

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – C
DATE: October 2-3, 2019

SUBJECT

Academic Advisor Study Follow-Up

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[Agenda Item 2-H, August 2019](#): Advisor Study Results

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Board received a report on academic advising at system institutions during the [August 2019](#) meeting. During those discussions, the Board requested follow-up information on the number of advisors and associated personnel costs at each institution. That information is included below, along with the changes in first to second year retention rates and four and six-year graduation rates occurring over the last ten years, as a supplement to the item received by the Board in August. In addition to benefits of professional advising identified in the [August 2019](#) report, it is important to note that professional advising (i.e., non-faculty advisors) also frees up faculty workload to concentrate on teaching and research endeavors.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

The university system currently employs 82.65 FTE as professional advisors. The total personnel cost is \$5,600,302, with nearly \$530,000 of that total currently paid through various grant programs. Since 2010, the university system has witnessed a 3% increase in first-year retention rates at the starting institution and within the system as a whole. More importantly, the four-year graduation rate has improved by 15% during that time.

NOTE: Data on retention and graduation rates are compared based on information in the [SDBOR Fact Book FY2019](#) and the [SDBOR Fact Book FY2010](#). The information is provided to show the impact that advising and other strategies have had on improved student success.

(Continued)

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

- **Black Hills State University (BHSU)**

<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>University Expense</i>
8	\$452,750	\$219,060

BHSU currently employs four full-time advisors that collectively serve over 3,000 students. Three of these advisors are assigned to specific colleges within the university and assist students with undeclared majors, students on probation, and first-year students. A fourth advisor is assigned to high school dual credit students. In addition, four other advisors are paid out of a federal TRiO grant (\$233,510) and are assigned to qualifying students (e.g., first-generation college, low income backgrounds, and/or documented physical, psychological, or learning disabilities).

Retention Rates	First-Year Retention Rate	% Retained at Other BOR School
FA08 to FA09	58%	61%
FA17 to FA18	62%	67%
<i>Change</i>	+4%	+6%

Graduation Rates	4-year Graduation	6-year Graduation	Completed at other BOR School w/in 6 Years
2009	7.5%	28.2%	32.2%
2018	13.9%	31.3%	37.9%
<i>Change</i>	+6.4%	+3.1%	5.7%

- **Dakota State University (DSU)**

<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>University Expense</i>
6	\$350,304	\$89,994

DSU currently employs six full-time advisors that collectively serve 849 students. These include two advisors in the Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences, one advisor for Education students, one advisor for Arts & Sciences students, one advisor for Business & Information Technology students, and one advisor for General Studies students. The total cost of these advisors is \$350,304; however, \$64,094 comes from the DSU Rising gift and \$196,216 comes from a Title III grant (leaving \$89,994 coming out of university funds).

Retention Rates	First-Year Retention Rate	% Retained at Other BOR School
FA08 to FA09	61%	69%
FA17 to FA18	67%	70%
<i>Change</i>	+6%	+1%

Graduation Rates	4-year Graduation	6-year Graduation	Completed at other BOR School w/in 6 Years
2009	16.2%	38.5%	45.3%
2018	22.6%	42.8%	45.9%
<i>Change</i>	+6.4%	+4.3%	+0.6%

- **Northern State University (NSU)**

<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>University Expense</i>
8	\$442,660	\$406,786

NSU currently employs eight FTE academic advisors, serving roughly 1,690 students. The advising staff includes 0.67 FTE funded by a federal TRiO grant. The total cost of these advisors is \$442,660, with \$35,874 coming from the TRiO grant.

Retention Rates	First-Year Retention Rate	% Retained at Other BOR School
FA08 to FA09	65%	70%
FA17 to FA18	75%	77%
<i>Change</i>	<i>+10%</i>	<i>+7%</i>

Graduation Rates	4-year Graduation	6-year Graduation	Completed at other BOR School w/in 6 Years
2009	18.6%	44.7%	48.1%
2018	26.8%	50.6%	54.8%
<i>Change</i>	<i>+8.2%</i>	<i>+5.9%</i>	<i>+6.7%</i>

- **South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSMT)**

<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>University Expense</i>
1.25	\$76,676	\$76,676

SDSMT utilizes 1.25 non-faculty FTE for advising purposes. One advisor is assigned as a “Pre-Health Pathways Advisor” with responsibilities for 180 students each year. A second advisor has quarter-time responsibilities as a “Freshman/Sophomore Student Success Advisor” with responsibilities for 75 students. The advisors are part of pilot program for a hybrid advising structure with two academic programs (metallurgical engineering, mining engineering) and “undecided” students. Such students have a faculty advisor and an advisor in the Student Success Center (those advisors referenced previously). The success of this pilot is slowly expanding the number of students receiving “professional/non-faculty” advising.

Retention Rates	First-Year Retention Rate	% Retained at Other BOR School
FA08 to FA09	83%	85%
FA17 to FA18	76%	79%
<i>Change</i>	<i>-7%</i>	<i>-6%</i>

Graduation Rates	4-year Graduation	6-year Graduation	Completed at other BOR School w/in 6 Years
2009	8.9%	35.4%	41.0%
2018	15.6%	49.7%	56.5%
<i>Change</i>	<i>+6.7%</i>	<i>+14.3%</i>	<i>+15.5%</i>

- **South Dakota State University (SDSU)**

<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>University Expense</i>
23.4	\$1,829,687	\$1,829,687

SDSU currently employs 28 individuals as professional academic advisors; however, some of these have assigned responsibilities beyond academic advising. For example, these other duties may include teaching lower division courses, assisting with student recruitment efforts, assisting with internship placement, and providing guidance for student clubs and organizations. If adjusted for duties outside of academic advising, the total number of professional advising FTE at SDSU is 23.4. As of September 2019, professional academic advisors served 6,922 students at SDSU.

Retention Rates	First-Year Retention Rate	% Retained at Other BOR School
FA08 to FA09	75%	78%
FA17 to FA18	76%	78%
Change	+1%	0%

Graduation Rates	4-year Graduation	6-year Graduation	Completed at other BOR School w/in 6 Years
2009	20.5%	53.6%	57.3%
2018	36.4%	56.4%	60.2%
Change	+15.9%	+2.8%	2.9%

- **University of South Dakota (USD)**

<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>University Expense</i>
36	\$2,448,225	\$2,448,225

USD currently employs 36 professional advisors, serving 4,591 students. However, not all of these advisors spend 100% of their time advising students. Some advisors help administer professional advising efforts, while others provide other essential student services important for retention. For example, some oversee tutoring or supplemental instruction efforts while others are devoted to specialized programming and national scholarship advising.

Retention Rates	First-Year Retention Rate	% Retained at Other BOR School
FA08 to FA09	70%	75%
FA17 to FA18	77%	80%
Change	+7%	+5%

Graduation Rates	4-year Graduation	6-year Graduation	Completed at other BOR School w/in 6 Years
2009	18.3%	45.2%	48.3%
2018	40.0%	57.6%	61.0%
Change	+21.8%	+12.4%	12.7%

● **South Dakota Public University System (System Totals)**

<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>University/System Expense</i>
82.65	\$5,600,302	\$5,070,428

Retention Rates	First-Year Retention Rate	% Retained at Other BOR School
FA08 to FA09	71%	74%
FA17 to FA18	74%	77%
Change	+3%	+3%

Graduation Rates	4-year Graduation	6-year Graduation	Completed at other BOR School w/in 6 Years
2009	16.8%	45.2%	49.1%
2018	31.7%	52.4%	56.6%
Change	+14.9%	+7.2%	+7.5%

ATTACHMENTS

None