

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Full Board**

**AGENDA ITEM: 3 – G**

**DATE: May 21, 2020**

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**SUBJECT**

**Senate Bill 55 Planning**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

SDCL (Codification pending, after Senate Bill 55 is effective July 1, 2020.)

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

During the 2020 session, the South Dakota Legislature passed Senate Bill 55, which requires the Board of Regents to assemble a task force to study the operations and functions of higher education institutions under the Board’s authority. The bill was signed by Governor Noem March 20 and is effective July 1.

The legislation directs BOR to assemble a task force of at least 11 members, four of which must be members of the legislature’s Joint Committee on Appropriations and appointed by that committee.

The task force is expected to examine possible program and administrative efficiencies and cost effectiveness to be achieved through shared administration of the six public universities in South Dakota. A final report from the task force is due to the Governor and the Joint Committee on Appropriations in 18 months, on November 15, 2021.

Senate Bill 55 sets out parameters of the task force’s work, to include:

- (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;

(Continued)

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**INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

This item is for informational purposes only. Any action will be at the Board’s discretion.

- (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.

## **IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Under provisions of Senate Bill 55, the Board of Regents is expected to appoint members of the task force (other than the four appropriators to be appointed by the Legislature). The Board will assemble the group, schedule task force meetings, and staff the research and work product produced by the task force. All task force expenses are to be paid out of funds available to the Board.

During committee deliberations on Senate Bill 55, several legislators suggested a model this task force could follow was that of the 2015 Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teachers and Students. That task force was charged to reevaluate the state's K-12 funding formula, collect and analyze data, engage stakeholders, and seek public input. Final recommendations were submitted to the 2016 Legislature.

There were 26 Blue Ribbon Task Force members representing the executive and legislative branches, teachers, administrators, school boards, parents, the business community, and taxpayers. A state senator and state representative co-chaired the task force. Public input was sought April through June, and five task force meetings were conducted July through October. (It should be noted the Blue Ribbon panel had a shorter timeframe for its work than what is provided for in Senate Bill 55.)

Once Senate Bill 55 becomes effective July 1, and the Regents' next executive director is on board, some of the task force work could commence. More specifics will be discussed at upcoming Board meetings. In the meantime, the Regents may wish to consider possible appointments to the task force, the size of the group, and a potential timeline for completing the task force's work.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment I – [Enrolled Copy of Senate Bill 55](https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/69874.pdf)

(<https://mylrc.sdlegislature.gov/api/Documents/69874.pdf>)

Attachment II – [Link to web archive—2015 Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teachers and Students](https://blueribbon.sd.gov/) (<https://blueribbon.sd.gov/>)