Randall Thursby, North Dakota University System CIO, attributed recent progress on ConnectND, the statewide administrative system, to the many people throughout the University System and state government who contribute to its success.

“It’s amazing what good minds and good will can do,” Thursby told the State Board of Higher Education at its February 2008 meeting. “With a continued effort to reduce complexity and to collaborate, we will continue to see improvements.”

Highlights of Thursby’s report on system IT developments include:

- **Network growth:** NDUS bandwidth requirements continue to grow at about 50 percent per year. Nationwide, higher education bandwidth requirements have increased at almost 100 percent per year, due primarily to increased use of video technologies, such as video conferencing, online video content, distance learning activities and the increased use of video on popular Internet sites like CNN.

- **Finance system upgrade:** A joint effort with the North Dakota Information Technology Department, a “go-live” date of April 2008 has been set. If the date is not met, the finance system upgrade may need to be postponed until September to avoid conflicts with the student system upgrade.

- **Security:** A new systemwide virus protection contract has been negotiated, which includes anti-spyware software that will enhance computer security.

- **Ruckus Music Service:** This music-sharing service allows students to download music and listen to it at no cost to students or the institution, but the music may not be loaded onto an iPod or used to make a CD. The service will not end music piracy, but can help reduce it considerably. Supported by the North Dakota Student Association and the Student Affairs Council, the NDUS hopes to enter into a contract with Ruckus for systemwide implementation of the service by the end of Spring. UND and VCSU already subscribe to Ruckus.

**Considering the Role of the North Dakota University System**

The interim legislative Higher Education Committee and the State Board of Higher Education continued discussion of the expectations of and priorities for the North Dakota University System during a March 10, 2008, interim committee meeting. The meeting was facilitated by David Longanecker, president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Pictured with Longanecker are Reps. Bob Skarphol, Bob Martinson and Kathy Hawken.
Larry “Mike” Bower, Ph.D., will become president of Lake Region State College, Devils Lake, N.D., July 1, 2008.

“The State Board of Higher Education was very impressed by the breadth of experience. With his leadership, we believe this excellent institution can become even better,” said John Q. Paulsen, SBHE president.

Bower is an executive dean to the president of Mott Community College in Flint, Mich., a position he has held for four years. Prior to joining MCC, Bower served as a campus administrator at the Chippewa Falls Campus, Chippewa Valley Technical College in Chippewa Falls, Wis. He also has served as dean of academics and training at Columbus Campus for Central Community College in Columbus, Neb.

Dr. Bower’s community college experience. With his leadership, we believe this excellent institution can become even better,” said John Q. Paulsen, SBHE president.

Bower earned an A.A.S. in automotive technology from Vincennes University in 1969, a B.S. in industrial supervision from Indiana State University in 1971, an M.B.A. from Indiana Wesleyan University in 1992 and a Ph.D. in education administration from the University of Nebraska in 2006.

He will succeed Dr. Sharon Etemad who announced her retirement in August 2007.
SBARE: Impacting the Daily Lives of North Dakotans

Representatives of the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education provided an update to the State Board of Higher Education at the Feb. 21, 2008, SBHE meeting.

In opening comments, North Dakota State University President Joe Chapman told the board a primary function of NDSU agricultural experiment station and extension activities is to bring the benefits of research and education to the public.

Effertz said agriculture continues to be a major North Dakota industry. He also said the state’s current agricultural revenues are approaching $6 billion, which is a direct reflection on the accomplishments of agricultural research and extension education.

Effertz discussed the importance of a series of meetings with key stakeholders held since October 2007 and the potential impact of these meetings on addressing concerns and opportunities through the 2009-11 biennial budget request and planning SBARE’s future priorities.

Budget, Audit and Finance Committee Recommendations Approved

The following Budget, Audit and Finance Committee recommendations were approved at the February 2008 State Board of Higher Education meeting:

- 2008–09 annual budget guidelines, including the following 2008–09 fees:
  - MiSU’s request to increase the nursing program fee from $300 to $600
  - MiSU’s proposal to establish a mandatory international student fee of $25 per semester
  - UND’s request for approval to implement a multi-year plan to restructure and increase law school tuition rates
  - FY 2007 NDUS financial statement audit responses

Easing Transition for Students

The ease of transfer among North Dakota University System institutions is the envy of many other state systems of higher education, according to an annual Articulation and Transfer Report provided to the State Board of Higher Education at the February 2008 meeting.

Phillip Parnell, Ph.D., NDUS director of articulation and transfer, also told the board that all five tribal colleges now are included in the system’s transfer and articulation agreements. Parnell currently is working on out-of-state transfer partnerships. At the present time, the NDUS has procedures in place to make it easier for North Dakota, Washington and Minnesota students to transfer into NDUS institutions, and he is working to develop a similar arrangement with Wyoming institutions.

