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State Capitol – 600 E Boulevard Ave – Dept. 215
Bismarck ND 58505-0230
Phone: 701.328.2960 Fax: 701.328.2961
E-mail: ndus.inquiry@ndus.edu Web: ndus.edu

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 April 17, 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 Simone, **DSU** President Easton, **LRSC** Mr. Lloyd Halverson, **MaSU** Mr. Brian Huschle, **NDSU** President Cook, Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Dr. Marc Wallman**, UND** Dr. John Mihelich, Dr. Scott Snyder, Dr. Robert Newman, Dr. Ryan Adams**, VCSU** Dr. David DeMuth**, WSC** President Hirning.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS Chancellor Hagerott, Dr. Delore Zimmerman, VC David Krebsbach, VC Jerry Rostad, Mr. Darin King, VC Lisa Johnson, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Mr. Chris Pieske,

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

1. **Agenda**
   And,
2. **Meeting Minutes**
   Warford, Bye, Hanson, and Ryan voted yes. Motion passed 3 -0.

   Bye moved, Warford seconded, to approve the agenda, and March 13, 2024, meeting minutes, as presented.

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

3. **Chancellor Hagerott's Research Update**
   a. Envision 2035
   b. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

   Chancellor Hagerott provided an update on incorporating a research and AI component into Envision 2035. The committee discussed needing additional research fellowships in agriculture, energy, and defense. They also discussed the emerging importance of artificial intelligence and the state's AI initiative.

4. **High Performance Computing Update**

Dr. Scott Snyder provided information on NDSU and UND's High Performance Computing and a proposed research computing request for the 2025 Legislative Session. The request/proposal was created in collaboration between UND and NDSU.

The committee discussed the need to increase funding for research computing resources. The increasing demand for compute power and data storage, particularly in the field of AI, and funding for additional labor to support researchers to make the best use of available resources.

UND and NDSU asked about the process to use to requests these funds. Chancellor Hagerott advised them to include these requests in the Envision 2035 findings of the Digitization and Infrastructure Study Groups and include them in the Campus budget submissions.

5. **Other Research Initiatives/Updates**
   Updates were provided to the committee on various fields of research, including collaborative grants/projects, inclusion of tribal nations/colleges, outreach/fellowship programs, and cyber infrastructure. The committee noted the differences between operating expenses and capital expenditures and discussed funding resources, and options for IT infrastructure and human capital to support digitization research.

6. **SBHE Policy 311 Public Records**
   Mr. Chris Pieske reviewed proposed amendments to Policy 311 Public Records. The amendments to Board policy were made to follow legislative changes made last session, regarding confidential working papers. There were no concerns.

   Bye moved, Warford seconded, to recommend approval of Policy 311, as presented.

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

7. **SBHE Policy 340.1 State Forester**
   VC Jerry Rostad proposed amendments to SBHE Policy 340.1 State Forester. There were no concerns.

   Bye moved, Warford seconded, to recommend approval of Policy 340.1, as presented.

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

8. **SBHE Self-assessment**
   Mr. Chris Pieske gave an overview of the draft executive summary of the Board's self-assessment survey. The committee will prioritize areas to focus on at their May meeting. At a previous Board meeting, member Volk had requested RGC do some additional research on having the assessment completed by an outside entity; Co-chair Bye stated that she is currently talking to various firms about options for next year's self-assessment and identifying the pros and cons of hiring an outside consultant. She will provide more information at a future meeting.

   Co-chair Bye stated that the executive survey will be shared with all Board members and that the RGC will discuss specifics and identify priorities at their May meeting; the committee recommendations will move forward to the full Board for consideration.

Ryan moved, Warford seconded, to recommend approval of the Executive Summary of the Board's Self-assessment, as presented.

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

9. **Information on New Board Member Orientation Timeline and Tools**
   Co-chair Bye stated that planning has begun for new Board member orientation; the Board will have two new members, their terms begin July 1, 2024. The attachment to today's agenda is a working document, additional work will be completed prior to the May committee meeting. The goal is to have a meaningful and robust process in place, ensure they are receiving relevant materials, and allotted adequate time to learn processes, procedures, missions/goals, and responsibilities as new Board members,

10. **Update on Post-Tenure Ad Hoc Committee Update**
    Co-chair Ryan provided an update from the ad hoc post-tenure study committee. The documentation includes two documents, one that shows all the changes that were made over the past several meetings and then a clean final document. The ad hoc committee completed a thorough review with all NDUS institutions providing information input, including the Council of College Faculty (CCF), via the SBHE Faculty Advisor, Dr. Lisa Montplaisir. He requested that more time be allowed for committee members to review and that no action be taken today. The agenda item will be placed on the May RGC agenda with three options for them to consider:
    - Forward to the full Board as presented. or
    - Review, discuss, and make suggested changes, and send back to the ad hoc post-tenure committee in May, or
    - Make suggested changes and send them directly to the full Board.

    The committee agreed to discuss further at their May meeting.

11. **SBHE May Retreat/Meeting Planning (May 29 & 30)**
    VC Jerry Rostad provided an overview of the planning process and a tentative agenda for the SBHE May 29th retreat. The committee discussed options for presentations and/or training and incorporating reports from each of the NDUS institutions. Co-chair Bye will continue to work with VC Rostad on additional plans and report back at the May committee meeting.

Committee Co-Chair Bye adjourned the meeting 4:25 p.m. CT.

Approved May 15, 2024.