

**BOARD OF REGENTS  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
April 3-4, 2024**

The South Dakota Board of Regents met on April 3-4, 2024, at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion at 10:00 a.m. Central Time and via Zoom\* with the following members present:

ROLL CALL:

Brock Brown – PRESENT  
Judy Dittman – PRESENT  
Randy Frederick – PRESENT  
James Lochner – PRESENT  
Randy Rasmussen – PRESENT  
Pam Roberts\* – PRESENT  
Douglas Morrison, Secretary – PRESENT  
Jeff Partridge, Vice President – PRESENT  
Tim Rave, President – PRESENT

Also present during all or part of the meeting were Nathan Lukkes, Board of Regents Executive Director and CEO; Liza Clark, Chief of Staff; Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning; Heather Forney, System Vice President of Finance and Administration; Kayla Bastian, Chief Human Resources Officer; Shuree Mortenson, Director of Communications; Dr. Pamela Carriveau, System Associate Vice President for Academic Programming; Katie Maley, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Board; Barry Dunn, SDSU President; José-Marie Griffiths, DSU President; Laurie Nichols, BHSU President; Jim Rankin, SDSMT President; Dr. Neal Schnoor, NSU President; Sheila Gestring, USD President; Kami VanSickle, SDSD Director; Jessica Vogel, SDSBVI Superintendent; and other members of the Regental system and public and media.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

Regent Rave declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **1-B Approval of the Agenda**

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Partridge, to approve the agenda as published. Motion passed.

### **1-C Declaration of Conflicts**

There were no declared conflicts.

### **1-D Approval of the Minutes – Meeting on December 13-14, 2023**

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Partridge, to approve the minutes of the Board of Regents meeting on December 13-14, 2023. Motion passed.

### **1-E Motion to Dissolve into Executive Session**

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Lochner, that the Board dissolve into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, to consult with legal counsel and discuss personnel matters, pending and prospective litigation, contractual matters, and marketing or pricing strategies by a board of a business owned by the State when public discussion may be harmful to the competitive position of the business.

That it rise from Executive Session at 5:00 p.m., and reconvene in public session, to resume the regular order of business, and that the Board report its deliberations while in executive session and take any action it deems prudent as a result thereof in public session on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

The Board reconvened in public session at 9:00 a.m.

### **Motion to Dissolve into Executive Session**

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Morrison, seconded by Regent Partridge, that the Board reconvene in executive session at 9:10 a.m. to consult with legal counsel and discuss personnel matters, pending and prospective litigation, contractual matters, and marketing or pricing strategies of a board of a business owned by the state when public discussion may be harmful to the competitive position of the business. Motion passed.

The Board reconvened in public session at 10:30 a.m.

### **3-A Report and Actions of Executive Session**

The Board of Regents dissolved into executive session at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3, to consult with legal counsel and discuss personnel matters, pending and prospective litigation, contractual matters, and marketing or pricing strategies of a board of a business owned by the state when public discussion may be harmful to the competitive position of the business before rising from executive session at 5:15 p.m.

The Board then reconvened in executive session at 9:10 a.m. on Thursday, April 4, for additional discussion of the matters just discussed before rising from executive session at 10:30 a.m. The discussion of matters in executive session included certain recommended actions set forth in the secretary's report and other matters permitted by law.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Morrison, seconded by Regent Partridge, that the Board approve the recommended actions as set forth in the secretary's report and publish said reports and official actions in the formal minutes of this meeting. Motion passed.

### **3-B Welcome and Presentation by USD President Sheila Gestring**

USD President Sheila Gestring welcomed the Board and other attendees to the University of South Dakota. President Gestring introduced students Logan Bishop, Veronica Knippling, and Delaney Scott within the Beacom School of Business who provided a presentation on their work with Biggins Cattle Company located in Gregory, South Dakota. Their work with this family-owned business included developing and designing a modern website, data analysis of how their pricing fairs in the market area, and best ways to go about marketing and implementing digital payment processing for their customers. The students encouraged everyone to visit the website to get a look at the final product and learn what the Biggins family is all about at [www.bigginscattleco.com](http://www.bigginscattleco.com).

President Gestring then introduced Dr. Tim Ridgeway, Dean of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine and the Vice President for Health Affairs, who provided an update on the landscape of the USD Medical School.

### **3-C 2023 Student Organization Awards**

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning, stated that each year, the Board approves the previous year's Student Organization Award winners. The nominations advanced to the Board are chosen by each institution in the categories of Academic Excellence, Community Service, and Organizational Leadership. Once approved, the Board presents these awards at its meetings throughout the year. The current list of student organizations represents the recommended award winners for 2023.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Partridge, to accept the recommendations offered by each institution for student organization awards and announce the names of the award winners.

