

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – J (1)
DATE: May 13-15, 2024

SUBJECT

Agreements on Academic Cooperation – SDSMT

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 5.3](#) – Agreements and Contracts

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

BOR Policy 5.3 requires board action on a range of items including “Affiliative agreements and other agreements that provide for joint sponsorship of educational programing for which credit shall be awarded.” To comply with this requirement, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT) seeks approval to enter into an agreement on academic cooperation with the Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet), located in Oslo, Norway.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

The agreement results in the opportunity to establish educational cooperation between the two participating institution. Also, the institutions would promote collaborative research, other educational developments and further mutual understanding. The agreement also allows for student exchange.

This agreement was previously approved at the April 2024 Board meeting, but required revisions were discovered by Mines following that approval. Attachment I reflects the revisions to the agreement since that time.

Board staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Agreement on Academic Cooperation – SDSMT & Oslo Metropolitan University

DRAFT MOTION 20240513_5-J(1):

I move to approve South Dakota School of Mines & Technology to finalize and execute the agreement on academic cooperation between SDSMT and the Oslo Metropolitan University in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachment I.

EXCHANGE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
OSLOMET – OSLO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY - FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY, ART AND DESIGN
OSLO, NORWAY
AND
SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA, USA

OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway (hereafter referred to as “OsloMet”) and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, SD, USA (hereafter referred to as South Dakota Mines or SDM) recognizing the educational and cultural exchanges which can be achieved between our two institutions, enter into this agreement to facilitate the exchange of students and scholars.

1. Definitions

- i) For the purposes of this agreement "home" institution shall mean the institution at which a student intends to graduate, and " host" institution shall mean the institution which has agreed to accept the student from the home institution.
- ii) Semester or academic year shall normally refer to the period relevant to the host institution.
- iii) "Faculty" shall represent the appropriate academic entity at the respective institutions.

2. Purpose of the Agreement

- i) The general purpose of this agreement is to establish specific educational relations and cooperation between the two participating institutions in order to promote academic linkages and to enrich the understanding of the culture of the two countries concerned.
- ii) The purpose of exchanges between Faculty members is to promote collaborative research, other educational developments and to further mutual understanding.
- iii) The purpose of each student exchange is to enable students to enroll in subjects at the host institution for credit which will be applied towards their degree at their home institution.

3. Responsibilities of Participating Institutions and Students

- i) Each institution shall undertake all those measures as are seen as reasonable to give maximum effect to this exchange program.
- ii) Each institution agrees to accept and enroll exchange students as full-time, "non-degree" students for the duration of their exchange. Exchange students will be exempt from the host institution's tuition and course-related fees, with certain exceptions as specified in item number 6 of this document. SDM students going to OsloMet pay tuition and fees to SDM and OsloMet students going to SDM shall pay tuition and fees to OsloMet, if required.
- iii) Each exchange student will be provided with the same academic resources and support services that are available to all students at the host institution.
- iv) It is the responsibility of each exchange student to obtain official approval from his or her home institution for subjects taken at the host institution.
- v) It is the responsibility of each exchange student to ensure that he or she obtains a copy of his or her official statement of results (transcript) covering the subjects taken during the period of exchange. In addition, each host institution will forward a copy of the statement of results to the home institution's

International Office. Exchange students will be responsible for paying any fees associated with having a transcript sent from the host institution to the home institution.

- vi) Exchange students will be subject to the rules and procedures as specified by the host institution for the academic period in which the student enrolls. The home institution will have responsibility for all matters concerning credit for subjects taken.

4. Balancing the Exchange

- i) It is the objective under this agreement that there will be parity in the number of students exchanged. For the purpose of computing this parity, the exchanges will be weighed as follows:
 - a. One short-term, credit-bearing program (less than 4 weeks) = 0.25 units; one summer session (4 - 11 weeks) = 0.5 units; one summer term (12 weeks) = 1.0 unit; one semester = 1.0 unit; one academic year = 2 units. However, each institution should be prepared to consider a disparity in any given semester or year during the period of this agreement. Any and all imbalances shall be resolved by the end of the period of this agreement.
- ii) The period of study for any individual exchange student will be for no longer than two semesters, but the number is limited to one unit over parity in each semester for the duration of the agreement.
- iii) In principle, the exchange of students will occur on a one for one basis. This number may vary in any given year. Each institution will make every effort to keep the number of students participating balanced. The number of OsloMet students each year who are relieved of any payments of tuition and fees to SDM is limited to one unit over parity. All other OsloMet students are welcome to study at SDM but will be required to pay full out-of-state tuition and fees. The selection of which students pay and which do not will be determined by OsloMet.

5. Selection and Enrollment of Students

It is expected that only highly motivated students of above-average academic quality will be selected to participate in an exchange program. The home institution will screen applications from its student body for exchange. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to participate if they:

- i) have completed at least one year of study at their home institution (University-specific programs, such as research, may have additional requirements);
- ii) are enrolled at their home and host institution for the full period of the exchange;
- iii) have an enrollment proposal, approved by their home Faculty and host institution, and are deemed academically qualified to successfully complete the selected subjects at the host institution. Each institution will inform the relevant International Office of subject availability, including enrollment limitations and conditions;
- iv) have obtained agreement from their home Faculty, that upon successful completion of the subjects at the host institution, appropriate credit will be granted towards the degree at their home institution. In some circumstances, a student may undertake a clinical or practical assignment as part of an exchange program; and
- v) are proficient in the language of instruction at the host university. For OsloMet students, SDM will accept in lieu of the TOEFL or IELTS examination a favorable recommendation from a professor who is qualified to determine the student's English proficiency. SDM students who plan to take courses held in Norwegian at OsloMet are advised to show proof of language skills of at least level B2 or better. For SDM students, OsloMet will accept in lieu of an official language examination a favorable recommendation from a professor who is qualified to determine the student's Norwegian language proficiency.

