

## **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 November 13, 2024, at 3:15 p.m. CT.

#### SBHE Research and Governance Committee members

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Casey Ryan, Co-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Max Eriksrud                      |
| <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

**BSC** Dr. John Carroll, **DSU** Dr. Huijian Dong, **LRSC** President Darling, **MaSU** Dr. Brian Huschle, **MiSU** President Shirley, Dr. Laurie Geller, **NDSU** President Cook, Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Dr. Kristen Fellows, **UND** President Armacost, Dr. Scott Snyder, **VCSU** President LaFave, Dr. David DeMuth, **WSC** President Hirning

#### System Office/CTS/Guests

**NDUS** Chancellor Hagerott, VC. Lisa Johnson, VC. David Krebsbach, VC. Jerry Rostad, Mr. Mark Gorenflo, Ms. Jane Grinde, Ms. Claire Gunwall, Mr. Chris Pieske, **CTS** VC. Thomas Danford, Mr. Corey Quirk, **AG** Ms. Meredith Larson

#### **Call to Order**

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

##### 1. Agenda

Bye moved, Campbell seconded, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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

##### 2. Meeting Minutes

Bye moved, Eriksrud seconded, to approve the October 9, 2024, meeting minutes, as presented.

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

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

##### 3. Update Economic Diversification Research Funds (EDRF) – Mr. Mark Gorenflo

###### a. [EDRF 2024 Report](#) and [Appendix A](#)

- i. Mr. Mark Gorenflo presented the EDRF 2024 Report that will be going to the full board and the Internal Advisory Committee prior to submission to Legislative Management.
- ii. Mr. Gorenflo shared that the External Advisory Committee (EAC) met on October 18, 2024, in Fargo on NDSU's campus. The EAC report states that

the actions of the NDUS institutions to implement the EDRF met legislative intent and that they were effective, especially given the short amount of time available to use the funds. The EAC made a strong case that in order for the EDRF to achieve the legislative intent of diversifying North Dakota's economy, significant increases in funding would be justified.

- b. NDSU Year 1: [Report – Performance Outcomes](#)
- c. UND Year 1: [Report - Performance Outcomes](#)
- d. PUI Year 1: [Report – Performance Outcomes](#)
  - i. Dr. David DeMuth shared that in the first-year report, 7 out of the 9 PUI's participated with almost equal distribution of the funds.
  - ii. Of the four categories legislation wanted focus, funds were distributed as follows:
    - 1. Enhance Health Care Outcomes (1 project = \$454,84)
    - 2. Innovation of New Technology (4 projects = \$53,910)
    - 3. Promote Job Creation (6 projects = \$40,500)
    - 4. Experiential Learning (17 projects = \$76,384.98)

Co-chair Ryan asked if \$25,000,000 is a comfortable dollar amount. Dr. Snyder, Dr. Fitzgerald, and Dr. DeMuth agreed that at this time they are comfortable with the current funding. Dr. Snyder stated that it can be difficult to do any kind of economic development, diversification, etc., if we're going biennium by biennium without knowing if funding is consistent. Dr. DeMuth added that having more flexibility in spending could be beneficial for the PUIs as their type of research looks different from UND and NDSU.

Member Campbell asked for a one-pager of information to be put together for Board members to easily communicate this information with legislators.

- 4. Brief on the NDUS Research Working Group – Drs. Fitzgerald and Snyder
  - a. Dr. David DeMuth shared that this working group meets typically once per semester to vet ideas and grow relationships.
  - b. Dr. Fitzgerald shared that the work group felt as though it would be good synergy to add Dr. Brian Schmidt, representative for the PUIs on the EPSCOR State Steering Committee, to this group.
  - c. Dr. Fitzgerald shared that the group continues to look at ways to build partnership infrastructure between the NDUS institutions.
    - i. Co-chair Ryan asked if NDSU and UND could share the monies that each have put out for this working group. Dr. Fitzgerald shared that for the EDRF each year UND and NDSU each contributed \$100,000, or \$400,000 total over the biennium.