A copy of the 2023 Student Organization Awards can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **3-D Student Organization Awards – USD**

Scott Pohlson, SDSU Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, presented the SDSU student organization award winners for 2023. Kappa Alpha Theta accepted the award for academic excellence. AWOL (Alternative Week of Off-Campus Learning) accepted the award for community service. PAVE (promote awareness and voice empowerment) accepted the award for organizational leadership.

A copy of the USD Student Organization Awards can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

### **3-E Reports from Individual Presidents and Superintendents**

No reports.

### **3-F Reports on Individual Regent Activities**

No reports.

### **3-G Report of the Executive Director**

Nathan Lukkes, Executive Director and CEO, introduced the new President of Black Hills State University, Steve Elliott, and welcomed him to his first formal Board of Regents meeting since he was hired a few months ago.

Nathan also mentioned that he wanted to hit briefly on legislative session how he would be remiss to not just highlight how well things went. The Regental system is very thankful and grateful for the legislative support that we received, as well as from the Governor's office. These things don't just happen, it is a concerted team effort from regents making phone calls, to coming to dinners, to Presidents coming to the Capitol to talk with folks, to keeping everybody in touch when they're hearing things from their local legislators. We managed to maintain a positive and productive dialogue from the beginning of session all the way through the end, and as a result, the system benefited greatly. Even though this session has ended, conversations are already starting for next year and working to identify budget priorities for the next legislative session.

With session wrapped, Nathan noted that this time of year allows time for him to make visits to campuses and have conversations with staff. He has been thankful to have some of those conversations, he just wanted to hit on the fact that he has heard a lot about the brand standards and communication policy that was passed in December. He has welcomes and appreciates the feedback that and good conversations he's had thus far. When we pass a policy, rarely do we get it 100% right on the first go. So we always kind of accept that, but also wanted to make clear from an expectation management standpoint that you know we also don't want to get in the habit of opening up a policy multiple meetings in a row to make little tweaks. So, you know, we really want to sit back and take the comprehensive look at things, solicit all of the feedback, and figure out what we can do now, or what we might need to change, and then at a future meeting if we need to make some changes, we're certainly willing to come forward and make those tweaks. Nathan again reiterated that he welcomes and appreciates the feedback that he has received thus far, and looks forward to continue to have more conversations and communications with stakeholders, and how we can continue to improve moving forward.

### **3-H Report from the Student Federation**

Michael Garofalo, Student Federation President, provided the Board with an update regarding the recent activities of the Student Federation. He noted that they had a lot of discussion with legislators, too, especially about the tuition freeze. The Student Federation members all agree that that was good. It made education affordable. However, they have also talked a lot about funding issues that some student organizations and students or other employee salaries that are funded by GAF have had. They have started pulling from the reserves on most of their student governments; usually they like to avoid that as much as possible. A couple of campuses have had polls about raising the General Activity Fee. As a Federation overall, they are very optimistic that the issue can be resolved.

Regarding the Branding and Communications Policy, Michael noted that the Student Federation recently passed a resolution asking for a public comment period over the summer to hopefully consider revisions to that policy. Many students couldn't attend the public comment period at the December BOR meeting when the policy was approved due to conflict with finals schedules.

Michael mentioned that regarding communication in general, the Student Federation is working on starting to get on a more regular schedule on their end and also try to schedule some of their meeting in tandem with BOR meetings along with continuing to try to have a social with the Board like what was hosted this morning.

Michael also noted that this will be his last meeting and that during the upcoming week of April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Student Federation will be swearing in a new executive team that will be taking over reporting to the Board at subsequent meetings.

### **3-I Report from the USD Student Government Association (SGA)**

Ethan Gladue, USD SGA President, and Jillian Schulte, USD SGA Vice President, provided the Board with an update regarding the recent activities of the USD Student Government Association.

One of their top priorities was their communication with the USD student body and that they know what opportunities lie out there and what sets them up best for life outside of USD.

Regent Partridge thanked Ethan and Julie for their report, and all student government representatives that showed up this morning from across all of the campuses taking time out of their schedules to speak with the Board.

### **4 Public Comment Period**

Jeremy Daniel, Chair of the SDSU Faculty Senate, requested three adjustments to BOR Policy 1.7.6 Communications and Branding that was approved in December 2023. Within the policy, Section 2.2.3 provides a list of items employees are able to include as contact information and their official communications. Section 2.2.4 prohibits any information not on that list from being included. The Faculty Senate feel these requested changes will better align the policy with both Board of Regents and SDSU priorities and their respective strategic plans and encourage positive communication to recruit and retain students at all BOR institutions. First, they request the ability to include institution approved phrases in the contact information. It is noted that the section allows for an inclusion of institutional motto; however, there are other institution approved phrases that promote strong brand

identity and inclusion. An example at SDSU is the land acknowledgement statement published as part of the Wakini Initiative, and its relation to the institutional strategic plan. Inclusion of institutional approved phrases that support the institution's strategic plan would be appreciated. Second, they request the ability to include personal pronouns in the contact information. Pathway to Premiere 2030 also contains a goal on achieving excellence through transformative education by promoting initiatives that meet the needs of all students, enhance student belonging and wellbeing and support expanded access. It also highlights our plan to enhance student success, inspire current and future students, and prepare graduates to become global citizens in an ever-changing and interconnected world. The BOR Strategic Plan also contains a goal focused on student outcomes and strategic priorities with a focus on increasing student wellbeing and mental health advocacy.

