

**Synopsis: The South Dakota Board of Regents has proposed a 10-year capital plan to the 2005 Legislature. In that plan are two buildings to be located at the public higher education center in Sioux Falls, known as USDSU. These new facilities will support the delivery of more academic programs to meet the demand for public higher education in the greater Sioux Falls area. USDSU is a partnership between The University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, and Dakota State University.**

## Current Facilities

Today, USDSU shares a building with Southeast Technical Institute. This facility provides 50,000 square feet of space to support USDSU programming. The lease is for 20 years and is renewable for two additional 10-year periods. USDSU moved into this building in January 2001. It includes the following classroom inventory:

Classrooms	14
Digital Dakota Network Rooms	3
Science Labs	3
Computer Classrooms	<u>3</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

In addition, a new Health Science Center is being built on the Southeast Tech campus and will be ready for occupancy in July 2005. Through a grant, USDSU secured about 14,000 square feet of this new construction to support nursing education in Sioux Falls.

## USDSU Enrollment

In Fall 2000, USDSU served 1,160 students and supported the delivery of 121 courses and 6,600 credit hours. It appeared that the building USDSU would share with Southeast Tech—with 50,000 square feet designated for USDSU's use—would meet the public higher education center's needs for a number of years. However, by Fall 2004, USDSU had grown to serve more than 1,800 students through 240 courses that were generating 13,724 credit hours.

The average USDSU student is at least 28 years of age. About 80 percent of the students attending at USDSU live in Sioux Falls or in an adjacent community. Most students attend part-time, with about 36 percent only taking one class and 24 percent taking two.

USDSU is home to two state-supported nursing programs. USD delivers its associate degree and SDSU delivers an accelerated nursing degree program. Both grew rapidly in the past two years and have now leveled off. In addition, USDSU is home to the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the pharmacy program. Total state-support hours in the Spring 05 semester are about 2,400; the rest are self-support hours.

The table on the reverse side summarizes the growth in USDSU programs and services:

	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05
<b><u>Summer Term</u></b>					
Courses	85	92	100	103	130
Credit Hours	3,396	3,361	3,704	4,789	6,054
<b><u>Fall Term</u></b>					
Courses	121	172	195	222	239
Credit Hours	6,600	8,913	12,327	14,091	13,724
<b><u>Spring Term</u></b>					
Courses	133	206	222	242	*250
Credit Hours	6,977	10,297	13,330	14,016	*14,400
<b><u>Total</u></b>					
Courses	339	470	517	567	619
Credit Hours	16,973	22,571	29,361	32,896	34,178
<b>Credit Hour Increase</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>33.0%</b>	<b>30.1%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>

\* Spring 05 estimates

### Space Utilization

On average, every USDSU classroom is scheduled about 40 hours per week. This spring it will undoubtedly be even higher.

The median classroom capacity is 32 students, with a median enrollment (excluding Digital Dakota Network sections) of 21 students per section. The class day at USDSU begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 10 p.m. However, 60 percent of the classes at USDSU begin at 4 p.m. or later. The nights from Monday through Thursday are the busiest. There is also class delivery on the weekends.

This spring, more classes than ever before have been moved out of the USDSU facility or into makeshift classroom space. There are 16 sections being held in Southeast Tech classrooms, five sections in conference rooms, and three Digital Dakota Network sections being conducted at the medical school. Facility limitations are already impacting the ability to add classes, programs, and services for students. These limitations are being addressed through the Board of Regents' 10-year plan.

### Proposed Facilities

**Classroom Building** – The proposed project in the 10-year capital plan would add another 50,000 square feet of classroom and support space. Much like with the completion of the current building, it will address immediate needs and position USDSU for some future growth.

**Graduate Education and Research Center (GEAR)** – The regents' request would add resources to a pool of funds already in hand to build the GEAR center. The federal government has earmarked about \$4.3 million for the facility, as part of the \$13 million in "other fund" sources. The regents' request for \$2 million from HEFF funding would help move this project forward to support development of the state's critical research infrastructure. As designed, the project may be phased in as additional resources become available.

For more information, contact Janelle Toman at 605-773-3455 or send email to janellet@sdbor.edu.