

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Planning Session

AGENDA ITEM: 7 – C (2)

DATE: August 4-5, 2020

SUBJECT

Considerations for New Strategic Plan

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

None

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Along with the Board of Regents’ current strategic plan approaching its end of life (2014-2020), there are two important and synonymous changes taking place: first, the work of the Senate Bill 55 Task Force that will soon be underway; and second, a new Executive Director of the Board of Regents. These three things happening in conjunction provide an opportunity to strengthen the vision for South Dakota higher education and its contributions to the larger South Dakota community.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Woven throughout the proposed Senate Bill 55 timeline are opportunities to lay the groundwork for the creation of the next strategic plan. Such preparatory activities could dovetail with early meetings of the SB55 Task Force, which are anticipated to include ground laying information like how South Dakota’s regental system has evolved, how it compares nationally, and considerations for the future of higher education in the United States. While this information will help the SB55 task accomplish its goals, it can also help the Board determine what the system needs to do today in order to position itself to make the biggest positive impact on the students and the South Dakota of 20-30 years from now.

In addition to that, the Senate Bill 55 Task Force Report itself will be helpful in the strategic planning process, and for that reason it is recommended that the new strategic plan process not begin in earnest until the report is final. Therefore, the next strategic plan’s launch is anticipated to take place during the August 2021 Board retreat with finalization by January 2022.

Last, it is recommended that when approaching the next strategic plan, that rather than an academic goal document, the next plan should outline an executable vision that links back to each individual institution so there is accountability at all levels. Also, the plan should include year-over-year indicators that show progress over time so trends can be identified. Furthermore, the Board should consider including a strategic goal around systemic efficiencies so the system continues to be accountable to its constituents and the South Dakota tax payers.

ATTACHMENTS

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEM