

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Discipline Councils

NUMBER: 1:7:8

1. Mission Statement

Discipline Councils shall prepare information, analysis, and recommendations to help coordinate the use of available resources that enable appropriate access to high quality educational opportunities. This approach should include processes to facilitate inter-institutional cooperation.

2. System Assumptions

Discipline Councils shall carry out their functions with the following operational guidelines:

- A. The Regental system shall continue to work as a Unified System of Public Higher Education.
- B. Collaborative approaches to the delivery of higher education curriculum and services are the expected pattern of institutional behavior.
- C. South Dakota citizens shall have increased access to university services.
- D. Through the more effective use of total system resources, each university shall be able to offer improved program and service quality.
- E. Institutional and system efficiencies shall be fostered through the sharing of available resources.

3. Definition of Discipline Councils

Each Discipline Council shall represent one field of study or a group of fields commonly recognized as being related. All discipline areas where more than one institution participates in the system's delivery of a discipline's curriculum shall be included in a Discipline Council.

4. Composition of Discipline Councils

The Academic Affairs Council shall appoint two representatives from each institution annually for each Council. In rare circumstances, institutional representation may exceed two representatives when dictated by the Academic Affairs Council. The Academic Affairs Council will also make their recommendations for the members of each discipline council from their

institution prior to the start of the fall term.

5. **Council Leadership**

- A. At the end of each academic year, the discipline councils shall annually designate a Chair and Vice Chair for their council for the upcoming year. The process for determining Chairs is unique to each council. Each council shall be attentive to the balance of leadership assignments among the institutions.
- B. The discipline council chair is responsible for reporting the annual activity of the council to the Academic Affairs Council, the Council of Presidents and Superintendents, and the Board.

6. **Responsibilities of the Discipline Councils**

The Discipline Councils shall be responsible for conducting activities that carry out the mission as described in Section 1. Their activities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. **Descriptive activities:** The Discipline Councils shall maintain a system for common curriculum and courses. The Council shall manage the approaches for common course numbering, common course descriptions, and articulation within the system.
- B. **Collaborative activities:** The Discipline Councils shall develop recommendations concerning the means for assessing and coordinating the available expertise within the system to meet individual institutions' needs in a discipline; develop collaborative approaches, where feasible, to meet institutional and system needs within the discipline; and provide a recommendation for reviewing system resources for a discipline. The Discipline Councils shall develop recommendations for meeting the state needs for the discipline.
- C. **Reportage activities:** The Discipline Councils shall make recommendations and reports as appropriate, but, at a minimum, annually. Each Discipline Council shall report to the Board of Regents through the Academic Affairs Council and the Council of Presidents and Superintendents and shall insure community participation at the institutional level. Reports shall be filled out by each council's Chair.

SOURCE: BOR, March 1997; BOR, December 2016.