



# News Release

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## **Higher Education Task Force Meets Thursday at BHSU**

SPEARFISH, S.D. – A task force studying the operations of public universities in South Dakota meets in Spearfish this week as it works to make final recommendations. The Senate Bill 55 Task Force will meet Thursday on the campus of Black Hills State University.

It is the third meeting for the 20 members of the task force, although three subcommittees have been meeting independently as well. The task force was created after state lawmakers passed legislation in 2020 directing a study of the operations and functions of higher education institutions governed by the South Dakota Board of Regents. Findings will be sent to the Legislature and Gov. Kristi Noem no later than Nov. 15.

Progress will be reported out Thursday from subcommittees working in the areas of administration, academics, and ancillary/infrastructure. “Each subcommittee has an important assignment, leading us to final recommendations that will be shared with lawmakers and the governor,” said Brian L. Maher, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “We are looking at administrative efficiencies, duplication of program offerings, and activities outside the universities’ core missions of teaching, learning, and research.”

The Senate Bill 55 Task Force convenes Thursday, April 15, beginning at 8 a.m. (MDT), in Club Buzz (lower level) of the BHSU Student Union. The public is invited to attend or to access a livestream link through the [task force agenda](#).