Legislature Passes Strong 2009–11 NDUS Budget

SB 2003, the North Dakota University System budget bill, provides funding to address many top 2009–11 budget priorities.

“When you look at the final version of SB 2003, clearly the governor and the Legislature support the emphasis on affordability and accessibility built into the University System’s 2009–11 budget request by the State Board of Higher Education,” said Bill Goetz, NDUS chancellor. “The budget process provided many opportunities to discuss important policy issues from the perspective of what the state needs and expects from its university system. This is a strong budget, and it will allow us to make significant progress on serving our students and our state.”

In its final form, SB 2003 provides more than $593 million in state general funds for 2009–11, an increase of more than $91 million or 20 percent in base funding when compared to the 2007–09 budget.

Funding for major capital projects totals more than $39 million in state general funds and almost $27 million in federal stimulus funds and other trust funds. In addition, a one-time general fund appropriation of $20 million was provided to assist with deferred maintenance projects.

When major capital projects are excluded, the total general fund increase compared to 2007–09 is $113 million, including base and one-time funding increases.


Summary of SB 2003
Increases from 2007–09
Adjusted Appropriation
State General Fund Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Time Increases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Projects – One-Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The NDUS budget bill

Major Components of 2009–11
Base Funding Increase in SB 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Funding Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parity or cost to continue</td>
<td>$49,367,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs-based financial aid</td>
<td>$12,837,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two and four-year college affordability (includes SMHS)</td>
<td>$8,215,467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parity:** Includes 2009–11 salary increases (average 5 percent per year); 2009–11 health insurance increases of $2,015 per employee per year for a total 2009–11 annual premium per employee of $9,912; 2–2.2 percent annual operating inflation; estimated increases for utilities; continuation of 2008–09 salary increases; and estimated utility costs of new buildings coming online in 2009–11.

**Equity:** Includes funds needed to move each campus closer to the “benchmark” or average funding level of its national peer institutions.

**Two-and four-year college affordability:** Includes funding that will allow two-year colleges to freeze tuition rates and four-year universities to limit tuition increases to no more than 4 percent.
SBHE Members

Richie Smith  
Wahpeton, N.D.
President

Jon Backes  
Minot, N.D.
Vice President

Sue Andrews  
Mapleton, N.D.

Haylee Cripe  
Grand Forks, N.D.

Duaine Espegard  
Grand Forks, N.D.

Michael Haugen  
Fargo, N.D.

Pam Kostelecky  
Dickinson, N.D.

Grant Shaft  
Grand Forks, N.D.

Jon Jackson  
Grand Forks, N.D.
(Non-voting faculty advisor)

William G. Goetz  
Bismarck, N.D.
Chancellor

The Role of the SBHE

The State Board of Higher Education is the governing board of the North Dakota University System.

Our Vision

The North Dakota University System is the vital link to a brighter future.

Our Mission

The mission of the North Dakota University System is to enhance the quality of life of all those we serve and the economic and social vitality of North Dakota through the discovery, sharing and application of knowledge.

SBHE Update

The SBHE Update is created to increase awareness of the role of the State Board of Higher Education and the North Dakota University System and to ensure the system remains connected to, understood by and accountable to the citizens and needs of the state of North Dakota.

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Richie Smith was elected 2009–10 president of the State Board of Higher Education, and Jon Backes was elected vice president at the May 14, 2009, board meeting. Smith and Backes will begin serving second terms as board officers July 1, 2009.

Smith is an attorney with Smith, Strege and Fredericksen, Ltd., in Wahpeton, N.D. He has served on the board since July 2005. A native of Campbell, Minn., Smith received a bachelor’s degree from Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., and a juris doctorate from Creighton University School of Law.

Backes is an attorney in the Minot law firm of McGee, Hankla, Backes and Dobrovolny, P.C. He has served on the SBHE since July 2007. Backes received a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Minot State University and a juris doctorate from the University of North Dakota.

Espegard to Serve as a WICHE Commissioner

The State Board of Higher Education elected Duaine Espegard, SBHE member, to serve as a commissioner on the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, effective July 1, 2009. Espegard has been a member of the board since March 2007.

WICHE and its 15 member states work to improve access to higher education and to ensure student success. Through student exchange programs, regional initiatives and research and policy work, WICHE assists students; policymakers; educators; and institutional, business and community leaders throughout the West and beyond.

Espegard will replace SBHE member Pam Kostelecky who served as a WICHE commissioner from 2006–07 through 2008–09.