Accountability Report Highlights System Performance

North Dakota University System college and university students perform very well when compared to national standards and averages, as demonstrated in the 2007 Accountability Measures Report presented to the State Board of Higher Education at the February 2008 meeting.

Vice Chancellors Laura Glatt; Marsha Krotseng, Ed.D.; and Mike Hillman, Ph.D. provided highlights of the seventh annual report, which reflects some of the many ways NDUS colleges and universities are developing the human capital needed to create a brighter future for North Dakota’s citizens and the state. The accountability measures are presented according to the six cornerstones of the Roundtable Report. The document is a valuable tool for demonstrating that the University System is meeting the “flexibility with accountability” expectations of SB 2003 passed by the 2001 Legislative Assembly.

To view the 2007 Accountability Measures Report, go to www.ndus.edu, click on “Reports and Information” and “Roundtable on Higher Education.”
Consent Agenda Items Approved

Consent agenda items approved at the January and February 2008 State Board of Higher Education meetings include the following:

**Academic Consent Agenda**

**January**

**DSU:** A request to offer a major in exercise science to be attached to the B.S. degree

**NDSU:** A request to change the name of the Department of History to the Department of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies

**NDSU:** A request to establish the Center for Natural Resources and Agroecosystems

**NDSU:** A request to offer an online community development program (M.S. and M.A.)

**NDSU:** A request for approval of the university constitution

**UND:** A request to offer a new B.B.A. major in human resource management

**UND:** A request to offer a new program of study in Chinese studies

**UND:** A request to offer a new minor in Chinese studies: culture and business

**Financial and Facility Consent Agenda**

**January**

**MiSU:** Authorization to proceed with evaluation and design of a student wellness center at an estimated cost of no more than $15 million

**NDSU:** Authorization to seek Budget Section approval to increase funding for the Ceres Hall remodeling project from $1.8 million to $2.2 million

**February**

**BSC:** A request for permission to seek Budget Section approval to increase the budget authority for the 1st floor Schafer Hall renovation from $543,000 to $800,000

**NDSU:** A request for authorization to proceed with planning and construction of an equipment storage shed at the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot, N.D., at an estimated cost of $300,000

**NDSU:** A request for approval of a resolution authorizing issuance of not more than $900,000 in NDSU Development Foundation Facilities Bonds, Series 2008A, and execution of related documents for financing construction of a new president’s home

**UND:** A request for approval of a resolution authorizing issuance of not more than $1.3 million in UND Foundation Facilities Bonds, Series 2008A, and execution of related documents for financing construction of the Jodsaas Center Project

**UND:** A request for approval of a resolution authorizing issuance of not more than $900,000 in UND Foundation Facilities Bonds, Series 2008B, and execution of related documents for financing construction of a new president’s home

**Personnel Consent Agenda**

**February**

**BSC:** A request to award an honorary bachelor of arts and letters to Sheila Schafer

**NDSCS:** A request to award an honorary associate degree to Odin Stutrud

**NDUS Sets Record Spring Enrollment**

Spring headcount enrollment in North Dakota’s public colleges and universities reached an all-time high in 2008 with 39,968 students enrolled for the spring semester. Although spring headcount enrollment has been more than 39,000 for the past several years, 339 more students (0.85 percent) are enrolled for Spring 2008 compared to Spring 2007.

“The fact that the North Dakota University System is maintaining steady enrollment at a time when the number of traditional-age students in North Dakota is declining shows that our institutions have become more responsive to the people we serve,” said Bill Goetz, NDUS chancellor.

The strong spring enrollment numbers include roughly 16,500 online course registrations, an increase of about 20 percent since Fall 2007. Also included are 15,583 non-resident students, which compares to 15,161 in Spring 2007. In addition to tuition and fees, each non-resident student spends about $9,000 per year in the state. Previous studies have shown that about 30 percent of non-resident students stay in the state after college graduation.

Although the NDUS is serving a record number of students in Spring 2008, full-time equivalent enrollment (total undergraduate student credit hours divided by 15; total graduate credit hours divided by 12) declined slightly compared to Spring 2007. Spring 2008 FTE enrollment decreased by 59 students (2 percent), which is an indication that more students are enrolling in college on a part-time basis.
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**

Spring 2008 enrollment at BSC reached 3,531 students, setting a spring enrollment record and topping Spring 2007 by nearly 3 percent. The previous record spring enrollment occurred in 2004 when 3,443 students were enrolled. BSC’s Fall 2007 enrollment also set a record at 3,591 students. Innovation at the BSC Bookstore resulted in $51,500 in textbook cost savings for students during Fall 2007. The textbook rental program gave students in three general education classes and the Mechanical Maintenance Technology Program the option to rent textbooks at less than one-half of the purchase price.

**Dickinson State University**

Spring 2008 enrollment reached a record high at DSU with a total of 2,462 students. This number reflects an 8.8 percent increase compared to Spring 2007 when 2,263 students were enrolled. This growth is consistent with the overall trend at DSU; fall enrollment numbers have increased for 12 consecutive years.

