



South Dakota Student Federation

Report to the Board of Regents

December 11, 2019 | Community College for Sioux Falls

President Schieffer and the Board of Regents,

On behalf of the South Dakota Student Federation, please see our attached December report. You will find progress reports from the Student Federation as a whole, as well as from each of our member institutions.

Most notably, I would like to highlight two items:

- **Resolution 1 “A Resolution in Support of the Dakota’s Promise Need-Based Scholarship”:** Last night, our board of directors passed a resolution unanimously in support of the establishment of Dakota’s Promise. This resolution will serve as the foundation for our advocacy, and we will be taking an affirmative approach to our outreach efforts.
- **Students for Higher Education Day (SHED):** Our annual lobbying event is 7:30-11:00 AM on February 10, 2020 at the Capitol Rotunda. We will be finalizing logistics and sending invitations before the first of the year.

Thank you all for your commitment to higher education in South Dakota!

Best,

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

Attachments:

Student Federation Progress Report

Member Student Associations’ Progress Reports

Resolution 1: A Resolution in Support of the Dakota’s Promise Need-Based Scholarship

South Dakota Student Federation

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Student Federation Progress Report

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

- SDSF Resolution 1 “A Resolution in Support of the Dakota’s Promise Need-Based Scholarship”: Last night, our board of directors passed a resolution unanimously in support of the establishment of Dakota’s Promise. This resolution will serve as the foundation for our lobbying, and we will be taking an affirmative approach to our outreach efforts.
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Member Student Associations’ Progress Reports

Black Hills State University

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

- Budget Cuts: President Nichols has revealed a little over \$2 million in cuts to take place over the next year. Most of this is coming from not filling 14.5 vacant positions along with 6.4 layoffs. Other cuts are across the board and they tried their best to keep cuts proportionate to an areas’ budget allocation and where cuts have come from in previous years.
- SHED: BHSU is hosting a dinner with the School of Mines’ senators on Jan. 22nd in preparation for SHED; we’re looking at bringing in someone to either help educate us on the legislation or train us in lobbying.
- Retention: The Retention Task Force assemble by President Nichols at the beginning of this year is working to produce specific recommendations by January. Student Senate held a Retention Forum in the library in November and received helpful feedback on areas including Living-Learning Communities and how to improve Advising and New Student Registration experiences.
- Presidential Search: The Leadership Profile has been finalized and released; applications for the position should be open through late February. Keegan and I gave input to the editing of that document and were pleased to see drastic improvement between the draft and final copies.
- Resolutions: Our senate has passed resolutions in support of USD’s efforts working to enable testing a scooter company on SD campuses and in support of Dakota’s Promise.
- Graduation: I am preparing my commencement speech to give at graduation this weekend.
- Thanksgiving: Brittney worked with the Liberal Arts Dean to provide a Thanksgiving meal in the residence halls for any students staying on campus over the break.

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Dakota State University

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

- Budget Cuts are going throughout DSU but luckily are not affecting students in a direct manner. We are working with administration to plan out the future of GAF spending.
- Passing of Don King: The First Man Don King sadly passed away on November 17. Our condolences go out to the DSU President.
- Commencement: The DSU Student Senate President is preparing a commencement speech for December 14th 2019 fall graduation.
- 38+2 Ride: DSU is preparing for the 38 + 2 ride that will be during the school term for the first time in sometime and is a great time to learn about South Dakota History.

Northern State University

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

- Dean of Students: With the departure of Dr. Checka Linewall there will be some shifting around in student affairs as well as a new SGA advisor.
- Dakotas Promise: We passed a resolution in support of Dakotas Promise.

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

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

- USD Sister Resolution. Passed a sister resolution to support USD's e-scooter resolution. We look forward to seeing how this progresses for USD.
- Gender-Inclusive Housing: We passed a resolution to support Residence Life in extending the gender-inclusive housing next year. In the past, only rooms with individual-style setups allowed individuals with different genders to be roommates. The new setup will extend gender-inclusive options to quads with double-double setups with the same gender sharing each half.
- Updating our Constitution: We updated our constitution to reflect recent department name changes on campus. The SALC (Student Activities & Leadership Center) is now SLICE (Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement).

South Dakota State University

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

- 2+2 Veterinary Medicine: President Monson and I will be speaking in support of this program and the opportunity this will provide to students.
- Dakota's Promise: SDSU Students' Association recently passed 19-05-R that states Dakota's Promise as our top legislative priority this year. Additionally, President Monson and I are constructing a letter to send to Governor Noem outlining the necessity of Dakota's Promise for the future of our state.

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South Dakota State University (cont.)

