

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – U
DATE: May 21, 2020

SUBJECT

Reorganization of Academic Unit – NSU – College of Professional Studies

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2:14](#) – Campus Organization Structure

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Effective July 1, 2020, Northern State University requests to combine its Millicent Atkins School of Education and its School of Business under a new administrative unit, the College of Professional Studies. Both Schools will retain their unique identities.

This administrative reorganization will recognize the importance of the included academic programs to the development of education and business professionals in the state of South Dakota and the region. Since the founding of Northern Normal and Industrial School in 1901, Northern has excelled in teacher preparation and education in the State of South Dakota. Subsequently, nearly 50 years ago, the Board of Regents recognized Northern State University’s leadership in business education by approving the founding of the NSU School of Business.

The new College of Professional Studies will unite, into one administrative unit, this long history of education and business leadership for the benefit of Aberdeen, the State of South Dakota, and the broader region that Northern State University serves as a regional, liberal arts, public university. The educational mission of NSU, from the day of its founding, has included the preparation of teachers for both urban and rural school districts in the State. This mission continues to this day, for example, in serving over 30 rural school districts in South Dakota, with the Rural Student Teaching program, started in 2002. Likewise, the School of Business, over the course of its history, has educated numerous students who return to their family farms and rural communities to organize, found, and lead business organizations that bring prosperity and employment to local communities throughout the State.

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DRAFT MOTION 20200521_5-U:

I move to approve NSU’s request to combine its Millicent Atkins School of Education and its School of Business under a new administrative unit, the College of Professional Studies.

Academically, there is strong symbiosis between the units of the new College of Professional Studies. The School of Business has had an active internship program for the benefit of students and businesses for decades, while the School of Education has nearly always required the ultimate in internship programs, student teaching. Nearly all of the programs in both the School of Education and The School of Business are accredited by discipline specific accreditors, which have a similar emphasis on program excellence and continuous improvement. More recently in the history of both the School of Education and the School of Business, have been the collaborative programs in Sports Marketing and Administration (BS) and Sports Management (minor). The possibilities for additional academic synergies in the refreshment and growth of established programs, and in the development both new undergraduate and graduate programs, will only be enhanced with the administrative unity of the College of Professional Studies.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This reorganization will allow NSU to reduce its number of deans from four to three, creating significant financial efficiency. The name of the new unit was recommended by a task force composed of six faculty members and two deans, and was ratified by the President's Leadership Cabinet.

Board staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

None