



South Dakota Student Federation
Report to the Board of Regents

June 26, 2019 | South Dakota State University

President Scheiffer and Members of the Board of Regents,

As the Executive Director of the South Dakota Student Federation – the coalition of student governing bodies representing all public institution students in South Dakota, I respectfully submit our June report. I apologize for being unable to attend the meeting in Brookings, as I am currently interning in Washington, D.C. However, our Chair RyAnne Blau will be in attendance on behalf of Student Federation.

Below you will find progress reports from the Student Federation as a whole, as well as each of our member institutions. Progress reports from our member institutions' student governments are new this year – we thought it would be beneficial to use this medium to exhibit the substantive work done by students at each of the Regental schools. We are submitting our reports to BOR staff for publication on the website and to be included in meeting minutes, as well as distributing paper copies at BOR meetings.

We look forward to working with each of you throughout this year, and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out.

Best,

Josh Sorbe
Executive Director
South Dakota Student Federation
josh.sorbe@coyotes.usd.edu

Attachments:
Student Federation Progress Report
University Student Associations' Progress Reports
Open Forum Testimony: South Dakota Student Federation



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Student Federation Progress Report

Contact: Executive Director [Josh Sorbe](#) & Chair [RyAnne Blau](#)

- Student for Higher Education Days 2020: Our request to reserve the Capitol Rotunda from 9-11 AM on February 10, 2020 for our lobbying event was approved. Please tentatively mark this date in your calendars – we will be sending official invitations out during the fall semester.
- Board Meeting: Held our second Board of Directors meeting on June 9th via conference call.
 - Discussed the open forum at the SDBOR meeting re: intellectual diversity reporting, and coordinated talking points for the testimony Josh and RyAnne will deliver.
 - Spoke with special guest Dr. Beran re: intellectual diversity and its recent history at our institutions, and asked questions about the format of the June forum.
- Dakota's Promise Working Group: RyAnne currently represents SDSF on this group.
 - Initial call is June 21st, will be in attendance.
- Website: Student Federation website has officially been updated to include this year's contact information. Feel free to reach out to our members if you have questions and for opportunities to collaborate!

University Student Associations' Progress Reports

Black Hills State University

Contact: President [Hannah Neumiller](#) & Vice President [Brittney Muske](#)

- Presidential transition: President Jackson has been appointed the President of Humboldt State and Laurie Stenberg Nichols has been named the interim president for BHSU this next year. She was recently the University of Wyoming's President and has worked with the SD BOR before as a dean, provost, and vice president of academic affairs at SDSU and as an interim president at NSU before that. We're excited to meet with her and see what she brings to BH as we search for a permanent appointment.
- Solar panels: We are installing solar panels on at least one more of our dorm buildings over the summer.
- Main goal: start the school year by improving the number of students out in Spearfish by working with businesses and restaurants to increase student discounts and student nights to promote a stronger "college community" feel – an initiative of President Jackson's.

Dakota State University

Contact: President [Nathan Harmer](#) & Vice President [Lindsey Vogl](#)

- The Senate is going through Final Proofs of our new logo.
- All construction looks to be on schedule and budget.
- Dr. James Moran has been named the interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Dakota State University. He is currently the Vice President for Accreditation and Student Success Initiatives at the University of South Dakota.
- DSU's new website should be rolling out next month.



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Northern State University

Contact: President [Harrison Bruns](#) & Vice President [Patrick Minihan](#)

- All of the construction on campus is on schedule. The regional science Center is due to be done in the fall as is the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The SDSBVI will not have students in it however until December which will also be when the old SDSBVI will be torn down and construction on the new sports complex will begin.
- With the departure of Dr. LaFave our new provost, Dr. Michael Wanous, will start on July 1. Dr. Wanous joins us from Huntington University in Indiana, we are all excited for him to start.

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Contact: President [Tyler Kleinsasser](#) & Vice President [Tiati Thelen](#)

- Laptop program - coordinating with the university to look at potentially updating or phasing out the program in 2020-21.
- Library renovation - coordinating with the university in preparation for renovation.
- Provost search - coordinating with the university to define the position description and get it ready to post.

