



News Release

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Regents Increase Efficiencies through Academic Program Review

VERMILLION, S.D. – In accordance to a program productivity review process that occurs every two years, the South Dakota Board of Regents made the decision to terminate 17 programs across the system due to low enrollment.

“Program offerings should combine student interest and industry needs, said Paul Turman, the regents’ system vice president for academic affairs. If a program drops below the target number of graduates, the program is flagged for review at the campus. This may signal that either the program needs to be terminated or combined into another program on campus or within the system.”

Under the current review process, undergraduate programs with less than five graduates per year are flagged for underperforming and one of the following recommendations is assigned: retain due to critical need, retain with further review required, consolidate with another program on campus, consolidate with another program(s) within the system, or terminate the program.

“This review process is how efficiencies are created across the university system,” explained Mike Rush, executive director and CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents. “Low enrollment programs are only retained if it is determined there is a critical need for graduates in that particular program, for example specific teacher education programs may have a low number of graduates, but the need for those graduates is huge.”

In effort to create greater efficiencies the regents are exploring increasing the enrollment requirement from an average of five graduates per year to seven. A supplementary report that flagged programs with less than seven graduates per year yielded an additional 28 degree programs that would qualify for termination or required rationale to retain them at the institutional level.