Mental health challenges (LGBTQ+) and inclusion of pronouns lead to better mental health, as research suggests. There is research that demonstrates inclusion of personal pronouns helps foster a deeper connection between a student and a faculty member, and he noted that we all know that deeper student faculty communications create better educational outcomes. While they do not support mandated inclusion of personal pronouns in the signature block, they request the option to include them as applicable to foster communication and better outcomes.

Third, and lastly, they request clarification on the meaning of "job title of originating employee" as they do not feel this alone accurately reflects the true role of all faculty.

In conclusion, Jeremy noted that a written document was previously submitted to Regent Rave and Executive Director Lukkes outlining these requests; he encouraged the other Board members to review it as well.

Allan Aldrige, Associate Professor at USD, noted that his opinion he is about to state is not a reflection of the institution but is solely that of his personally. He is concerned regarding consent item 5-J Revisions to BOR Policy 4.1.1 and his concern of reducing the time in the proposed revisions from 20 days to 10 days. To address these issues, he would like the Board to consider amending the change to allow 14 days. The second request in the following paragraph of the policy that faculty be notified prior to the finals week so that faculty are appropriately notified that they should be expecting to see a contract coming via DocuSign.

Justin Schmidt, Young Americans for Liberty, addressed their group's expressed interest in ending the mandatory housing policy. They have delivered a petition signed by over 300 students. He noted that until the Board addresses this formally, Young Americans for Liberty intend to continue to bring the issue up.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Regent Partridge requested to pull item 5-J from the consent agenda, seconded by**

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Partridge, seconded by Regent Brown, to approve consent agenda items 5-A(1) through 5-I as presented. Motion passed.

## **Academic and Student Affairs – Consent**

### **5-A(1) New Program Request – DSU – BS in Digital Content Creation**

Authorize DSU to offer a BS in Digital Content Creation, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – DSU – BS in Digital Content Creation can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-A(2) New Program Request – DSU – Minor in Esports Leadership**

Authorize DSU to offer a minor in Esports Leadership, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – DSU – Minor in Esports Leadership can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-A(3) New Program Request – SDSU – Minor in Applied Thinking and Innovation**

Authorize SDSU to offer a minor in Applied Thinking and Innovation, as Presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – SDSU – Minor in Applied Thinking and Innovation can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-A(4) New Program Request – USD – Minor in Arts in Health**

Authorize USD to offer a minor in Arts in Health, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – USD – Minor in Arts in Health can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-B(1) New Specialization Request – DSU – Esports Management – BBA in Business Administration**

Authorize DSU to offer a specialization in Esports Management within the BBA in Business Administration program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – DSU – Esports Management – BBA in Business Administration can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-B(2) New Specialization Request – SDSU – Clinical Nurse Leader – DNP in Nursing**

Authorize SDSU to offer a Clinical Nurse Leader specialization within the DNP in Nursing program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – SDSU – Clinical Nurse Leader – DNP in Nursing can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-B(3) New Specialization Request – USD – Radiologic Technology – BS in Health Sciences**

Authorize USD to offer a specialization in Radiologic Technology within the BS in Health Sciences program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – USD – Radiologic Technology – BS in Health Sciences can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-B(4) New Specialization Request – USD – Science Education – BSEd in Secondary Education**

Authorize USD to offer a specialization in Science Education within the BSEd in Secondary Education program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – USD – Science Education – BSEd in Secondary Education can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-C(1) New Site Request – DSU – BS in Individualized Studies (Online)**

Approve DSU’s new site proposal to offer the BS in Individualized Studies online, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – DSU – BS in Individualized Studies (Online) can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-C(2) New Site Request – SDSU – BA in Interdisciplinary Studies (Online)**

Approve SDSU’s new site proposal to offer the BA in Interdisciplinary Studies online, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – SDSU – BA in Interdisciplinary Studies (Online) can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-C(3) New Site Request – SDSU – BA in Sociology (Online)**

Approve SDSU’s new site proposal to offer the BA in Sociology online, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – SDSU – BA in Sociology (Online) can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-C(4) New Site Request – USD – MA in Special Education (Online)**

Approve USD’s new site proposal to offer the MA in Special Education online, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – USD – MA in Special Education (Online) can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-D General Education Course Approvals**

Approve the revisions to system General Education course options from SDSMT, SDSU, and USD, as presented.