## **Governance Items**

- 5. # Tenure Policies
  - a. Policy 305.1 [Institution President Authority and Responsibilities; Contract Terms](#)
  - b. Policy 602 [Faculty Appointment Report](#)
  - c. Policy 605.1 [Academic Freedom and Tenure; Academic Appointments](#)
  - d. Policy 605.2 [Standing Committee on Faculty Rights](#)
  - e. Policy 605.3 [Nonrenewal, Termination or Dismissal of Faculty](#)
  - f. Policy 605.4 [Hearings and Appeals](#)

- g. Policy 605.5 [Mediation](#)
- h. Policy 608.2 [NDUS Employees – Non-renewal and Dismissals](#)
- i. Policy 612 [Faculty Grievances](#)
  - i. VC. Lisa Johnson shared that while reviewing the Post-Tenure Ad Hoc Committee draft report at the October SBHE meeting, it was recommended the policies advance to the Research and Governance Committee as this committee has ongoing work related to the Post Tenure Ad Hoc Committee. VC. Johnson stated the proposed edits came from campus presidents and have been reviewed by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.
  - ii. The recommendation was made to schedule a special meeting for ASAC and RGC members to go through the tenure policies. Mr. Chris Pieske stated that a special meeting of the ASAC and RGC would be considered a special SBHE meeting as there would be a quorum of board members.
  - iii. Committee Co-chair Bye recommends running this by SBHE Chair Mihalick to determine if the tenure policies will be a governance discussion or a full board discussion.

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

- 6. Follow-up items for Institutions on Post Tenure report – VC. Johnson
  - a. VC. Johnson shared that the Post Tenure report was placed on both the Academic Affairs Council and Cabinet agendas for review in November. There was no additional feedback or comments from presidents with the exception of one President who asked for additional time to reflect on the report.
    - i. Committee Co-chair Bye asked for an update on the March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline that is stated within the report. VC. Johnson stated that campuses will report on changes made related to post-tenure review. VC. Johnson shared that campuses have already begun this process and have been working collaboratively. Committee Co-chair Ryan shared that the expectation is that each campus will have made progress with improving their processes and each president will document the progress their campus has made in post-tenure review. Dr. Lisa Montplaisir asked if the March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline should instead be March 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure it is completed while the legislature is still in session. Committee Co-chair Ryan confirmed that the date should be March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 7. Policy 310.1 [Board Member Responsibilities](#) – Co-chair Bye
  - a. Committee Co-chair Bye shared that Policy 310.1 was approved by RGC and has gone to the full board for first reading and was approved. Committee Co-chair Bye stated that item 6 within the policy is a substantial change and should be discussed by RGC.
    - i. Committee Co-chair Bye shared an example related to tuition increases and the policy language change in item 6. For example, the previous language would state that the SBHE members would push back against proposed tuition increases that would make public higher education unaffordable for the average North Dakotan. The new policy language in relation to this example would now state that the SBHE members would ensure that a proposed tuition increase would benefit the North Dakota University System.

- ii. Committee Co-chair Bye recommends adding item 7 to Policy 310.1 to read “Uphold the public trust by ensuring that the NDUS stays true to its mission of enhancing the economic growth, social vitality, and quality of life for the people of North Dakota.”
  1. Ryan moved, Member Eriksrud seconded, to approve adding item 7 to policy 310.1 as presented.  
Campbell, Eriksrud, Ryan, and Bye voted yes. Motion passed 4-0.

8. [SBHE Strategic Goal #1: Financials](#) – VC. Rostad

- a. Committee Co-chair Bye shared that the on the State Board of Higher Education development tool one of the areas for improvement is regular Board reviews of the strategic plan. The first strategic goal to be reviewed is #1 Financials.
  - b. VC. Jerry Rostad shared that the Strategic Plan is out on the NDUS website, and all of the goals are listed with the objectives and outcomes.
  - c. VC. Rostad reviewed Objective 2, which is to operate institutions that are resilient and financially viable. This is measured by the Composite Financial Index (CFI) score and the goal is to be above 1.1. Committee Co-chair Bye, VC. Rostad, VC. Krebsbach, and Dr. Jen Weber reviewed the CFI tracking and determined that the NDUS will continue measuring using the CFI.
  - d. VC. Rostad reviewed Objective 1, which is to ensure the price to attend NDUS institutions is clearly stated and regionally competitive. Currently the data sources being used to track the regional average is MNSCO and individual websites for University of Minnesota campuses, as well as WICHE data that calculates the averages in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. There have been discussions about if border states should be tracked as well. VC. Rostad received data from VC. Krebsbach and is currently looking into how to publish this data and will bring back any proposed recommendations to RGC.
9. CTS Large Project Overview – VC. Danford
- a. VC. Danford shared that for the period ending September 30<sup>th</sup>, there were no major projects in the planning phase. Two projects were completed with good results.
    - i. One project dealt with scholarship management system that covered 8 different scholarships across the state. The project had a \$1.2 million budget and was completed with a savings of around \$17,000.
    - ii. The second project was a campus-based project between NDSU and NDSCS regarding the implementation of a voice over IP system with Zoom. This project had a \$700,000 budget and was completed with a savings of around \$265,000.
  - b. One project is underway related to managed services migration at the UND.

## Adjourn

Committee Co-Chair Bye adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m. CT.

## Quick Links

[RGC Annual Calendar](#)

Approved January 23, 2025.