



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, May 13, 2010

Public University System Identifies \$4.4 Million in Cuts

VERMILLION, S.D. – Public universities and special schools in South Dakota have identified nearly \$4.4 million in cuts to specific programs and activities to balance the state’s higher education budget for the coming year.

The Board of Regents reviewed a list of those cuts Thursday in Vermillion. “Let there be no doubt that these were difficult decisions to make,” said Jack Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “This is a focused reduction in administrative spending, services, and programs across our system. No one likes making these kinds of cuts. However, I am gratified by the efforts put forth by presidents, superintendents, and their staff to work through this process in a strategic way,” Warner said.

The cuts became necessary after the legislature in March cut \$6.5 million from the higher education budget. On April 15, the regents approved an average 4.6 percent increase in tuition and mandatory fees, which will replace about \$2.1 million of those cuts. The board said it intended to have the public university system absorb the remainder of the cuts by reducing services or eliminating programs.

System-wide reductions include about \$170,000 from the state’s distance-learning consortium, \$500,000 in performance funds, and \$270,000 gained from a 35 percent reduction in the Student Technology Fellows program, which provides high-level technology support to university faculty. The legislature also targeted a half-million dollars in cuts to the Cooperative Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station, and \$660,000 from the School for the Deaf.

As a result of across-the-board cuts at the institutional level, reductions totaling nearly \$2.3 million came from a variety of programs and services at each institution.