- MCC Grand Opening: On November 22, 2019 SDSU held the grand opening of the Multicultural Center, it was great to see USD students in attendance to support diversity across the state.
- MCC Director Search: The Multicultural Center Director search will open in the spring. During the meantime the Chief Diversity Officer for the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Access will serve as the interim Director for the Multicultural Center.
- VP of Finance Resigned: SDSU's VP of Finance Robert Korhman resigned at the end of the November and the search to fill the position.
- Dean of Students Search: The Dean of Students search will begin in the spring semester.
- Community Conversations: President Monson and I have been a part of community conversations where business executives, community members, university leadership, and students have had discussions of diversity offices and intellectual diversity.
- Open Senate Seats: Last night we had three senators resign from senate because of graduation and internships. We will begin to fill those seats right when spring semester begins.

University of South Dakota

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

- GAF: Recently wrapped up FY21 GAF process and are waiting on final approval from the Student Senate and President's Office. All existing, ongoing requests were funded in full in addition to two new, ongoing requests and two new, one-time requests.
- Resolutions: Senate passed resolutions in support of USD's proposal for a new Health Sciences building, Dakota's Promise, and Micro-Mobility initiatives that will be sent appropriate state and local leaders.
- Strategic Planning: The strategic planning conference is moving into Phase IV, a Vision Conference, to refine six themes identified in prior phases and move toward a more complete final strategic plan.
- Mental Health Training: SGA senators and executive officers will complete the NASPA Peer Educator program to increase mental health awareness and preparedness.
- Open Seats: USD will welcome five new senators in January following the regular at-large process to fill vacated seats.
- Intellectual Diversity: SGA hosted an Intellectual Diversity forum in November as a continued effort to educate our community on implications of recent policy updates.
- Food Pantry: Senate is creating a proposal for Charlie's Cupboard, a campus food pantry, to combat campus food insecurity in collaboration with community organizations.



Date: 12-10-2019

Resolution 1: A Resolution in Support of the Dakota's Promise Need-Based Scholarship

Introduced by: Directors Berscheid, Booth, Seten, Zubke

Action: Approved 12-0-0.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DAKOTA'S PROMISE NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP

WHEREAS: The South Dakota Student Federation is the official student governing body of the South Dakota Board of Regents institutions, representing more than 35,000 students across the state; and

WHEREAS: The South Dakota Student Federation Board of Directors is a twelve-member board composed of two elected leaders of each regental student body and led by two elected executive officers, providing a diversified and holistic perspective on issues impacting regental students; and

WHEREAS: The South Dakota Student Federation understands and acknowledges the responsibility of state leaders to allocate resources to projects and initiatives that add value for South Dakotans; and

WHEREAS: The South Dakota Board of Regents' ongoing efforts for the Dakota's Promise Need Based Scholarship are reflective of a request for approximately \$2,000,000 in state general funds for a 1:1 match with individual university foundations; ¹ and

WHEREAS: The South Dakota Board of Regents aspires for 65% of South Dakota residents to attain a post-secondary education by 2025 in response to a shortage of skilled labor in the state workforce; and

WHEREAS: South Dakota post-secondary education attainment rates have remained around 41% for the previous five years, 24% below the goal set by our institutional governing board; ² and

WHEREAS: Public South Dakota universities have seen an average of an 18% decline in PELL eligible student enrollment in the previous four years along with an overall system-wide decline in enrollment; and

¹ SDBOR Agenda Item 5-E, "Dakota's Promise Scholarship Program Update", Oct. 2, 2019. <http://bit.ly/2KIEXQB>

² SDBOR State Attainment Dashboard. <http://bit.ly/2QFK485>



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Introduced by: Directors Berscheit, Booth, Seten, Zubke

Action: Approved 12-0-0.

WHEREAS: Universities have taken steps to increase efficiency and affordability. Yet, hard-working South Dakota families who are eligible for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship and who demonstrate the highest financial need face a \$2,300 gap in cost of attendance³; and

WHEREAS: Unmet financial need can deter South Dakotans from pursuing career paths they desire, posing significant economic and workforce hindrances; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Student Federation supports the proposed Dakota’s Promise Scholarship and accompanying eligibility requirements set forth by the South Dakota Board of Regents.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Student Federation supports efforts that allow eligible South Dakota students to stack all eligible aid up to the cost of attendance.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: The South Dakota Student Federation encourages Governor Noem, the South Dakota State Legislature, and other appropriate state leaders to name the Dakota’s Promise Scholarship and South Dakota students as a financial priority for the 2020 legislative session.

Josh Sorbe, Executive Director
South Dakota Student Federation

South Dakota Student Federation Board Members

Hannah Neumiller & Brittney Muske
Nathan Harmer & Lindsey Vogl
Harrison Bruns & Patrick Minihan
Tyler Kleinsasser & Tiati Thelen
Corey Berscheit & Hattie Seten
Carson Zubke & Hannah Booth

Black Hills State University
Dakota State University
Northern State University
School of Mines & Technology
South Dakota State University
University of South Dakota

³ SDBOR Agenda Item 4, “FY21 Institutional and System Budget Priorities”, Jun. 26, 2019. <https://bit.ly/2XQvaxp>