South Dakota State University

Contact: Vice President [Corey Berscheid](#) & Government Affairs Chair [Hattie Seten](#)

- Graduate School Dean resigned, and we are hoping to get that search underway soon.
- CampusLabs – formerly used by academic affairs and now campus activities - came back with pricing doubled for a new contract. We are opening an RFP and investigating in-house potential for options
- Transportation system: meetings between the university and city of Brookings are set to launch.
- Athletics memo is finalized. We are creating financial documents for athletics to report back to SA on spending of student dollars.
- We are beginning to use our GAF increase from the last BOR meeting in Spearfish to begin searching for another counselor. We will have a senate representative on that search committee.
- Working on having an entire senate conference call before the BOR meeting to discuss our testimony,
- We have been meeting to discuss live streaming our meetings in the future, and we are corresponding with university marketing to make this a reality.

University of South Dakota

Contact: President [Carson Zubke](#) & Vice President [Hannah Booth](#)

- 350+ students participated in Girls' State in late May on campus
- 70+ students are on campus this summer for the Upward Bound program.
- All-State football was hosted on campus.
- Dome renovations are underway, and we are putting a team together to look at opportunities for student seating for the 2020 season.
- UCSF MOU complete – the name is finalized to Community College for Sioux Falls.



To: South Dakota Board of Regents
c/o Molly Weisgram, Executive Assistant at the South Dakota Board of Regents

From: Josh Sorbe
Executive Director
South Dakota Student Federation

RyAnne Blau
Chair
South Dakota Student Federation

Date: June 12, 2019

Re: Written Testimony on behalf of SDBOR Students – Intellectual Diversity

South Dakota Board of Regents,

First, thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments when developing assessment tools of intellectual diversity at our state's public institutions. Intellectual diversity affects nearly every facet of a student's time at a post-secondary institution, and we are thankful for the chance to provide perspective on this matter from the lens of students.

We are testifying on behalf of the appx. 35,000 students of the South Dakota Regental system member institutions. South Dakota Student Federation is the governing body of all public university students in the state of South Dakota. Our board of directors comprises two student government elected officials from each of our member institutions, and our executive team is elected by a majority vote of our Board. We meet monthly to discuss any and all state issues affecting the quality of education of our students. During and outside of legislative session, we organize and lobby collectively for the betterment of our students, future workforce leaders, and the future of South Dakota. Our members have been affirmatively involved in the discussion of intellectual diversity in Pierre, and we are grateful for the continued seat at the table for this discussion. We have two areas of note:

General reporting procedures:

While intellectual diversity has been a mutually agreed upon value, the way we can measure and assess the principle is multi-faceted. Our student associations collectively run budgets of \$4.4 million and fund 268 organizations' programming, events, and activities. Each of these organizations and their respective activities are unique, and no two events are alike. When our member student associations fund events, each has its own set of fiscal guidelines and/or a budget philosophy. Our funds are derived from student fees, so we seek to be responsible stewards of our constituents' dollars - especially given the increasingly burdensome cost-shift from the state to the student to pay for a higher education degree. Thus, we seek to objectively fund events that are cost-effective and reach a significant portion of the student population.

SOUTH DAKOTA STUDENT FEDERATION

Executive Director Josh Sorbe • Chair RyAnne Blau
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Any additional requirement to consider "intellectual diversity" as a means of funding events could pose additional budget barriers, administrative burden, and/or determinations of subjectivity on our student associations. The nature of student life means our membership turns over frequently, so a reporting procedure to ensure we are meeting new state codified law needs to be mutually created and understood in order to effectively transition new executive teams and senators and create a sustainable system.

Invited guests

Depending on the specific definition, a university may have thousands of invited guests each year (i.e. admissions guests, classroom guest lecturers, organization guest speakers, sports fans, etc.) We ask the Board to determine: what constitutes an invited guest? Each of the organizations we fund may, and often does, hold public events and/or invite speakers for its membership. If a reporting procedure is established under a broad definition of what constitutes a guest, or if a reporting procedure poses significant administrative burden, students and student organizations would be discouraged from inviting speakers. This has the opposite effect of the goal of intellectual diversity goal: more speech, not less.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify, and are open for further questions or inquiries via email at josh.sorbe@coyotes.usd.edu.

Best,

Josh Sorbe
Executive Director
South Dakota Student Federation

RyAnne Blau
Chair
South Dakota Student Federation

South Dakota Student Federation Board of Directors:

Black Hills State University: Hannah Neumiller & Brittney Muske
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