A copy of the General Education Course Approvals can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-E Inactive Status and Program Termination Requests – NSU, SDSMT, & SDSU**

Approve the program inactivation and termination requests from NSU, SDSMT, and SDSU, as presented.

A copy of the Inactive Status and Program Termination Requests – NSU, SDSMT, & SDSU can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-F Articulation Agreement – Dakota State University**

Approve the articulation agreement from Dakota State University with Anoka Technical College, as presented in Attachment I.

A copy of the Articulation Agreement – Dakota State University can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-G(1) Agreements on Academic Cooperation – South Dakota School of Mines and Technology**

Approve South Dakota School of Mines and Technology’s agreement on academic cooperation with the Oslo Metropolitan University, as presented.

A copy of the Agreements on Academic Cooperation – South Dakota School of Mines and Technology can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-G(2) Agreements on Academic Cooperation – South Dakota State University**

Approve South Dakota State University’s agreements on academic cooperation with Gujarat Technological University and Presidency University, as presented.

A copy of the Agreements on Academic Cooperation – South Dakota State University can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **Budget and Finance – Consent**

#### **5-H Maintenance & Repair (M&R) Projects (Greater than \$250,000)**

Approve the requested maintenance and repair projects as described in this item.

A copy of the Maintenance & Repair (M&R) Projects (Greater than \$250,000) can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-I USD-City of Vermillion Easement Resolution**

Approve and adopt the Resolution set forth in Attachment I, requesting the Commissioner of School and Public Lands to proceed with the easements as stated therein.

A copy of the USD-City of Vermillion Easement Resolution can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-J Revisions to BOR Policy 4.1.1 (Formerly 4:1) (First and Final Reading)**

This item was pulled from the consent agenda and moved to the full discussion agenda at the request of Regent Partridge to address a question he had regarding it.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policy 4.1.1 (Formerly 4:1) can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **Routine Informational Items – No Board Action Necessary**

#### **5-K Interim Actions of the Executive Director**

A copy of the Interim Actions of the Executive Director can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-L Building Committee Report**

A copy of the Building Committee Report can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-M Capital Projects List**

A copy of the Capital Projects List can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-N FY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Audit Update**

A copy of the FY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Audit Update can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-O Residence Hall Occupancy Report for Fall 2023/Spring 2024**

A copy of the Residence Hall Occupancy Report for Fall 2023/Spring 2024 can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-P FY23 Auxiliary System Agreed Upon Procedures Report**

A copy of the FY23 Auxiliary System Agreed Upon Procedures Report can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-Q 2023-2024 Regional Tuition and Fees Survey**

A copy of the 2023-2024 Regional Tuition and Fees Survey can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **5-R SDSMT FY23 NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Report**

A copy of the SDSMT FY23 NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Report can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-S Intent to Plan Requests**

A copy of the Intent to Plan Requests can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-T South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Report**

A copy of the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Report can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

## **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### **6-A New BOR Policy 3.6.2 – System Financial Aid Processing (First Reading)**

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning, stated the new policy before the Board really defines what the Enrollment Services Center is and the financial aid processing that they do for the system. This is the first reading of the new proposed policy, with the intent to bring it back to the June BOR meeting for a second and final reading.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Partridge, to approve the first reading of the proposed new BOR Policy 3.6.2 – System Financial Aid Processing, as presented. Motion passed.

A copy of the New BOR Policy 3.6.2 – System Financial Aid Processing (First Reading) can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **6-B FAFSA Simplification Act Update**

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning, stated that this is an update for the Board on where we stand with the new FAFSA application implementation being conducted by the US Department of Education. There are some positive aspects of this implementation, but what it has caused in our system is a delay in awarding financial aid packages to students.

A copy of the FAFSA Simplification Act Update can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **6-C Revised BOR Policy 2.4.5 – Externally Funded Courses for Academic Credit (Formerly 2:13) (First and Final Reading)**

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning, stated that the proposed revisions are more clerical in nature to bring it up to date with current practice, and removed duplicative language.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Partridge, to (1) waive the two-reading requirement of By-Laws Section 5.5.1, and (2) approve the first and final reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 2.4.5 – Externally Funded Courses for Academic Credit, as presented. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revised BOR Policy 2.4.5 – Externally Funded Courses for Academic Credit (Formerly 2:13) (First and Final Reading) can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

**6-D Revised BOR Policy 2.6.1 – Academic Program Student Credit Hour Requirements Policy (Formerly 2:29) (First Reading)**

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning, stated that this policy change was requested by one of the universities to incorporate the credential of a certificate. The Academic Affairs Council (AAC) vetted the requested changes and recommended approval. The changes that were supported are presented in Attachment I. This is the first reading of the proposed revisions, with the intent to bring it back to the June BOR meeting for a second and final reading.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 2.6.1 – Academic Program Student Credit Hour Requirement, as presented. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revised BOR Policy 2.6.1 – Academic Program Student Credit Hour Requirements Policy (Formerly 2:29) (First Reading) can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

