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 February 14, 2024, at 3:15 p.m. CT.

SBHE Research and Governance Committee members
- ☒ Dr. Casey Ryan, Co-Chair
- ☒ Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair
- ☒ Dr. John Warford
- ☒ Ms. Sadie Hanson
- ☒ Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor

Institution Presidents/Representatives
DCB Dean Carmen Simone, **DSU** President Stephen Easton, **MaSU** Dr. Khwaja Hossain, **NDSU** Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Dr. Kristen Fellows, Dr. Marc Wallman, **UND** President Andrew Armacost, Dr. John Mihelich, Dr. Scott Snyder, Dr. Robert Newman, Dr. Ryan Adams, **VCSU** Dr. David DeMuth, **WSC** President Bernell Hirning

System Office/CTS/Guests
NDUS Chancellor Hagerott, VC. David Krebsbach, VC. Jerry Rostad, VC. Darin King, VC. Lisa Johnson, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Dr. Jen Weber, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Mr. Eric Jensen, Ms. Caitlin Magilke, **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 Bye requests to remove item #3, Policies 611.2, 611.6 and 611.8 from the agenda and move to the April 2024 meeting.
   b. Member Warford moved, Member Bye seconded, to approve the agenda as amended and the January 10, 2024, meeting minutes, as presented.
      Bye, Hanson, Ryan, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

Research Items:

3. ~~#~~ ~~Policies 611.2, 611.6, 611.8~~ ~~– VC. Lisa Johnson/Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald~~
   a. ~~Policy 611.2 Employee Responsibility and Activities: Intellectual Property~~
   b. ~~Policy 611.6 Confidential Proprietary Information~~
   c. ~~Policy 611.8 Employee Responsibility and Activities: Research on Human Subjects~~

Research Discussion/Updates/Reports

4. Research Computing Infrastructure and Support Presentation – Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald

a. Dr. Fitzgerald provided a presentation on what high performance computing is and what research universities are doing.
b. Advanced research computing can be done in support of or related to research activities. The three areas of advanced computing include high-throughput computing, high performance computing (supercomputing), and big data visualization.
c. The goal of research computing facilitation is to advance researcher capabilities and accelerate scholarly discovery. Major facilitation activities include promoting awareness of resources and potential impacts, engagement with the researchers to understand their needs and advise on those computing strategies, ongoing support of researchers executing projects on computing resources, education and training of researchers and researcher students, liaising the researcher connections, and advocacy for research computing facilitators.
d. Existing research computing needs include on campus computing for artificial intelligence and machine learning, and data storage, curation, and data science.
e. UND and NDSU both have high performance computing resources and NDSU's is CCAST – Center for Computationally Assisted Science and Technology. CCAST provides advanced cyberinfrastructure for computational research and education at NDSU and beyond. Basic services are provided at no charge and dedicated services are available at cost.
f. CCAST hardware is approximately 12,000 CPU cores, 70 GPUs and research data storage totaling 10 petabytes of capacity. The compute clusters include Thunder Cluster (Intel CPUs) and Thunder Prime Cluster (AMD CPUs).
g. CCAST has trained over 600 students, staff, and faculty at NDSU and at other institutions in North Dakota. CCAST has provided internships to more than 40 students.
h. Member Bye asked what is being done to get UND to scale faster and what the relationship between UND and NDSU looks like and what the plans are moving forward. Dr. Fitzgerald shared that UND has been able to take advantage of NDSU's computing power in the biomedical space. Dr. Marc Wallman shared that the primary collaborations have been through the research program at NDSU. Dr. Fitzgerald stated that both UND and NDSU have their own computing facilities and NDSU has complementary resources for those facilities.
i. Member Warford asked how NDSU will keep the infrastructure of CCAST relevant moving forward and if NDSU is planning for capital needs to further fund iterations of CCAST moving forward. Dr. Wallman shared the estimated the lifespan of the hardware is seven years. Dr. Ryan Adams shared that the typical industry rule of thumb is to replace equipment every three years since the equipment starts to fail at the 7-year point. For the first 3-4 years, service contracts with vendors maintain and upgrade the equipment. Regarding capital, there are grant opportunities that can provide funding and the next level would be to reach out to colleges within the state to leverage their assistance with particular resources.

