South Dakota Board of Regents

Temporary Suspension of Section Size Policy for Fall 2020/Spring 2021

Temporary Policy Exceptions in Response to COVID-19

Date Issued: June 16, 2020
Universities: Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota

1. Overview: This temporary policy creates exceptions to Board Policy 5:17 – Instructional Funding. Policy 5:17 specifies minimum enrollments in selected course sections unless specifically excluded by stated instructional method type.

2. For the 2020-2021 academic year, each university is offering face-to-face courses that comply with federal and state guidance on reducing the spread of and exposure to Covid-19. Following such guidance may result in facility and classroom usage with fewer students per section in face-to-face courses than typically occurs.

3. Board Policy 5:17 states that “the Board may approve exceptions to the instructional funding policy as it deems appropriate.” To accommodate the logistical coordination for the safe and effective delivery of face-to-face courses, the Board of Regents is temporarily suspending Section C.4. Small Section Limitation of Policy 5:17. This suspension shall remain in place through the 2020-2021 academic year.

4. The section size report completed each term as described in Academic Affairs Council (AAC) Guideline 5.7 will continue to be produced during the period that enforcement of the policy is suspended.