**6-E(1) New Program Request – DSU – MS in Artificial Intelligence**

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning, was joined by Dr. Rebecca Hoey, DSU Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, to provide an overview of the program request. Dakota State University (DSU) requests authorization to offer a MS in Artificial Intelligence. The proposed MS would combine business, agribusiness, leadership, and artificial intelligence-informed business analytics classes to produce professionals and entrepreneurs with the knowledge to drive decisions with data, understand the agribusiness environment, and lead organizations in the challenging and dynamic world of agriculture.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Morrison, to authorize DSU to offer a MS in Artificial Intelligence, as presented.

**ROLL CALL:**

Brown – AYE  
Dittman – AYE  
Frederick – AYE  
Lochner – AYE  
Rasmussen – AYE  
Roberts – AYE  
Morrison – Excused  
Partridge – NAY  
Rave – AYE

Motion passed.

A copy of the New Program Request – DSU – MS in Artificial Intelligence can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

### **6-E(2) New Program Request – NSU – MS in Strategic Innovation and Leadership**

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning, was joined by Dr. Erin Fouberg, NSU Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, to provide a summary of the new program requested. Northern State University (NSU) requests authorization to offer a MS in Strategic Innovation and Leadership. The proposed program will prepare students to analyze, lead, and innovate within organizations. In this program, students will study dynamics of innovation, leadership theories, design thinking, creativity, decision making, communications, and team dynamics. Graduates will be prepared to lead organizational change, drive business growth, add customer value, and create competitive advance through innovation.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Morrison, to authorize NSU to offer a MS in Strategic Innovation and Leadership, as presented. Motion passed.

A copy of the New Program Request – NSU – MS in Strategic Innovation and Leadership can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

### **6-E(3) New Program Request – USD – BBA in Agribusiness Leadership**

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning, was joined by Dr. Kurt Hackemer, USD Provost, and Dr. Timothy O’Keefe, Dean of the USD Beacom School of Business, to provide a summary of the program requested. The University of South Dakota (USD) requests authorization to offer a BBA in Agribusiness Leadership. The proposed BBA would combine business, agribusiness, leadership, and artificial intelligence-informed business analytics classes to produce professionals and entrepreneurs with the knowledge to drive decisions with data, understand the agribusiness environment, and lead organizations in the challenging and dynamic world of agriculture.

Regent Morrison asked why SDSU doesn’t offer this program as it is right in their wheelhouse for their institutions. SDSU Provost, Dennis Hedge, was called to come to the front of the room to assist in answering the question. Provost Hedge noted that he had conferred with Dr. Hackemer about this program before because SDSU does offer this program as well. When this program request worked its way through the Academic Affairs Council, it came down to leadership.

When it comes to the projected numbers in the PowerPoint presentation provided by USD on this request, Regent Partridge believes that they are off on their projections, and he feels the program will be much bigger than they are thinking. Provost Hackemer noted that they preferred to keep their estimates humble so that they may come to the Board noting that they exceeded expectations and not that they fell short.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Partridge, to authorize USD to offer a BBA in Agribusiness Leadership, as presented. Motion passed.

A copy of the New Program Request – USD – BBA in Agribusiness Leadership can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE**

### **7-A FY25 On-Campus Tuition and Mandatory Fees**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, stated that for the third year in a row, the 2024 South Dakota Legislative Session concluded with legislators increasing base funding for the Board of Regents to continue to freeze tuition at FY24 rates by covering the salary policy costs for tuition funded employees. Tuition and mandatory fees will remain at the FY24 rate because of this continued support.

The South Dakota Advantage rate was extended to Kansas, Missouri, and Minnesota. The Minnesota Reciprocity agreement is not being renewed for the academic year 2024-2025. New Minnesota students enrolling at a Board of Regents university beginning in Summer 2024 will receive the Dakota Advantage rate. Students currently enrolled under the existing reciprocity agreement will continue to receive the negotiated reciprocal rate as they work towards completing their degrees.

