

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

AGENDA ITEM: 4 – B (1)
DATE: December 9-10, 2020

SUBJECT

Senate Bill 55 Task Force Update

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[Senate Bill 55](#)

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The state legislature passed Senate Bill 55 (SB 55) during the 2020 legislative session. The bill requires the Board of Regents to assemble a task force to examine possible program and administrative efficiencies at the six public universities. Specifically, the bill requires the task force to examine:

- (1) The possible combining of administration at all levels of operation within an institution;
- (2) The possible combining of operations and functions across multiple institutions;
- (3) The possible combining of the administration of programs across multiple institutions;
- (4) A review of the duplication of program offerings;
- (5) A review of the academic majors with low enrollments and low numbers of graduates;
- (6) A review of functions outside the core missions of teaching, learning, and research;
- (7) A review of the operations and functions provided as an efficiency through the central office of the Board of Regents;
- (8) A review of the viability of the university centers; and
- (9) Any other possible cost-effective measures the task force determines are worthy of examination.

SB 55 requires Task Force findings presented to the Governor and Joint Committee on Appropriations no later than November 15, 2021.

(Continued)

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

SB 55 Task Force Membership

The Board appointed a taskforce with the following membership:

- Brian L. Maher, regents' executive director and CEO
- Sen. Ryan Maher, Isabel; Sen. Reynold Nesiba, Sioux Falls; Rep. Hugh Bartels, Watertown; and Rep. Chris Karr, Sioux Falls; representing the Legislature's Joint Committee on Appropriations
- Regent Jim Thares, Aberdeen; Regent Joan Wink, Howes; and Regent Barb Stork, Dakota Dunes
- USD President Sheila Gestring, BHSU President Laurie Nichols, and SDSU President Barry Dunn
- Jim Neiman, Hulett, Wyo., Neiman Enterprises CEO
- Tyler Tordsen, Sioux Falls, southeast regional director for U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds
- Paulette Davidson, Rapid City, Monument Health CEO
- Elsie Meeks, Pine Ridge, Lakota Funds board chair
- Nadifa Mahamed, Sioux Falls, South Dakota State University student
- Hal Clemensen, Aberdeen, Agtegra Cooperative Board of Directors
- Jon Veenis, Sioux Falls, ELM Resources CEO (retired)
- Jim Lochner, Dakota Dunes, Tyson Foods COO (retired)
- Doug Morrison, Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls School District director of research, innovation, and accountability

SB 55 Task Force Subcommittees

The SB 55 Task Force is divided into three subcommittees with each one assigned analysis of specific aspects of the legislation. These include:

Academic Programs Subcommittee (co-chaired by Regent Wink and President Nichols): A review of the duplication of program offerings; A review of the academic majors with low enrollments and low numbers of graduates; Any other possible cost-effective measures the task force determines are worthy of examination (all subcommittees).

Administration Subcommittee (co-chaired by Regent Thares and President Gestring): The possible combining of administration at all levels of operation within an institution; The possible combining of operations and functions across multiple institutions; The possible combining of the administration of programs across multiple institutions; Any other possible cost-effective measures the task force determines are worthy of examination (all subcommittees).

Infrastructure/Ancillary Subcommittee (co-chaired by Regent Stork and President Dunn): A review of functions outside the core missions of teaching, learning, and research; A review of the operations and functions provided as an efficiency through the central office of the Board of Regents; A review of the viability of the university centers; Any

other possible cost-effective measures the task force determines are worthy of examination (all subcommittees).

First Meeting, October 7-8, 2020 (Rapid City)

The SB 55 Task Force has met in full twice. The first meeting occurred in Rapid City in conjunction with the Board's October 7-8, 2020 meeting. During that meeting, the SB 55 Task Force heard presentations on the evolution of the university system from former Executive Director Tad Perry, former university presidents Jim Abbott (USD) and Kay Schallenkamp (BHSU), and former regents Pat Lebrun and Kathryn Johnson. In addition, Task Force members began work within assigned subcommittees to address specific items stated in SB 55.

Second Meeting, November 11-12, 2020 (Vermillion)

The second meeting occurred in Vermillion over November 11-12, 2020. Task Force members heard presentations on the return on investment in higher education from Teresa Lubbers (Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education), former Regent Harvey Jewett, and former USD President Jim Abbott. Subcommittees met to continue their analysis of the issues under their assigned charge. Additionally, subcommittees have also met virtually on their own outside of the formal SB 55 Task Force meetings.

Next Meeting(s)

The next formal meeting of the SB 55 Task Force is tentatively scheduled for April 14-15, 2021 in Spearfish. Additional tentative meeting dates are May 12-13, 2021 in Sioux Falls and June 2-3, 2021 in Brookings. Additional virtual/online subcommittee meetings are expected between now and the next formal meeting of the Task Force.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

The SB 55 Task Force continues working on recommendations for their final report. Co-chairs of the subcommittees will be available for Board questions and comments during the Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

None