More than 35 DSU students are currently participating in the Disney College Program. Students spend five months at DSU and the following seven months at the Walt Disney World® Resort in Orlando, Fla. These students will earn DSU’s certificate of human resource management and will gain experience working for one of the largest employers in the world.

**Lake Region State College**

Students from the country of Oman are training at LRSC. Five members of the Royal Air Force of Oman are taking classes in airplane simulator maintenance. The students will study in Devils Lake for about one and one-half years. LRSC is working with Oman to train more air force personnel in the future.

**Mayville State University**

The MaSU Division of Education and Psychology hosted a Jan. 21 inservice for 230 teachers from the May-Port CG, Hatton, Hillsboro, Thompson, Central Valley and Northwood school districts. Nationally recognized speaker Corwin Kronenberg gave a presentation on behavior management skills.

MaSU’s Comet Radio contributed original radio programming to the recent showing of the Smithsonian’s Between Fences exhibit in Mayville. On “The Collective,” Comet Radio’s weekly public affairs program, six speakers from the North Dakota Humanities Council’s Between Fences Speakers Bureau were interviewed. Comet Radio also aired a live broadcast of MaSU’s Heritage & Hope event, which was built around themes raised by Between Fences.

**Minot State University**

In February, MiSU established the Office of Enrollment Management under the direction of John Girard, the new dean of enrollment management. This integrated approach includes recruiting, admissions, financial aid and international programs and results from an extensive study of best practices in campus recruitment and retention.

MiSU hosted two officials from PaiChai University in Daejon, South Korea, Dec. 11 and 12. The purpose of the visit was to explore a partnership between MiSU and PaiChai’s Appenzeller School of Global Business. After three years of study at their home institution, PaiChai students would complete business degrees at MiSU.

**MiSU-Bottineau**

Sophomore Derek Behrman has been named a New Century Scholar by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges. Derek is a native of Consul, Saskatchewan, and will represent North Dakota as the state’s All-USA Academic Team delegate. He will be recognized at the American Association of Community Colleges Convention April 3–7 in Philadelphia. At that time, he will be awarded a $2,000 scholarship.

**North Dakota State College of Science**

In late December, the North Dakota Congressional delegation announced that NDSCS will receive funding for two projects as the result of the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The college will receive $957,967 for the NDSCS Center for Nanoscience Technology Training and $351,000 for the NDSCS Nanotechnology Applied Science Laboratory.

The Wildcat Wellness Center, a new addition to the Blikre Activities Center, opened in December. The center boasts high-grade workout equipment, including cardio and assisted-lifting machines. The facility is free to NDSCS students, staff and family members.

**North Dakota State University**

NDSU set a ninth consecutive spring enrollment record with 11,699 students enrolled in Spring 2008 undergraduate and graduate programs, including a spring semester record of 1,719 graduate students. The international student population stands at 828 undergraduate and graduate students, another record high.

President Chapman and an NDSU delegation visited five colleges and universities in India and Sri Lanka in December. The highly successful trip resulted in three signed agreements for collaborative efforts.

**Celebrating Successes, Page 6**
University of North Dakota

UND’s research enterprise had an economic impact of more than $174 million in FY 2007, up $11 million from FY 2006, according to a report released in December by the Office of the Vice President for Research. The figure includes close to $40 million in Grand Forks County and $10 million elsewhere in North Dakota.

UND graduate and former North Dakota Gov. Ed Schafer has been confirmed as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Shafer, who has been invited to be the main commencement speaker at UND’s Spring 2008 graduation ceremonies, is a 1969 UND graduate with a degree in business administration.

Valley City State University

VCSU and the National Center for Technological Literacy at the Boston Museum of Science have completed a memorandum of understanding to bring standards-based engineering and technology education to K-12 schools throughout the United States, to improve the technological literacy of teachers and to address the national shortage of technology educators. A scholarship fund has been established in honor of Dr. Ellen-Earle Chaffee, the 11th president of VCSU, who will leave the presidency after 15 years of exemplary service. The scholarships will be awarded to freshmen or transfer students based on academic achievement. Contributions can be made through the VCSU Advancement Office.

Williston State College

WSC and regional development organizations recognized winners of the first annual Mondak Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Feb. 29. In comments at the event, WSC President Joe McCann emphasized the importance of community colleges in identifying and meeting the needs of new businesses and the importance of both to the local quality of life.

Board Policy Manual Revisions Approved

Policy manual revisions adopted by the State Board of Higher Education at the January and February 2008 board meetings include:

January
Introduction and First Reading
HR 5.2 – Pay Policy

February
Introduction and First Reading
830.2 – Refund Policy
1902 – Emergency Notification Systems
1914 – Centers of Excellence applications
HR 24 – Reduction in Force

Introduction and Final Passage
607.0 – Application of Human Resource Policy Manual; Compensation and Benefits

Second Reading and Final Passage
HR 5.2 – Pay Policy