The FY25 proposal for tuition and mandatory fees attempts to keep the cost to students as low as possible in consideration of student access, service to students, and delivering the highest quality education possible to our students. It is recommended that all FY25 tuition, GAF, and computer lease fees remain flat, except for a 2.6% increase to the computer lease fee for DSU.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the FY25 On-Campus Tuition and Mandatory Fees as presented in Attachment I. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY25 On-Campus Tuition and Mandatory Fees can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **7-B FY25 Off-Campus Tuition Rates**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, provided a brief overview of the item presented. She noted that except for the Dual Credit Course rate, the off-campus tuition rates will be held flat commensurate with the on-campus tuition, due to additional general funds being allocated to the cover salary policy recommendation of 4% and the increase in health insurance.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the FY25 Off-Campus Tuition Rates as presented in Attachment I. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY25 Off-Campus Tuition Rates can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **7-C FY25 System, Discipline, Delivery, and Vehicle Registration Fees**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, stated that outside of tuition and mandatory fees, students will be assessed specific fees for services and may pay additional fees for higher cost disciplines. Specific services could include processing applications, testing for credit, assessment fees, late fees, parking fees or similar services. Discipline fees are used to support high-cost disciplines in the areas of salaries and/or operating expenses. The Legislature funded a 4% salary policy increase for state employees and a slight increase in employer-paid

healthcare benefit. System fees and Special Discipline and Delivery fees are projected to be flat. Vehicle Registration fees will also not increase in FY25.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the FY25 System, Discipline, Delivery, and Vehicle Registration Fees, as presented in Attachment I. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY25 System, Discipline, Delivery, and Vehicle Registration Fees can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **7-D FY25 Housing and Food Service Rates**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, stated that the proposed housing rates for FY25 allow the universities to address the inflationary increase on operating expenses, the 2% maintenance and repair requirement, and funding adjustments to salary policy and employee healthcare costs. The meal plan rates reflect the second year of the new contract with Sodexo for food operations and any related institutional administrative costs.

When including the tuition and mandatory fee rates, the total weighted average cost increase is \$556. The impact to students within the system will range from an increase of \$350 to \$724 per year.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the FY25 Housing and Food Service Plan rates as presented in Attachments I & II. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY25 Housing and Food Service Rates can be found on pages \_\_ to \_\_ of the official minutes.

#### **7-E FY25 Graduate Assistant Stipends**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, stated that the Board of Regents annually establishes a minimum stipend to be paid to graduate assistants. Graduate assistants are expected to work a full semester to receive the full semester compensation. Graduate assistants are expected to work the full four-week summer session to receive the full four-week session compensation. The minimum compensation may be prorated accordingly if the graduate student does not work the full semester or four-week session.

DSU, SDSMT, and SDSU currently waive tuition for their graduate assistants and fellows as compensation for their work; therefore, the salary minimum does not apply to DSU, SDSMT, or SDSU.

The Board has traditionally increased the minimum amount of the graduate assistant stipends by the rate of increase in resident graduate tuition. The increase is rounded to the nearest dollar. Since there was no increase in tuition for FY24, there will be no addition to the stipend amount.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the BHSU and NSU FY25 minimum graduate assistant stipends in the amount of \$3,921 per semester and \$980 per four-week session; and USD FY25 minimum graduate assistant stipends in the amount of \$4,067 per semester and \$1,016 per four-week session. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY25 Graduate Assistant Stipends can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **7-F FY25 Special Schools Nonresident Tuition**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, stated the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SDSBVI) annually reviews its instructional and residential costs to determine an appropriate tuition rate for nonresident students who may attend the school. SDSBVI does not currently have any nonresident students in attendance.

The current tuition rate at SDSBVI is \$39,844 for instructional costs and \$16,104 for residential care. An inflationary increase is applied to cover salary policy, CPI on operating expenses, and adjustments to health benefit cost per benefit-eligible employee. The Bureau of Finance and Management (BFM) calculated the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the last fiscal year at 2.60%.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the FY25 nonresident instructional tuition rate to be \$40,880 and the residence cost to be set at \$16,523 for the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY25 Special Schools Nonresident Tuition can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **7-G FY25 General Bill Summary**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, expressed the Regent system's thanks to the legislature and the Governor for their support in the BOR's funding requests during session. The 2024 legislative session concluded with the passage of the FY25 General Bill HB1259. The Board of Regents received a general fund base increase of \$6,265,281 (2.1%). This \$6M increase does not include the 4% salary policy or health insurance increase funding (\$69 per benefit eligible FTE) for generally-funded employees as those amounts are appropriated to statewide pools that are allocated by the Bureau of Finance and Management (BFM) after session concludes.

A copy of the FY25 General Bill Summary can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **7-H FY24 General Bill Amendments**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, stated that amendments to the FY24 general bill are found in SB52, which has been approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor for signature. The portion of the bill relating to the Board of Regents (BOR) is provided in the table within the item presented. Any changes in the bill are considered one-time and are not base budget adjustments.

A copy of the FY24 General Bill Amendments can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **7-I FY24 Special Appropriations**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, stated the Board of Regents received support for one special appropriation during the 2024 legislative session—the Center for Quantum

Information Science and Technology (C-QIST). The adoption of increased FY24 revenues and continued financial growth and stability allowed the Legislature and Governor to allocate \$3,034,444 in general funds to support exploratory and discovery activities related to the various emergent quantum capabilities and applications, early research initiatives, and new academic programs. These funds will be split between DSU and SDSMT to support their work on the C-QIST.