SBHE Votes to Hold Down Tuition

2009–10 tuition rates at the state’s five community colleges will be frozen, and rate increases at the six universities will be capped at 3.5 percent per year, according to a tuition plan approved by the State Board of Higher Education at its May 14, 2009, meeting.

The SBHE established student affordability as one of its 2009–11 University System budget priorities. The board asked the 2009 Legislative Assembly for $8.2 million in base funding for college affordability to limit tuition rate increases and $13.5 million in additional need-based aid. The Legislature agreed that maintaining student affordability is a high priority and provided $8.2 million to hold down tuition costs for students and families.

While the Legislature established up to 4 percent as the target tuition rate increase for the six universities, board members underscored the importance of demonstrating the University System’s commitment to college affordability. University presidents had the option of requesting individual campus increases of up to 4 percent, but all agreed to the 3.5 percent per year rate increase.
Senate Confirms SBHE Members

Three members of the State Board of Higher Education were confirmed by the state Senate during the 2009 Legislative Session, including first-term members Michael Haugen and Claus Lembke and second-term member Richie Smith. All three SBHE members were appointed by Gov. Hoeven.

Haugen’s term on the board began July 1, 2008, and will run through June 30, 2012. He is a business consultant and president of M.J. Haugen and Associates, Inc., Fargo, N.D. As a major general in the North Dakota National Guard, Haugen was the North Dakota adjutant general from December 2000 through September 2006. He earned numerous awards and decorations during a distinguished 39-year military career.

Lembke’s term begins July 1, 2009, and runs through June 30, 2013. He currently serves as the part-time government affairs director for the North Dakota Association of Realtors and served the association as executive vice president from 1979 to 2007. In 1977, he was named North Dakota’s outstanding realtor of the year. Lembke was a Burleigh County commissioner from 1986 to 2006 and is a past president of the North Dakota County Commissioners Association.

Smith has served on the board since July 2005; his second term will run through June 30, 2013. He is an attorney with Smith, Strege and Fredericksen, Ltd., in Wahpeton, N.D. Smith is president of the Richland County Bar Association and a member of the North Dakota State Bar Association, the Federal District Court Bar, the U.S. Tax Court Bar and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. He was chair of the North Dakota State Bar Association Disciplinary Board from 1999 to 2001.

Budget, Audit and Finance Committee Recommendations Approved

The following Budget, Audit and Finance Committee recommendations were approved at the March and May 2009 State Board of Higher Education meetings:

**March**
- NDUS responses to the draft FY 2008 financial statement audit

**May**
- 2009–10 annual budget guidelines, including tuition rates and fees
- 2009–10 State Grant Advisory Board recommendations

CCF Re-Elects Jackson Faculty Advisor

Jon Jackson, Ph.D., was re-elected faculty advisor to the State Board of Higher Education by the Council of College Faculties for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2009.

Jackson is an anatomy and cell biology faculty member at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, Grand Forks, N.D. He has served two terms as a member of CCF and currently is president of the UND University Senate.

Upcoming SBHE Meetings

June 18, 2009......... NDSCS
July 26-27, 2009 ....... SBHE Retreat
Sept. 17, 2009 .......... UND
Sept. 22, 2009......... Joint Boards of Education
SBHE Votes to Retire UND’s Fighting Sioux Nickname and Logo

The State Board of Higher Education and the University of North Dakota moved one step closer to retiring UND’s Fighting Sioux nickname and logo with an 8–0 board vote at the May 14, 2009, SBHE meeting.

The process will begin Oct. 1, 2009, unless, prior to that date, both the Spirit Lake Sioux and Standing Rock Sioux tribes approve continued use of the nickname and logo for at least the next 30 years.

The board set Aug. 1, 2010, as the date by which full retirement should take place.

Grant Shaft, SBHE member and chair of a committee formed to facilitate discussion of the nickname and logo, presented a status report on possible resolution of the long-standing debate. A new consideration discussed by the board was the potential impact of the lack of a decision on UND’s application to enter a Division I athletic league.

“The logo and nickname have been symbols of pride for many generations, but it’s time to go forward,” said Richie Smith, SBHE president. “The State Board of Higher Education remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining academic excellence in a welcoming and supportive learning environment for all students at the University of North Dakota, as well as its 10 sister institutions.”

The resolution approved by the SBHE follows.