Each host institution will send the nomination and application processes and deadlines in a timely manner. The host institution reserves the right of final approval on the admission of a student. If no deadlines are specified, each home institution will endeavor to send completed applications for their

~~students to the International Offices at the host institution at least twelve (12) weeks before the beginning of the entry semester. Each home institution will endeavor to send completed applications for their students to the International Offices at the host institution at least twelve (12) weeks before the beginning of the entry semester. This may be somewhat flexible, depending on estimated student visa processing times. The host institution reserves the right of final approval on the admission of a student.~~

6. Financial Responsibilities of Institutions

- i) Participating students from SDM will pay appropriate tuition and fees at SDM as per the published tuition and fee schedule. Participating students of SDM are relieved of any payments of tuition and fees to OsloMet except as cited in the following paragraphs. In addition, participants of OsloMet will pay tuition and fees at OsloMet, if so required. Participating students of OsloMet are relieved of any payments of tuition and fees to SDM except as cited in the following paragraphs.
- ii) Students attending SDM in reciprocal exchange agreements will pay all applicable incidental charges, the international student fee, appropriate housing and food service fees, and possibly the TabletPC lease fee (if enrolled in a course that requires use of the TabletPC). They will not be charged the system mandatory fees or discipline fees, provided the exchange is in balance and the outgoing student receives a similar waiver of academic fees. Students who enroll in an off-campus course will pay all off-campus tuition and program delivery fees associated with the course.
- iii) Students attending OsloMet on exchange agreements will pay the student semester fee/general activities/social fees required (if any) by OsloMet.
- iv) All living expenses shall be borne by the students of both institutions.
- v) The host institution will provide the appropriate orientation program(s) to the students at no additional cost. Excursions offered throughout the summer programs and the semester will be charged in full or in part to the student.

7. Financial Responsibilities of Exchange Students

- i) Exchange students will be financially responsible for:
 - travel to and from the host institution
 - books, stationery, etc.
 - travel documentation, visas, etc.
 - accommodation and living expenses
 - personal travel within the host country
 - nominal fee for official transcripts and/or Statement of Results
 - health coverage relevant to the exchange institution and country
 - SDM has student insurance that is mandated through our governing Board of Regents, so students coming to SDM must plan to purchase this insurance. Students may be able to waive this insurance with a specified plan from Norway.
 - OsloMet has student insurance that is mandated through the Federal Government, so students coming to OsloMet must plan to purchase this insurance
- ii) The home institution shall confirm that a candidate for exchange has the ability to meet all of his or her financial responsibilities as detailed above.

8. Accommodation

- i) The host institution ensures assistance with accommodation for incoming students who submit a timely application. Students will also be made aware that they are responsible for all costs associated with accommodation, including utility accounts and rental deposit. The host institution cannot guarantee housing on campus.
- ii) Accommodations for short term programs will be determined on an individual basis.

9. Exchange Student Families

It is not anticipated that spouses and dependents will accompany an exchange student. Where such arrangement is proposed, it is subject to the approval of the host institution on the understanding that all additional expenses and workload are the responsibility of the exchange student. (Please note that SDM does not have accommodations on campus for married students with families.)

10. Faculty and Staff Exchanges

The two institutions agree in principle to the possibility of exchanges by Faculty and general staff (Administrative and Technical). The details of such arrangements will be negotiated at the appropriate time and will be governed by the institutional staffing rules and relevant approval processes. The participating institutions shall not be responsible for any private arrangements made by participating staff members concerning exchange of accommodation, vehicles, etc.

11. Exchange Program Review

Both institutions will be responsible for a regular review of the exchange program on a yearly basis. The review is essential in order to make appropriate and mutually agreed modifications as may be required, and to identify new opportunities for cooperation in scholarship and research.

12. Period of Agreement

This Agreement will come into effect from the date of signature by both parties, and will remain in force for a period of five years, and renewable every five (5) years thereafter. The Agreement may be terminated by either party, without cause, provided six months written notice is given to the other party.

13. Notices

- i) Any notice or other communication under this Agreement shall be given in writing.
- ii) The address for any such notices is as follows:

OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University

Name: Ms. Brit Balgaard
 Position Title: Senior Adviser
 Address: PO Box 4, St Olavs Plass,
 0130 Oslo
 Norway

Telephone: +47 67 23 86 19
 e-mail: britbal@oslomet.no

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

Name: Ms. Susan Aadland
 Position Title: Director, Ivanhoe International Center
 Address: 501 East Saint Joseph Street
 Rapid City, SD 57701-3995
 USA

Telephone: +1-605-394-6884
 Facsimile: +1-605-394-6883
 e-mail: international@sdsmt.edu

14. Signatures

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. No amendments consent or waiver of terms of this Agreement shall bind either party unless in writing and signed by both parties.

Signed on behalf of

Oslo Metropolitan University
 by

Dr. Laurence Marie Anna Habib
 Dean Faculty of Technology, Art and Design

Date: _____

Signed on behalf of

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
 by

Jim Rankin, PhD PE
 President

Date: _____