A copy of the FY24 Special Appropriations can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **7-J NSU Gerber Hall Renovation Facility Program Plan (FPP) and Facility Design Plan (FDP)**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, joined by NSU President Neal Schnoor, stated that Northern State University (NSU) requests approval of this combined Facility Program Plan (FPP) and Facility Design Plan (FDP) for the renovation of Gerber Hall. The Board approved NSU's Preliminary Facility Statement for this project in May of 2023. Heather clarified that the GMP hasn't been established yet for this project.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the combined Facility Program Plan and Facility Design Plan for NSU's Gerber Hall renovation to be funded with a combination of general fund and HEFF M&R. Motion passed.

A copy of the NSU Gerber Hall Renovation Facility Program Plan (FPP) and Facility Design Plan (FDP) can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **7-K USD Churchill-Haines Laboratory Renovation Preliminary Facility Statement (PFS)**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, was joined by Julie Kriech, USD Vice President for Finance & Administration, to provide an overview of the request. The University of South Dakota requests approval of this Preliminary Facility Statement for planning renovations to the Churchill-Haines Laboratory building on the Main Campus in Vermillion.

The University of South Dakota's Churchill-Haines Laboratory building is a 74,273 square foot facility that was completed in 1977. This building houses the Departments of Biology and Chemistry including research laboratories. Although structurally sound, the building's interior spaces need modernization.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve USD's Preliminary Facility Statement for the planning of renovations to the Churchill-Haines Laboratories utilizing a combination of FY25 HEFF allocations and campus maintenance and repair funds. A building committee representative should be appointed to oversee this project. Motion passed.

A copy of the USD Churchill-Haines Laboratory Renovation Preliminary Facility Statement (PFS) can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

**7-L Revisions to BOR Policy 5.5.1 Tuition and Fees: On Campus Tuition, BOR Policy 5.5.2 Tuition and Fees: Off-Campus Tuition, and BOR Policy 5.5.5 Interstate Tuition Agreements (First and Final Reading)**

Heather Forney, System VP of Finance and Administration, stated that the policy revisions presented have been updated to include changes to tuition and fee charges authorized by both the Board and the Legislature including the expansion of Dakota Advantage to Kansas, Missouri, and Minnesota, reduced tuition for state employees for courses taken online, and the expanded tuition benefits school counselors. By making these changes, the BOR Policy manual will reflect changes made by the Board and the Legislature to reduced tuition programs.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to (1) waive the two-reading requirement of By-Laws Section 5.5.1, and (2) approve the first and final reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 5.5.1 – Tuition and Fees: On-Campus Tuition, BOR Policy 5.5.2 – Tuition and Fees: Distance Education Tuition, and BOR Policy 5.5.5 – Interstate Tuition Agreements, as presented in Attachments I, II, and III respectively. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policy 5.5.1 Tuition and Fees: On Campus Tuition, BOR Policy 5.5.2 Tuition and Fees: Off-Campus Tuition, and BOR Policy 5.5.5 Interstate Tuition Agreements (First and Final Reading) can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

**7-M Revisions to BOR Policies 1.6.4, 3.8.1, 6.13, and 6.13.1 (Formerly 1:35, 3:18, 6:13, and 6:13:1) (First Reading)**

Holly Farris, System General Counsel, stated that in recent legislative sessions, there have been multiple bills attempting to regulate performances that may occur or be supported on college campuses. This conversation culminated during the 2024 legislative session with the introduction and passage of HB 1178, which becomes effective July 1, 2024. Board staff is not aware of any existing issues or occurrences in which obscene live conduct has taken place on institutional premises, and therefore there are no existing operations that require significant overhaul. However, HB 1178 provides the opportunity to clarify that such conduct is prohibited on campus for all individuals—students, employees, guests, and third parties.

These policy revisions presented will not change existing day-to-day operations within the system or on campuses. Rather, they will work in tandem with HB 1178 to clarify requirements and ensure public notification that obscene live conduct may not occur in BOR facilities or with public resources. Accordingly, Board policies on facilities use, funding of student organizations, and minors on campus have been revised to reflect this prohibition. This is the first of two readings of the proposed revisions; Holly anticipates bringing these back for a second and final reading at the June 2024 BOR meeting.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policies 1.6.4 (Minors on Campus); 3.8.1 (Recognition and Funding of Student Organizations); 6.13 (Facilities Use by Private Parties); and 6.13.1 (Use of Institutional Facilities and Grounds for Expressive Activity by Student Organizations, Students, Employees, and their Guests), as presented. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policies 1.6.4, 3.8.1, 6.13, and 6.13.1 (Formerly 1:35, 3:18, 6:13, and 6:13:1) (First Reading) can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **5-J Revisions to BOR Policy 4.1.1 (Formerly 4:1) (First and Final Reading)**

Kayla Bastian, System Chief Human Resources Officer, clarified how the recommendation for moving from twenty (20) to ten (10) days came about. The item as currently written is recommending this policy revisions be approved as a first and final reading, which would make it go into effect immediately; however, Kayla affirmed that there would be no issue within the current structure to defer the final approval so that further conversations could be had regarding the proposed revisions to address issues brought forth by Allan Aldrige, Associate Professor at USD.

