Bill Brief – Senate Bill 50

Construct American Indian Student Center at South Dakota State University

What does this bill do?

• The bill authorizes the Board of Regents and South Dakota State University to construct an American Indian Student Center to enhance academic services provided to American Indian students and to provide contemporary multi-purpose academic space for the greater campus community.

• SDSU anticipates a building size between 12,000 and 16,000 gross square feet. It will provide office space, meeting rooms, multi-purpose rooms, technology resources, student support space, and academic support space to serve American Indian students and the campus community.

Why is this necessary?

• Current facilities are located in the lower level of the Enrollment Services Center. The current space limits services and activities that the program can provide. Additionally, the current location outside of the campus ring road reduces interaction with the greater campus community and reduces its visibility with the American Indian students it is designed to serve.

• This project provides an opportunity to provide high quality, accessible student service space for the campus community and American Indian students. The project is part of SDSU’s Wokini Initiative to better serve the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota residents of South Dakota. It aligns with the historic mission of the U.S. land-grant system of public higher education to provide greater access to higher education for all.

What fund sources will be used to pay for construction of the American Indian Student Center?

• Construction will be funded from $4 million of private donor funds and from $500,000 of funds available from annual earnings of $548,451 to SDSU from the School and Public Lands trust fund.