Governance Discussion/Updates/Reports

5. Governor's Strategy Review/Envision 2035 – VC. Jerry Rostad
   a. There are nine study groups for Envision2035, and all nine groups have reported that digitization and AI is the leading crosscutting theme.

b. Similar to the StageNet model from the 90s, a similar model has been created for digitation and AI. NDUS is working with NDIT to build out this plan.

c. Grand Energy, alternatively Intelligent Energy, will be addressed at the Governor Strategy Review. Grand Energy ensures the Bakken is competitive for a generation to come through automation, robotics, AI, and an upskilled workforce.

d. A third topic that emerged is a Dakota Humanities Academy. Faculty can collaborate across the system to provide high quality liberal arts courses to online NDUS students. Tied into this is the development of civic and social/soft skills. Feedback from employers is that they need workers with critical thinking skills, communication skills, and are engaged in the community. All of these skills can be advanced through a Dakota Humanities Academy.

e. A fourth topic that emerged is the National Defense Triad (MAFB, GFAFB, NG) and Veterans. Discussions have centered around how to attract and support these student demographics.

f. Other emerging, crosscutting topics include student and faculty: tenure study, community college tenure, behavioral health, and BSC degree expansion, as well as cultural issues: guns, gambling, and marijuana.

6. Large IT Project Oversight Report 2023 4th Quarter – VC. Darin King
    a. The scholarship management system project is currently in the planning phase.
    b. Four projects are in execution and are "green" on schedule and budget. Novelution is set to close which was a multi-year grant administrations project for UND and NDSU.
    c. The NDSU-NDSCS Zoom Voice project entered into execution in late Q4.

7. 2023 CTS Annual Report – VC. Darin King
    a. Per policy and law, an annual report to the Board and Legislative IT Committee on the annual work of Core Technology Services (CTS) is required.
    b. A study was conducted eight years ago, and it was found that over 90% of the work that CTS does was operational so doing anything to grow or transform was virtually impossible. A multi-year project was implemented to reduce operation spend and it is now under 80%.

8. SBHE Self-Assessment Process and Timeline – Mr. Chris Pieske
    a. Timeline
        i. Mr. Chris Pieske shared a proposed timeline for the SBHE self-assessment process. Once approved by the Board, Mr. Pieske will send out surveys and begin interviews in March.
        ii. Co-chair Bye asked what has changed in the timeline. Mr. Pieske shared that the timeline has been advanced by one month. Other changes have been made to line up with the 2024 meeting schedule.
    b. Board Development Tool
        i. Mr. Chris Pieske shared the Board Development Tool which is the same survey that has been used in years past.
        ii. Co-chair Ryan moved, Member Warford seconded, to approve the SBHE Self-Assessment Process and Timeline as presented.
            Bye, Hanson, Ryan, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

9. Chancellor's Evaluation Process and Timeline – VC. Jerry Rostad
    a. VC. Jerry Rostad shared the 2024 Chancellor & President Goals and Evaluation Planning Timeline.

b. Starting in May, the Chancellor will begin working with the campus presidents to update their accomplishments towards their goals from last year. In later May and June, the presidents' evaluations will be conducted for the 4-year research institutions and will begin setting goals for next year. In early fall the presidents' evaluations will be conducted for the 2-year institutions.
    i. Chancellor Hagerott provided feedback regarding Co-chair Ryan's work on the presidential compensation study and changing the renewal period for presidents' contracts to three years versus two years. Co-chair Ryan discussed moving to a three-year cycle, which would be another way we could reward good people.
    ii. Co-chair Bye asked if changing to a three-year cycle would affect the Chancellor's evaluation process and timeline and would yearly evaluations still occur. Chancellor Hagerott shared that annual evaluations would still occur.
        1. Co-chair Ryan moved, Member Warford seconded, to discuss moving the presidents' contract period to three-years at the April 2024 RGC meeting.
            Bye, Hanson, Ryan, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.
    iii. Mr. Pieske shared that the surveys for SBHE, cabinet, and NDUS staff are already prepared and only need to be implemented. This does not change the timeline itself. Co-chair Bye asked that the survey questions be shared with the committee. Mr. Pieske will share in the Teams chat and will also email the committee.
    iv. Co-chair Ryan moved, Member Warford seconded, to approve the Chancellor's Evaluation Process and Timeline as presented by VC. Jerry Rostad.
        Bye, Hanson, Ryan, and Warford voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

Adjourn
Committee Co-Chair Bye adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m. CT.

Approved March 13, 2024.