

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Discipline Councils

NUMBER: 1:7:8

1. Mission Statement

Discipline Councils shall prepare information, analysis, and recommendations to help coordinate the use of available resources that enable appropriate access to high quality educational opportunities. This approach should include processes to facilitate inter-institutional cooperation.

2. System Assumptions

Discipline Councils shall carry out their functions with the following operational guidelines:

- A. The regental system shall continue to work as a Unified System of Public Higher Education.
- B. Collaborative approaches to the delivery of higher education curriculum and services are the expected pattern of institutional behavior.
- C. South Dakota citizens shall have increased access to university services.
- D. Through the more effective use of total system resources, each university shall be able to offer improved program and service quality.
- E. Institutional and system efficiencies shall be fostered through the sharing of available resources.

3. Definition of Discipline Councils

- A. Each Discipline Council shall represent one field of study or a group of fields commonly recognized as being related. All discipline areas where more than one institution participates in the system's delivery of a discipline's curriculum shall be included in a Discipline Council.
- B. The Council of Presidents and Superintendents shall annually review and determine the number of Discipline Councils and the academic field(s) within the scope of each Council. The determination for each fiscal year shall be provided to the Board for information at its first meeting after June 1 of each year.

4. Composition of Discipline Councils

Subject to the approval of the Board of Regents, the Council of Presidents and Superintendents shall determine annually the appropriate number of members for each Council and how the membership distribution should be allocated among the institutions.

5. Council Leadership

- A. The Council of Presidents and Superintendents shall annually designate a Chair for each Council.
- B. The Council of Presidents and Superintendents shall be attentive to the balance of leadership assignments from among the institutions.

6. Responsibilities of the Discipline Councils

The Discipline Councils shall be responsible for conducting activities that carry out the mission as described in Section 1. Their activities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. **Descriptive activities:** The Discipline Councils shall develop and maintain system inventories for curriculum and courses, faculty expertise, faculty scholarship, and efforts to acquire external resources and awards. The Council shall develop recommendations for approaches for common course numbering, common course descriptions, and articulation within the system.
- B. **Collaborative activities:** The Discipline Councils shall develop recommendations concerning the means for assessing and coordinating the available expertise within the system to meet individual institutions' needs in a discipline; develop collaborative approaches, where feasible, to meet institutional and system needs within the discipline; and provide a recommendation for reviewing system resources for a discipline. The Discipline Councils shall develop recommendations for meeting the state needs for the discipline.
- C. **Reportage activities:** The Discipline Councils shall make recommendations and reports as appropriate, but, at a minimum, annually. Each Discipline Council shall report to the Board of Regents through the Academic Affairs Council and the Council of Presidents and Superintendents and shall insure community participation at the institutional level.

SOURCE: BOR, March 1997.