 4-0.

### **Governance Discussion/Updates/Reports**

12. [Policy 409](#) Degrees Offered and [Policy 421](#) Academic Program Requests – VC. Lisa Johnson
- a. VC. Lisa Johnson shared background information on Policy 409 and Policy 421. Johnson shared that the Board delegated responsibilities including program approval, termination, and others to the SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC). Johnson stated at the December 2023 Board meeting a request was made for the full Board to review these delegations, hence the review of these delegations at this meeting. VC. Johnson stated that Policy 409 is up for a second read at the January Board meeting.
  - b. Member Warford provided additional information and feedback from the ASAC meeting on January 10, 2024, regarding Policy 409 and Policy 421. Member Warford shared that ASAC discussed BSC's request to offer Bachelor of Science degrees, but the committee wanted more deliberation, including a thorough review of the relevant data from all stakeholders. Member Warford shared that the ASAC committee has a rigorous process to vet every academic program request. The ASAC shared that they feel strongly that there is a lot of effort placed on reviewing these requests and final approval should remain with the committee as the process works well. The committee members also shared feedback in that if any other Board member has a question or wants more information on a program request, they can attend any of the committee meetings, or review the recordings and minutes, and request consideration by the full Board of any program request of concern.
  - c. Co-Chair Bye asked how the Board is notified when new programs are approved, C. Lisa Johnson shared that all committee agendas are publicly available and accessible to all Board members. Johnson also shared that post committee meeting information is shared out to a wider listserv about policies or programs that have been approved. Member Warford shared that at Board meetings each Committee Chair. Member Warford shared that at the full Board meetings each Chair of the respective committee provides a report. Member Warford suggested adding a link to the full Board agenda that links to the committee agendas.

- d. Co-Chair Bye asked if referencing policies within a policy is something that the committee needs to respond to. Mr. Chris Pieske stated that referencing them is actually best practice.
13. SBHE Post-Tenure Ad Hoc Committee Update – Co-Chair Ryan/VC. Lisa Johnson
- a. Co-Chair Ryan shared that the committee did not meet on January 9, 2024, because CCF had not yet had a meeting.
  - b. Co-Chair Ryan shared at the February Post-Tenure Ad Hoc Committee meeting CCF will provide a report and the committee will collate different ideas from the interviews at each campus. Co-Chair Ryan anticipates that a presentation will come back to the RGC committee in April.
14. [Envision 2035 Report](#) – VC. Jerry Rostad
- a. VC. Jerry Rostad shared that the Envision2035 Summit occurred on November 1, 2023.
  - b. Rostad stated that inputs for State-of-the-State address for the Governor were submitted. Three significant initiatives were included in the NDUS submission for the State-of-the-State address:
    - i. First is Digitization and AI. One of the proposals to the Governor is to create the infrastructure for a single statewide AI environment. This is draft input at this time.
    - ii. Second is Grand Energy or alternatively Intelligent Energy. This is to ensure the Bakken is competitive for generations to come.
    - iii. Third is a Dakota Humanities Academy. Goals are to have faculty collaborate across the NDUS, as they do for the Dakota Nursing Program and the Dakota Digital Academy, to deliver a high-quality liberal arts program to online students in the state.
15. [Quarter 3 IT Project Oversight Update](#) – VC. Darin King
- a. VC. Darin King shared that NDUS's Security Operations Center (SOC) continues to build capacity and capabilities. Over the last 90 days, there have been over 1200 unique incidents and CTS has worked directly with campuses to investigate 169 incidents detected by the SOC.
  - b. Email threats continue to be worked on and controls are continually added. Phishing accounts for a substantial portion of these incidents. Because of the controls in place, over 100,000 threats were stopped.
  - c. VC. Darin King reported on major incidents that occurred in April, July, and September of 2023.
  - d. VC. Darin King shared various security initiatives including expansion of SOC, centralized logging, data classification and information protection, security compliance, advanced email security, deprovisioning and more. The NDUS Security Summit is scheduled for February 2024.
  - e. [Quarterly Report](#)
    - i. VC. Darin King shared information on the Quarterly Report from the major IT projects. N.D.C.C. states that any project over \$500,000 needs major project oversight.
    - ii. UND Telecom Modernization project is completed 34% under budget and 12.1% behind on the schedule.
    - iii. Novelution project has an overall status of green and slightly behind schedule (1.4%) but will more than likely be closed the next time a report is provided. The project is also currently under budget (24.7%)
    - iv. UND AssetWorks project has an overall status of green and slightly behind schedule (6.3%) and under budget (4.6%).

- v. Target X project has an overall status of yellow and slightly behind schedule (3.7%) and over budget (46.5%).

**Adjourn**

Committee Co-Chair Bye adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m. CT.