An overview of the impact of the 2007 Legislative Session was provided to the State Board of Higher Education at its May 3, 2007, meeting at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D.

In total, the 2007–09 state general fund appropriation for the NDUS is $471.6 million for the 11 colleges and universities, the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the NDSU Forest Service and the North Dakota University System Office, which is an increase of $81.8 million or 21 percent more than the 2005–07 adjusted appropriation. This includes funding provided in the following bills:

- $468.4 million in HB 1003, the NDUS budget bill
- $3 million in HB 1019, the State Board for Career and Technical Education budget bill for the four workforce training quadrants at BSC, LRSC, WSC and NDSCS, and
- $200,000 in SB 2379 for a nursing simulation laboratory program

Of the $81.8 million increase, $54.2 million is base funding (including a $1.65 million increase for workforce training in HB 1019), $14.7 million is one-time funding for deferred maintenance and other specific projects, and the remaining $12.9 million increase is for major capital projects at the 11 colleges and universities and the State Forest Service. An additional $913,875 in 2005–07 base state general funds brings total state-funded major capital projects to $13.8 million. For historical comparison purposes, excluding major capital projects (since these are traditionally bonded), the general fund increase compared to 2005–07 is $68.9 million or 17.7 percent.

An additional $7.8 million in one-time funding was provided from the Permanent Oil Tax Trust Fund for the following:

- $2,773,800 for the Northern Tier Network project
- $4.1 million for steamline projects at NDSCS, VCSU and MiSU-BC
- $900,000 for a service oil rig program at WSC and

HB 1003 also limits tuition increases to no more than 5 percent each year of the biennium unless an increase is approved by the SBHE and the state Budget Section.

HB 1020, the NDSU Research and Extension budget bill, provides a state general fund appropriation of $76.3 million for 2007–09, which is $19.7 million or 34.7 percent more than the 2005–07 adjusted appropriation, including major capital projects. For historical comparison purposes, when major capital projects are excluded (since these are typically bonded), the total general fund increase when compared to 2005–07 is $11.1 million or 19.5 percent. The $19.7 million increase includes $8.7 million in one-time funding for capital projects and deferred maintenance and $10.9 million or 19.2 percent more in base funding.

Other significant bills approved include:

- HB 1030, HB 1031 and HB 1032, the flexibility with accountability legislation
- HB 1018, the Department of Commerce appropriation bill, which includes $15 million for 2007–09 for Economic Development Centers of Excellence and $5 million in borrowing authority, if needed
- SB 2309, the bill that increases unit requirements and implements curricular requirements for high school graduation

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The State Board of Higher Education honored Bonnie Neas, interim deputy CIO and executive director of ConnectND, at the May 2007 board meeting with a resolution acknowledging her many contributions to the project. Neas now returns to duties at North Dakota State University after serving in the ConnectND leadership role for one year. Pictured are NDUS CIO Randall Thursby, Neas and SBHE President John Q. Paulsen.
Espegard Named to SBHE

Duaine C. Espegard, Grand Forks, N.D., was appointed to the State Board of Higher Education by Gov. John Hoeven March 16, 2007, and confirmed by the Senate April 13, 2007. Espegard is a retired bank administrator. From 1969 to 2003, he worked for Bremer Financial as a bank director, chief executive officer and regional president. Espegard was elected to the North Dakota Senate in 2000 and served until 2006. He currently serves on the North Dakota Economic Development Foundation, the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation and a number of corporate boards. Espegard also has served on the Commerce Department’s Development Fund Board and numerous other boards and commissions.

A native of Petersburg N.D., he is a graduate of Unity High School and Aakers Business College where he obtained an associate degree in business administration in 1963. He also attended the University of North Dakota and the University of Wisconsin’s Graduate School of Banking.

Espegard will complete the four-year term of Charles Murphy who resigned from the board in January 2007. His term will run through June 30, 2010.

Consent Agenda Items Approved

Sociology, Anthropology and Emergency Management

Financial and Facility Consent Agenda

NDSCS: Authority to renovate existing space at the Skills and Technology Training Center in Fargo for establishment of a Nanotechnology Applied Science and Advanced Manufacturing Training Laboratory at an estimated cost of $480,000

NDSU: Authority to increase spending authorization for the North Central Research Extension Center’s agronomy research laboratory and greenhouse from $1,699,000 to $2,090,000

NDSU: Authority to renovate the Northern Crops Institute durum mill room at a cost of $125,000

Personnel Consent Agenda

• Accepted tenure report
• Approved tenure requests
• Appointed Rodney Howe and Doyle Johannes to the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
In the spirit of the Roundtable on Higher Education, North Dakota University System colleges and universities share the following examples of their contributions to the economic growth, educational excellence and social vitality of North Dakota.

**Bismarck State College**

Computer science student Joshua Wynn, Bismarck, was accepted for the Computational and Systems Biology Summer Institute at Iowa State University in June. Wynn will study computer programming for bioinformatics and complete an internship including individual research projects with ISU faculty.

Industry representatives, city and state officials, and others attended an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the BSC-Mandan Campus April 10. The 12,500 sq. ft. building houses the Mechanical Maintenance Technology Program. Sixteen students are enrolled in the two-year program, which began in January. Mechanical maintenance technicians install, repair and maintain industrial production and processing equipment.