Consistent with the terms and conditions of the October 26, 2007, Settlement Agreement entered into with the NCAA, the Board directs UND officials to retire the “Sioux” nickname and logo, effective October 1, 2009. Full retirement of the nickname and logo shall be completed no later than August 1, 2010. In the event a new nickname and logo are adopted by UND, they shall not violate the NCAA’s policy regarding Native American nicknames, mascots and imagery.

UND is further directed to undertake actions consistent with the Settlement Agreement to protect its intellectual property rights in the “Fighting Sioux” nickname and mark.

UND is further directed to address the imagery at Ralph Engelstad Arena and other venues pursuant to the terms, conditions and timelines set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

This directive shall be suspended, if, prior to October 1, 2009, the following should happen:

1. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe and the Spirit Lake Sioux tribe give namesake approval consistent with the terms of the Settlement Agreement; and
2. The namesake approval be binding upon the tribes for a period not less than thirty (30) years.

Showcasing Advanced Learning Technologies

Pictured at the May 14, 2009, SBHE meeting are Rosi Kloberdanz, executive director of academic, research and learning technologies; Randall Thursby, NDUS CIO; and Tammy Belgarde, instructional technology specialist for NDUS Advanced Learning Technologies.

Belgarde highlighted the capabilities of Moodle, an online learning management system ALT began offering to NDUS institutions during the past year. Three campuses already have committed to Moodle, and an additional four are evaluating it. ALT’s collaborative Web conferencing service called Wimba also was demonstrated at the meeting. Combining these new services with the long-standing IVN videoconferencing services, ALT is providing the NDUS with leadership on current and emerging technologies that enhance collaboration, teaching and learning.
Nadolny Named WSC President

Raymond Nadolny, Ph.D., was named president of Williston State College by the State Board of Higher Education Feb. 9, 2009. He assumed the presidency April 15, 2009.

Richie Smith, SBHE president, said board members were very impressed by Dr. Nadolny’s passion for and commitment to Williston State College. “He will be a strong and able leader for Williston State College and a tremendous asset to the community, the region and the state of North Dakota,” Smith said.

Nadolny was vice president for extended learning at Lake Washington Technical College in Kirkland, Wash. Prior to joining LWTC as vice president for institutional advancement, he was the executive director of development at Cochise Community College in Arizona.

Nadolny holds a doctorate in education from Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.; a master’s degree in theology from Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Ore.; and a bachelor’s degree in philosophy/history from Benedictine University, Lisle, Ill.

Board Policy Manual Revisions Approved

Policy manual revisions adopted at the March and May 2009 State Board of Higher Education meetings include the following:

March
Introduction and first reading
310.2 – Board Officers; Election
805.1 – Tuition
HR 6.3.1 – Annual Leave
HR 20.4 – Leave-Institution Closures
HR 22 – Family Leave

May
Introduction and first reading
603.2 – Equal Employment Opportunities
604.1 – Performance Evaluation: Presidents
604.2 – Performance Evaluation: Chancellor; General Counsel

Introduction and final adoption
802.7 – Identity Theft Prevention
Second reading and final passage
805.1 – Tuition
HR 6.3.1 – Annual Leave
HR 20.4 – Leave - Institution Closures
HR 22 – Family Leave

Teaching in a Changing Environment

Technology is changing the way faculty teach and students learn, according to a report provided to the State Board of Higher Education by members of the Council of College Faculties at the May 14, 2009, SBHE meeting. Tom Petros, UND, CCF vice president, talked about the impact of learning management systems on faculty and student communication. Faculty members pictured are: LoAnn Nelson, LRSC; Fernando Quijano, DSU, CCF president; Petros; and Verlin Hinsz, NDSU.
Consent Agenda Items Approved

Consent agenda items approved at the January through May 2009 State Board of Higher Education meetings include the following:

**Academic Consent Agenda**

**March**
- DSU: Offer an earth science education minor
- LRSC: Offer a wind energy technician A.A.S. and certificate program
- MaSU: Offer a B.A. in studies in education
- MiSU: Offer a B.S. in energy economics and finance
- UND: Offer a minor in linguistics
- UND: Offer a minor in Canadian area studies
- UND: Offer a graduate program certificate in biology for teachers
- UND: Offer a graduate program certificate in mathematics for middle school teachers
- UND: Offer a graduate program certificate in chemistry for teachers
- UND: Offer a graduate program certificate in physics for teachers
- UND: Terminate the combined major in elementary and middle-level education
- UND: Establish the Institute for Philosophy in Public Life

