Senate Bill 55
Task Force

Outreach Sessions to Campus Communities
Sept. 23 to Oct. 14, 2021
Senate Bill 55 - Adopted by the 2020 South Dakota Legislature

Required Board of Regents to assemble a task force to study the operations and functions of higher education under the Board’s authority.

Possible combining of:
- administration at all levels of operation within an institution;
- operations and functions across multiple institutions;
- administration of programs across multiple institutions;

Review of:
- duplication of program offerings;
- academic majors with low enrollments and low numbers of graduates;
- functions outside core missions of teaching, learning, and research;
- operations and functions provided as an efficiency through the central office of the Board of Regents;
- the viability of university centers (Rapid City and Sioux Falls);

- Any other possible cost-effective measures the task force determines worthy of examination.
SB55 Task Force Membership

- Sen. Ryan Maher, Isabel
- Sen. Reynold Nesiba, Sioux Falls
- Rep. Hugh Bartels, Watertown
- Rep. Chris Karr, Sioux Falls
- Dr. Brian Maher, Pierre
- Regent Jim Thares, Aberdeen
- Regent Joan Wink, Howes
- Regent Barb Stork, Dakota Dunes
- USD President Sheila Gestring
- BHSU President Laurie Nichols
- SDSU President Barry Dunn
- Jim Neiman, Hulett, Wyo.
- Tyler Tordsen, Sioux Falls
- Paulette Davidson, Rapid City
- Elsie Meeks, Pine Ridge
- Nadifa Mahamed, Sioux Falls
- Hal Clemensen, Aberdeen
- Jon Veenis, Sioux Falls
- Jim Lochner, Dakota Dunes
- Doug Morrison, Sioux Falls
Task Force & Subcommittee Meetings

• Six meetings of the full task force:
  • Oct. 8, 2020 – Rapid City
  • Nov. 12, 2020 – Vermillion
  • Jan. 7, 2021 – Virtual meeting
  • April 15, 2021 – Spearfish
  • May 13, 2021 – Sioux Falls
  • June 3, 2021 – Brookings

• Nearly 20 subcommittee meetings were also held.

• Task force findings due no later than Nov. 15, 2021, to Governor and the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Appropriations.
Recommendations – Who, What & When?

- Task force recommendations will be relevant to:
  - Current and future students,
  - Alumni,
  - Communities,
  - Faculty and staff, and
  - Citizens of South Dakota.

- Board of Regents’ commitment: Opportunities for students to learn, develop, and succeed through delivery of quality higher education.

- Task force recommendations not inclusive of all topics investigated; in some cases, insufficient evidence to recommend changes.

- Some recommendations already in process; others require more study and analysis.
  - Release of task force report will inform next Board of Regents’ strategic plan.
Recommendations - **Completed**

- Revise statutory requirements for high-performance green building standards.
  - Since 2008, new or renovated public buildings in South Dakota must secure a ‘silver’ rating in green building standards.
  - These regulations have cost the university system an estimated $5 million over the last 5 years.
  - **Senate Bill 134** became law after the 2021 legislative session.
    - Adjusts the state’s required application of green building standards from a **silver** standard rating to a **certified** rating.
    - Will save taxpayer dollars on building construction, while still ensuring efficiency and energy savings.
Recommendations – In Process

- Publish updated study of the six public universities’ economic impact on the South Dakota economy.

- Transition to single nursing education program in Rapid City.
  - SDSU to become primary program delivering BSN degree in Rapid City area, end Rapid City delivery site for USD’s program;
  - Direct SDSU and BHSU to develop plans to increase resources for future nursing program delivery at BHSU’s Rapid City location;
  - Increase admissions to admit more nursing students into the BSN program in western South Dakota;
  - Utilize BHSU-Rapid City for instructional needs.
Recommendations – In Process

- Use Degree & Workforce Demand Gap Analysis data to inform decisions on academic program duplication.
  - Private labor market analytics firm (Emsi) analyzed current alignment of public universities’ major fields of study with South Dakota’s workforce needs.
  - Emsi’s data serves as starting point for data-driven decisions on academic proposals going forward.
  - Gap analysis will guide academic program reviews and help allocate resources tied to workforce needs.

- Improve upon and expand Board of Regents’ advocacy for public higher education.
Recommendations – In Process

- Revise policies related to minimum course section size.
- Revise policies for academic programs, including New Program Requests and Program Evaluation, and for low-enrolled programs.
- Issue Request for Proposals (RFP) for system-wide food service contract.
  - Each institution currently has its own food service contract with a vendor individually selected.
Recommendations – Institution Related

- Institute new framework for institutional missions that more clearly defines the contributions and expertise of each institution.
- Use improved data to analyze institutional staffing and expenditure levels.
- Review institutional funding models.
- Review and revise each institution’s list of peer institutions.
- Implement new business model for university centers in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.
- Recommend BHSU and SD Mines consolidate certain common functions, contracts, services, and coordinate efforts on others.
Recommendations – System Related

- Review potential shared services in human resources and implement technologies to streamline certain HR functions.
- Conduct ongoing Lean review of system practices and procedures.
- Work with Legislature and State Auditor to transfer approval process for employee moving allowances within the university system.
- Establish system-wide approach for Title IX/Equal Employment Opportunity compliance through shared or consolidated services.
Recommendations – System Related

- Explore additional collaboration among institutions in the delivery of online coursework.
  - Refine policies on distance and online education.
- Investigate options to expand system-wide contracts for library resources.
- Investigate student mental health options to include telehealth services.
- Revise process used to analyze facility space needs and to approve new buildings or renovations.
- Monitor central office staffing and functions.
Recommendations – Information Technology Related

- Purchase and implement contract management software.
- Investigate potential savings from a single DocuSign contract, rather than individual contracts with each institution.
- Establish system-wide approach for high-performance computing.
- Implement single, system-wide service and project management software.
- Establish system-wide telephone standard, using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology.
- Establish common system standard for Identity and Access Management (IAM).
- Establish common system standard for Endpoint Detection and Recovery/Response.
Next Steps: Board Action & Implementation

Senate Bill 55 Task Force recommendations will require:
- Official Board action,
- Adoption of policy changes by the Board,
- Legislative action, or
- Additional review and analysis.

Timelines for implementation vary, depending on topic.
- Several of these task force recommendations already in process.
- Most will be implemented or addressed by June 2022.
Next Steps: New Strategic Plan & Performance Metrics

- Board to establish new performance measures tightly coupled with the next 5-year strategic plan.
  - Potential measurement categories may include academic quality, access and affordability, financial health, student success, workforce development, or others.

- Performance indicators will serve as foundation for the new 5-year strategic plan.
  - Invite campus feedback.
  - Connected to measurable outcomes.
  - Delivery of draft strategic plan anticipated at December 2021 Board meeting.