**Dickinson State University**

Dr. Lee Vickers announced in April that he will retire from his position as DSU president effective Jan. 1, 2008, or as soon thereafter as is possible to ensure a smooth transition for the university and the new president. Vickers has been president of DSU for eight years and has been instrumental in bringing numerous initiatives to the fore.

DSU was awarded a $500,000 Bush Foundation grant to be used to help communities in western North Dakota revitalize their economies and improve quality of place. The project will focus on attracting people, heritage tourism and the arts, entrepreneurial development, and Native American community and economic development.

**Lake Region State College**

The National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) recently recognized LRSC with the 2006 Gold Paragon Award for best Web site. Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievement in communication at community, junior and technical colleges.

It is the only national competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and public relations professionals at two-year colleges.

LRSC student Theresa Lee was named the New Century Scholar for North Dakota, an award that recognizes the top scholar from North Dakota’s two-year colleges. Lee received a $2,000 scholarship, and LRSC received recognition at the American Association of Community Colleges Convention. The program is sponsored by AACC, Coca-Cola Foundations and Phi Theta Kappa.

**Mayville State University**

Dr. Robert Miess, associate professor of chemistry, was named MaSU’s teacher of the year. The award was presented to Miess at the annual Academic and Student Senate Awards Program April 29. Rendi Johnson-Ebach was selected by her MaSU staff peers as recipient of the 2006–07 Orville Johnson Meritorious Service Award. Johnson-Ebach is the parent and family services coordinator with the MaSU Child Development Programs.

**Minot State University**

David Fuller, MiSU president, and Jim Davis, Turtle Mountain Community College president, signed a three-year partnership agreement Feb. 27. This accord increases TMCC students’ options to attain four-year degrees, provides for cultural and faculty exchanges, and promotes service learning. MiSU signed a similar agreement with Fort Berthold Community College in December.

MiSU senior Genevieve Binsfeld became a dual national champion when she won a 3,000-meter race March 10 at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Indoor Track and Field Championships in Johnson City, Tenn. Binsfeld also gained the national cross-country title in November. She has earned six All-American honors by placing within the top 30.

**MiSU-Bottineau**

Dr. Charles Lura, MiSU-Bottineau botany and biology instructor, recently completed a species list titled “Vascular Flora of North Dakota.” It is the only comprehensive compendium available that names all 1,263 species. It is intended to serve as the definitive reference for North Dakota’s vascular plants.

MiSU-Bottineau and the Bottineau County Wildlife Club are long-time partners in bringing the North Dakota Game and Fish Hunter Education Program to the area. The program teaches gun safety, wildlife conservation and hunter ethics. College faculty have taught courses in the curriculum for a combined total of 89 years with Mike Porter (29 years) and Al Aufforth (27 years) leading the way.

**North Dakota State College of Science**

NDSCS students Bryan Bork and Austin Emerson won the Agricultural Mechanics Service Technician Award competition in March at the 28th annual National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization gathering in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Both are enrolled in the John Deere Ag Tech Program. Bork also was the highest-scoring individual in the national contest.

NDSCS made two special awards during its May 11 graduation — an honorary associate degree to Wahpeton entrepreneur Ed Shorma and the designation of vice president emeritus to former administrator Don Tobin who retired in 1995 as vice president of student affairs. Shorma becomes the college’s sixth honorary degree recipient.

**North Dakota State University**

The NDSU Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) received recognition at the APhA-ASP annual meeting in March in Atlanta. The chapter was honored with the Region V Heartburn Awareness Challenge Award and the Operation Diabetes Award.

Celebrating Successes, Page 4
Celebrating Successes, from Page 3

A team of NDSU entomology graduate students won the Linnaean Games college quiz bowl at the north central branch meeting of the Entomological Society of America held in March in Winnipeg. As regional champions, the team qualifies for the national competition in mid-December in San Diego.

University of North Dakota

UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences ranks fourth out of 125 medical schools in the country for producing family medicine physicians, according to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). UND earned an Achievement Award, which recognizes outstanding efforts to foster student interest in family medicine and produce graduates who enter the specialty.

Students and faculty led by UND physics faculty member Dr. Timothy Young recently launched North Dakota’s first educational rocket from a field just south of Larimore. The rocket soared to more than 1,800 feet, separated into three pieces as planned and made a perfect landing close to the launch site.

Valley City State University

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accepted VCSU’s progress report on implementation of an online master of education program and non-program graduate courses, representing completion of the HLC approval process. In its analysis, HLC noted that VCSU has taken important steps in the development of a graduate culture.

VCSU’s new online master of education program saw its first graduates at the 115th commencement exercises. The event included a hooding ceremony to recognize the scholarly and professional achievement of the graduates. The program has 44 students enrolled during Summer 2007, up 83 percent from Summer 2006.

Upcoming SBHE Meetings

- June 21, 2007    UND
- Aug. 2-3, 2007    Retreat

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• SB 2200, a bill that establishes a state commission on education adequacy
• HB 1395, a bill to provide $700,000 in state general fund financing to tribal colleges to help defray the cost of education for non-Indian students
• HB 1099, a bill that clarifies application of the open records laws to trade secret, proprietary, commercial and financial information
• HB 1461, a bill that assigns management of NDUS information technology to the SBHE
• SB 2260, a bill that provides the NDUS authority for FBI criminal history checks

Also in May, a significant 2007-08 Legislative Council interim study was selected. This initiative will “study the means by which the North Dakota University System can further contribute to developing and attracting the human capital to meet North Dakota’s economic and workforce needs.”