**May**
- BSC: Offer both an A.A.S. and a program certificate in technical studies and offer this program through distance education
- MaSU: Offer a communication major and minor
- MiSU: Offer a minor in international business
- NDSCS: Offer a program certificate, diploma and A.A.S. in micromanufacturing technology on-campus and through distance education
- NDSU: Offer an M.S. and graduate program certificate in transportation and urban systems and offer a new degree, master of transportation and urban systems; offer these programs through distance education
- NDSU: Offer an online major, minor and a new degree in master of software engineering
- UND: Offer a graduate program certificate in middle school science and engineering and offer it through distance education
- UND: Offer a minor in dance
- UND: Offer a B.S. in aeronautics with a major in unmanned aircraft systems operation
- UND: Terminate the B.S. Ed. with a combined major in elementary education and early childhood education
- VCSU: Offer a master’s in education concentration in teaching English language learners and offer this program through distance education

**Financial and Facility Consent Agenda**

**January**
- NDSU: Replace the bleachers in Bentson Bunker Fieldhouse at a cost of $570,000
- NDSU: Ratify the chancellor’s action to approve the request for an amendment to the 2009–11 Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute budget request to authorize $8.6 million in capital assets funding for the construction of a transportation study center, to be funded from federal sources

**March**
- UND: Proceed with asbestos removal, renovations and installation of fire suppression equipment at Squires Hall at an estimate cost of $760,000
- UND: Ratify the chancellor’s action authorizing UND to seek an amendment to engrossed SB 2003 authorizing construction and financing of a hangar addition and the associated renovation at the aerospace complex at Grand Forks International Airport at a cost not to exceed $1.5 million

**May**
- NDSU: Proceed with installation of a new incinerator and the associated remodeling of Van Es Hall at a cost of $350,000
- NDSU: Proceed with the Minard Hall renovation project phases I, II and III in the amount of $18 million, with phase III contingent upon final legislative funding approval by the 2009 Legislative Assembly
- NDSU: Proceed with an anticipated telecommunications platform upgrade at NDSU in the amount of $1 million
- NDSU: Proceed with an anticipated telecommunications platform upgrade at NDSCS in the amount of $250,000
- NDSU: Subject to final SBHE approval of financing, authorize NDSU to issue and sell self-liquidating, tax-exempt bonds in an amount not to exceed $27 million to finance construction of the Niskanen Apartment Complex Expansion ($20 million) and West Dining Center renovation and addition and/or auxiliary enterprises building renovation ($7 million)
- NDUS: Approve a new master lease-purchase agreement with Wells Fargo Brokerage Services for an initial term of five years, subject to terms set out in the Wells Fargo Brokerage Services Governmental Lease-Purchase Agreement

**Personnel Consent Agenda**

**March**
- BSC: Award an honorary A.A.S. in agriculture, industry and technology degree to Ed Schafer
- NDSU: Award an honorary doctor of laws degree to Robert Challey
- UND: Award an honorary doctor of letters degrees to Edwin Benson

*Consent Agendas, Page 9*
Even Without a Campus, VCSU Completes Spring Semester

by Doug Anderson, VCSU director of marketing and communication

Historic flooding in North Dakota this spring certainly brought about many “firsts.” Among them: Valley City State University may have been the first university to close its campus and complete a semester by using online distance learning. According to VCSU President Steve Shirley, Ph.D., the university’s well-known laptop initiative and skilled use of technology were key to making this possible.

VCSU began its laptop initiative in 1996, intending to enhance the learning experience, not to provide disaster recovery capabilities. But one cornerstone of the initiative is that every full-time student is issued a laptop computer.

“Our students use their laptops both in and out of the classroom, and they routinely take the laptops with them, even while off campus,” Shirley said. “VCSU students were on Easter break when we closed the campus, but we could proceed, knowing that students had the necessary tools to resume classes from their homes.”

The critical point came when one of the levees protecting VCSU began showing signs of weakness, and the Army Corps of Engineers suggested the campus be closed and evacuated. Unfortunately, the VCSU data center was located in an area most vulnerable to flooding.

“We knew this might happen, so we were prepared to move the data center to a safer place,” said Joe Tykwinski, VCSU’s chief information officer. “With hard work from our staff and key contractors, we were able to resume the services needed for online classes in a matter of days.”

