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North Dakota State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2024

The State Board of Higher Education Research and Governance Committee met on Monday, September 16th at 11:30 am. CT, via Teams.

Co-chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.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"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud, Student Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Danita Bye, Co-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Advisor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. DJ Campbell | |

Institution Presidents/Representatives

DCB Dean Simone, **LRSC** President Darling, **MaSU** Dr. Hossain Khwaja, **MiSU** President Shirley, **NDSU** Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Dr. Robert Newman, Dr. Kristen Fellows, **UND** President Armacost, Dr. Scott Snyder, Dr. Robert Newman, Dr. Ryan Adams, **VCSU** Dr. David DeMuth.

System Office/CTS/Guests

NDUS Chancellor Hagerott, VC Jerry Rostad, VC Tom Dansford, VC Lisa Johnson, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Mr. Corey Quirk, Mr. Chris Pieske, Ms. Jamie Wilke, **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson.

1. **Agenda** and

2. **Meeting Minutes**

Co-chair Bye moved the records retention update to the October committee meeting and Co-chair Ryan stated there will be an EPSCoR report at the full Board meeting on September 24th.

Bye moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the amended agenda and July 17, 2024, meeting minutes.

Eriksrud, Eriksrud, Bye, and Ryan voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

RESEARCH ITEMS

3. **Update on Research Considerations for Legislative Session**

Chancellor Hagerott updated the Committee on the following research issues of interest to the Legislature:

- Legislative initiatives
- EDRF expansion
- AI Study groups led by the Governor's Office

- High Performance Computing (UND/NDSU shared facility)

Co-Chair Ryan provided a brief overview on research metrics; he informed the committee that he has asked UND and NDSU Vice Presidents for research to provide an update on FY22 and FY23 data/metrics at the October committee meeting.

4. **NDSU Research Update**

Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Vice President of Research provided an update on NDSU research initiatives.

5. **UND Research Update**

Dr. Scott Snyder, Vice President of Research provided an update on UND research initiatives.

Dr. Demuth, Valley City State University Professor, is the research representative for the other nine institutions; he provided an update on research activities at those institutions.

GOVERNANCE ITEMS

6. **Dickinson State University Presidential Search**

Mr. Gorenflo proposed a timeline and process for the [Dickinson State University presidential search](#). The committee discussed an option to hire an outside consultant to assist with the process and with recruiting. They also discussed previous presidential searches and having a Board member serve on the DSU presidential search committee, including the process to select a consultant, if needed.

Member Ryan inquired about the status of the Interim President search. Mr. Gorenflo reported that there were thirty-seven total applications; the search committee has narrowed the list of individuals to interview; those interviews have been conducted, and work is in progress to identify the finalist(s) for the Chancellor to consider. The Chancellor will make his recommendation to the full Board at their September 24th meeting.

Ryan moved, Eriksrud seconded, to recommend approval to engage a consultant to assist with the search for the next president of DSU.

Co-chair Bye clarified that the final approval to hire a search consultant and an appointment of a Board member to the search committee will be done by the full Board. Co-chair Ryan confirmed that it will be a Board decision to approve hiring a consultant. The previous practice of the Board is that the Board Chair will appoint a Board member to the search committee; both will be done at the September 24th meeting.

Eriksrud, Campbell, Bye, and Ryan voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

7. **Policy 1901.2 Computing Facilities**

Mr. Chris Pieske provided an explanation for deleting SBHE Policy [1901.2](#) Computing Facilities.

Ryan moved, Eriksrud seconded, to recommend approval of deleting Policy 1901.2

Eriksrud, Campbell, Bye, and Ryan voted yes. Motion passed 4 – 0.

8. Enterprise Service Management Report

Mr. Corey Quirk, Deputy CIO, provided an update/status of CTS's large projects and an Enterprise Service Management report. He reported significant improvements in CTS's incident response and resolution targets, with a focus on improving response time and resolution time across different priority levels.

9. Update on Analysis of SBHE Board Development Instrument

Co-chair Bye stated she has been in contact with American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) and has had conversations regarding an analysis of the Board's current development instrument. ACTA has reviewed the current process/instrument and indicated overall it was strong, but there could be modifications to improve and/or enhance it. She will present more information and/or options for the committee to consider at the October meeting.

~~10. Records Retention discussion~~ moved to the October meeting.

11. Board Orientation Progress/Update

Ms. Kristie Hetzler, Executive Asst. to the Board, DJ Campbell, Board Member, and Max Eriksrud, Student Board Member, reported that the process and information provided for Board member orientation has been relevant and helpful. Members Campbell and Eriksrud are satisfied and comfortable as new members with their onboarding process. Ms. Hetzler will continue to assist and provide them with information and meeting schedules, as needed.

12. Update on Strategic Plan/Goals

VC Jerry Rostad provided a brief update on the [Strategic Plan/Goals](#); he indicated that more information and discussion will take place at the October meeting:

- Financials: Optimize student affordability while maintaining campus financial health
- Responsive: Provide access to programs people want, where and when they need them
- Student Success: Prepare students for success
- Unified System: Maximize the strengths of the unified system
- Research: Research Excellence and Innovation
- Workforce: Workforce Development

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. CT.

Approved October 9, 2024.