

NORTH DAKOTA STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
10th Floor, State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 215
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-328-2960

SBHE RESOLUTION 2020-03

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT REGARDING THE INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE
CONTROL OF THE SBHE RESUMING IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES IN FALL 2020 AND, TO
THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, SUMMER 2020**

WHEREAS, the State Board of Higher Education is the governing board for the North Dakota State University System pursuant to Article VIII, Section 6 of the North Dakota Constitution and Chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code;

WHEREAS, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and attendant public health emergency, all NDUS institutions transitioned in-person courses to online in order to protect the health and safety of NDUS students, faculty, and staff;

WHEREAS, the NDUS and institutions have assembled extensive scientific and epidemiological information and advice, including as part of the North Dakota Smart Restart initiative, and determined that resuming in-person education is possible for the fall 2020 semester, and in certain circumstances, the summer 2020 semester;

WHEREAS, the NDUS has launched the Smart Restart Task Force to assist the NDUS campuses in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, during the meeting held on April 29, 2020, the SBHE passed a motion made by Vice Chair Ryan and seconded by Member Louters to issue a statement in support of the NDUS institutions resuming in-person, on-campus education during the Fall 2020 semester, and to the extent possible, the Summer 2020 semester;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

1. That the SBHE fully supports and expects the NDUS institutions to take all reasonable and appropriate steps to resume on-campus and in-person educational and other activities for the Fall 2020 semester, as well as during the summer of 2020 where appropriate, with accommodations for individuals who are at an elevated risk of COVID-related consequences, where possible.
2. That the SBHE hereby empowers and supports institution Presidents and the Chancellor to make such decisions and prepare such procedures as they deem necessary to carry this Resolution into effect, within the bounds of SBHE Policies, NDUS Procedures, and state and federal law.
3. That the SBHE encourages institution Presidents and the Chancellor to continue to involve faculty, staff, and student representatives, where practicable, in campus-level committees, task forces, and/or discussions regarding the transition back to on-campus, in-person classes and activities.
4. That, at all times, the health and safety of NDUS employees and students shall remain a primary consideration of the institutions in carrying out this Resolution, recognizing that the COVID-19 situation remains fluid, and that it is impossible to eliminate all risks posed by the novel coronavirus pandemic to NDUS campus communities.

Dated: May 29, 2020



Nick Hacker, Chair
State Board of Higher Education

ATTESTATION

I, Terry Meyer, the duly elected Executive Secretary of the State Board of Higher Education, do hereby certify that the SBHE in a meeting held on May 29, 2020, approved the foregoing resolution with the votes of Members Morton, Ryan, Louter, Dscheek, Nibelich support, Members _____ opposed, and Members _____ not present or not voting.

Neset, Bryant, Hacker

Terry Meyer

Terry Meyer, Executive Secretary
State Board of Higher Education