Another element that helped VCSU resume courses was its depth of expertise with the Blackboard learning management system. As a matter of policy, VCSU requires every course, regardless of delivery method, to have a Blackboard shell containing at least some course content. Many faculty members have taken this much further by using Blackboard for tasks such as distributing course materials, encouraging collaboration among students and giving tests. This meant that a considerable amount of content was available online even before the flood.

Of course, adjustments were needed to deal with the extreme situation. One immediate challenge for the faculty was adapting courses to compensate for materials previously not available online. New learning management capabilities such as Pronto, an instant messaging software in Wimba Collaboration Suite, also came into play.

“The laptops really helped here because we could make sweeping decisions about hardware and software, knowing the platform our students were dealing with,” said Dan Clark, VCSU’s director of instructional design. “As we made these decisions, I was impressed with the innovative and flexible skills shown by our faculty.”

Shirley said he is proud of the way VCSU faculty and staff handled the flood. “Their skill and effort basically saved the semester for our students,” he said. “Still, we are all looking forward to getting the campus back to normal. As good as our online skills are, several programs derive significant benefit from the face-to-face experience.”
Celebrating Successes

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**

BSC is adding an instructional site for its Welding Technology Program in Halliday, N.D., through an affiliation with Halliday Public Schools. A student can earn a program certificate or an A.A.S. degree. BSC Provost Drake Carter said BSC sees the affiliation as a unique opportunity to meet the needs of students and industry.

BSC’s class of 2009 includes six students who completed requirements for the first bachelor’s degrees awarded by BSC. Two attended the ceremony and were awarded the B.A.S. in energy management. One is a Mandan resident employed with Great River Energy, and the other, from Eau Claire, Wis., is employed with Xcel Energy.

BSC received a $10,000 North Dakota Humanities Council grant to support the Distinguished Scholar of the Humanities Lecture Series anchored by Clay Jenkinson, one of the leading humanities scholars in the U.S. The series will take place on selected Sunday afternoons in 2009–10.

**Dickinson State University**

DSU held its 89th commencement May 16. The university graduated a record 494 students from 18 states and 11 foreign countries. Longtime educator and author Dr. Joseph Crowley gave the keynote address; Crowley was the president of the University of Nevada, Reno, for 23 years.

Jon Brudvig, Ph.D., director of the Theodore Roosevelt Honors Leadership Program; Debora Dragseth, Ph.D., associate professor of business; and Rebecca Pitkin, Ph.D., assistant professor of education, were selected to participate in the 2009 Wye Faculty Seminar on Citizenship in the American and Global Polity in Queenstown, Md., July 18–24. The Wye Faculty Seminar assists professors of every discipline from a wide range of colleges and universities in relating their teaching to broad issues of citizenship and civil society.

**Lake Region State College**

The Dakota Nursing Program received approval to deliver practical nurse education to Dickinson, N.D. Fort Berthold Community College also joined the DNP and will work with the other partner colleges – BSC, LRSC, WSC and MiSU-B. The program provides practical nurse and associate degree nurse education utilizing a variety of course delivery options.

LRSC and MaSU renewed articulation agreements and signed additional agreements April 23 at LRSC. The articulation agreements work with programs offered online, in Devils Lake and at MaSU.

**Mayville State University**

Kelly Odden, education instructor, and Darryl Gulbranson, associate professor of mathematics, were named 2008–09 MaSU Teachers of the Year. Nominations were accepted from all members of the student body. The MaSU Student Senate made the final selection.

Mallory Schefter, Langdon, N.D., was selected to present her research study at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in Toronto, Canada, this summer. Mallory earned a bachelor’s degree with a major in psychology and a minor in sociology from MaSU this spring.

**Minot State University**

Effective Jan. 1, MiSU went from a smoke-free to a tobacco-free campus. This decision corresponds with the desire to become a CEO Cancer Gold Standard Institution. One key requirement is reducing the risk of cancer through lifestyle changes by addressing tobacco use, diet and nutrition, and physical activity.

MiSU was given prominence in a national television segment. MiSU was featured in an ongoing segment on topics, trends and issues related to education in the 21st century, as part of “The Economic Report with Greg Gumbel.”

MiSU will launch a new energy economics and finance major this fall. In the new program, students will study the economics of energy programs, explore links between energy projects and financial markets, and perform a variety of fundamental financial tasks for energy industries. Graduates will be able to be “middle men” between geologists in the field and businessmen in the office.

