

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – L

DATE: April 22, 2020

SUBJECT

Programs to Increase Enrollment, Retention, and Support for Students Who Are Tribal Members

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[SDCL § 13-53-54](#)

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The South Dakota Legislature passed [SB 140](#) during the 2019 legislative session, creating [SDCL § 13-53-54](#). AAC discussed this new legislation at the [August 2019](#) retreat as each institution provided an overview of best practices in recruitment, retention, and graduation for American Indian students.

SDCL § 13-53-54 states “The Board of Regents is hereby authorized to develop programs to increase enrollment and improve retention and student supports for any student who is a member of one of the nine federally recognized tribes in South Dakota at state institutions, including exploration of tuition assistance or waiver programs. The Board of Regents shall report to the Legislature by July first of each year on the activities and progress made in regard to this section, beginning July 1, 2020.”

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

AAC members should work with institutional staff to begin collecting information for report to the legislature. The Board office will provide a template for data submissions; however, institutions should begin working on narrative information relative to specific programming and outreach programs for students who are members of one of the nine federally recognized tribes in South Dakota.

ATTACHMENTS

None

DISCUSSION