Regent Partridge again thanked Professor Aldridge for bringing his concerns forward. Since holding the final reading for a later meeting would not negatively impact HR processes at this time, Regent Partridge noted he feels it would be prudent of the Board to consider approving these revisions as a first reading only, allowing additional discussions to be had and have this come back for a second reading at a subsequent Board meeting for further action.

Regent Rave asked Kayla to keep track of the timeliness of how long it takes contracts go through, if possible, so that data can be compared to the edits proposed for this policy.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Partridge, seconded by Regent Morrison, to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 4.1.1. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policy 4.1.1 (Formerly 4:1) (First Reading) can be found on pages \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ of the official minutes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Brown, seconded by Regent Partridge, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

## *Secretary's Executive Session Report*

*The Board convened in Executive Session pursuant to the vote of the majority of the Board present and voting at its public meeting on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, in accordance with SDCL § 1-25-2 to discuss matters authorized therein. Following executive session on April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Board will meet in open session to discuss and take official action on the matters set forth below, all other matters discussed were consistent with the requirements of SDCL § 1-25-2, but no official action on them is being proposed at this time.*

### *Recommended Actions:*

- 2-D(1). Approve the employment contract for USD men's football coach, Robert Nielson, as discussed.*
- 2-D(2). Approve the employment contract for USD athletic director, Jon Schemmel, as discussed.*
- 2-F. Approve the compensation adjustments and appointment as outlined in Attachment I.*
- 2-G. Authorize the General Counsel to proceed with the legal matter(s) within the parameters discussed.*
- 2-H(1). Direct South Dakota State University to enter into discussion for renaming the SDSU Wintrade Student Success Center Building to the Thompson Opportunity Center.*
- 2-H(2). Approve the request from South Dakota State University to rename the SDSU Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department to the McComish Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, except that the name be in effect for the life of the program and not perpetual.*
- 2-H(3). Approve the request from South Dakota State University to rename the SDSU Public Service Academy to the Mike Huether Public Service Academy.*
- 2-I. Award two (2) years of prior service credit toward promotion for Wendy Simmermon (DSU); and award four (4) years of prior service credit toward tenure and four (4) years of prior service credit toward promotion each for Ethan Snow (SDSU) and Junjian Qi (SDSU).*
- 2-J. Approve the requests to grant tenure as a Professor to Dr. Sungyong Jung, Dr. Jeremy Chambers, and Dr. Sanku Mallik (SDSU).*
- 2-K. Approve the leave request for Max Marc (BHSU), Gina Gibson (BHSU), Hannah Walters (NSU), Gokce K. Ustunisik (SDSMT), Purushotham Tukkaraja (SDSMT), Travis W. Walker (SDSMT), A. James Murphy (SDSU) and Katherine Malone (SDSU), as presented.*
- 2-L. Award an honorary an honorary Doctor of Public Service to Jim D. Neiman (BHSU), Matt Paulson (DSU), Qusi Al-Haj (SDSMT), and John Stiegelmeier (SDSU); an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Donald F. Montileaux (SDSU); an honorary*

*Doctor of Letters and Literature to Joseph Marshall III (SDSU); and an honorary Doctor of Science to Jim Faulstich (SDSU).*

- 2-M. *Approve the request to reorganize the academic colleges and schools at Black Hills State University.*

DRAFT

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Effective date</b>	<b>Job Change Reason</b>	<b>Requested Salary</b>	<b>Previous Salary</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Jesse Bobbit	Defensive Coordinator	1/22/2024	Market/Retention	\$115,000.00	\$81,000.00	42.0%

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Effective date</b>	<b>Job Change Reason</b>	<b>Requested Salary</b>	<b>Previous Salary</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Jinali Qi	Resarch Associate II	3/22/2024	Reclassification	\$62,824.00	\$59,832.00	5.0%

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Effective date</b>	<b>Job Change Reason</b>	<b>Requested Salary</b>	<b>Previous Salary</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
Elizabeth Augustine	Asst. Director of Financial Aid	3/22/2024	Reclassification	\$56,800.00	\$53,470.00	6.2%

**APPOINTMENTS REPORTING TO THE PRESIDENT, SUPERINTENDENT or EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>SALARY</b>	<b>INSTITUTION</b>
Mark Nore	Director of Athletics	3/22/2024	\$130,000.00	BHSU
Michael McKelvey	VP for Institutional Advancement/Foundation CEO	6/3/2024	\$157,000	DSU