**MiSU–Bottineau**

MiSU-B’s Entrepreneurial Center for Horticulture has sold out the 25 available shares for its Four Seasons Community Garden. Shareholders will be able to pick up five to 10 pounds of fresh vegetables every week this summer from July through September. The produce will be grown on a one-third acre campus plot without the use of chemicals. Construction of three on-campus greenhouses begins this spring under the direction of Mark Pomarleau, farm manager, and Holly Mawby, ECH director.

Sophomore Samantha Fenner has been named a New Century and Coca Cola Gold Scholar by Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. Samantha is a native of Upham, N.D., and represents North Dakota as the state’s All-USA Academic Team delegate. She was recognized at the American Association of Community Colleges convention in April in Phoenix and was awarded a $3,500 stipend.

*Celebrating Successes, Page 9*
North Dakota State College of Science

On May 15, 714 students from 17 states and one Canadian province graduated from NDSCS with A.A., A.S. and A.A.S. degrees as well as certificates and diplomas in 33 disciplines. Scholastic Achievement Awards were given to 179 graduates who earned GPAs of 3.5 or above.

Rene Moen was named director emerita at the commencement ceremonies. She joined NDSCS in 1972 and founded the Academic Services Center (originally the Learning Skills Center) and directed it until her retirement in 1999. The Academic Services program Moen began at NDSCS is seen as a model program by educators around the country. With NDSCS’s success, three similar centers were created in Bismarck, Williston and Devils Lake, N.D.

Disabled second-year welding student Jordan Kay of Minot, N.D., was featured on WDAY television news and in a welding trade publication for his “Cadillac,” a state-of-the-art wheelchair he created in the NDSCS welding lab with the help of friends and his instructor, Jay Schimelfening. Kay graduated May 15 and plans to return to his hometown for employment.

North Dakota State University

NDsu researchers were awarded one of 20 prestigious planning grants through the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative. The $50,000 grant will be used to continue NDSU’s joint programs with Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. Margaret Khaitsa, assistant professor of veterinary and microbiological sciences, is the principal investigator for the grant.

NDsu’s pharmacy program was ranked 13th in the United States for the percentage of doctoral faculty with National Institutes of Health funding. The ranking of the 112 schools of pharmacy came from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

University of North Dakota

AgCam, built from scratch by UND students and faculty, was installed on the International Space Station in April 2009 and is operated from UND’s Space Operations Center. AgCam takes infrared and near-infrared pictures — handy for judging vegetation — for use by farmers, ranchers, resource managers and teachers.

U.S. News and World Report ranked UND’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences among the top five family medicine programs and also recognized UND’s Center for Rural Health as a leading national resource for rural health information. President Barack Obama tapped center director Mary Wakefield to lead the Health Resources and Services Administration.

In January, UND graduate student Vishnu Reddy received an official okay from the International Astronomical Union to name an asteroid discovered “North Dakota.” Reddy, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Earth System Science and Policy, discovered the asteroid in 2003.

Valley City State University

VCSU’s undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs received NCATE accreditation, continuing a record of uninterrupted accreditation since NCATE was founded in 1954. Their report specifically cited a number of strengths, including VCSU’s high-quality faculty, field experience program, assessment system and technology-rich environment/laptop initiative.

With a goal of $150,000, VCSU began a fundraising campaign to resume track and field and cross-country varsity sports by announcing that $112,500 in pledges already had been received. Discontinued in 2003 because of budget cuts, the programs are being restored with private funds beginning with the 2010–11 season.

VCSU joined the America’s SAP Users’ Group (ASUG) University Alliance Program (UAP) to help prepare VCSU graduates with real-world job skills. The partnership allows VCSU to incorporate SAP software into its curriculum and to interact with more than 40,000 organizations worldwide now using SAP software to drive their business operations.

Williston State College

A dedication ceremony for the WSC Petroleum Safety and Technology Center was held June 4, 2009. The center is the latest addition to the state’s Centers of Excellence initiative; its emphasis is on creating economic and employment opportunities in the state’s oil and gas industry.

Consent Agendas, from Page 6

May

NDsu: Appointment of Robert Bahm for a second term on the North Dakota State Board of Agriculture Research and Education

NDsu: Appointment of John Bollingberg for a second term on the North Dakota State Board of Agriculture Research and Education

BSC: Grant President Emeritus Status to Dr. Donna S. Thigpen, the fifth CEO of BSC