

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

**REVISED
AGENDA ITEM: 6 – D
DATE: June 23-24, 2021**

SUBJECT

Senate Bill 55 Taskforce Recommendations

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

- [SDCL § 13-53-1](#) – Departments and Courses of Study
- [BOR Policy 1:0](#) – South Dakota’s Unified System of Higher Education
- [BOR Policy 1:1](#) – General Authority, Powers, and Purpose of the Board
- [BOR Policy 2:23](#) – Programs and Curriculum
- [Senate Bill 55](#)

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Senate Bill 55 Taskforce (SB55¹) was created to review the following:

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.

¹ SD Legislature, 2020 Senate Bill 55, <https://sdlegislature.gov/Session/Bill/11827/69874>, Retrieved June 9, 2021.

(Continued)

DRAFT MOTION 20210623_6-D:

I move to approve the recommendations from the SB55 Taskforce as presented to 1) name SDSU as the primary West River Regional Nursing Program for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing; 2) terminate the Rapid City delivery site for USD’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program; 3) require SDSU and BHSU to enter into an MOU to ensure commitment of resources, succinct communications, and efforts for success; and 4) increase the admission positions/applicants in SDSU’s West River BSN program.

The committees began their work toward this charge in October 2020 and have been working to date (June 2021) on a review of efficiencies around Academics, Administration, and Infrastructure. The three committees assigned reviewed the following areas of the bill with respect to West River Nursing:

- The possible combining of the administration of programs across multiple institutions;
- A review of the duplication of program offerings; and
- A review of the viability of the university centers.

After a full review, the committees provided the following findings and recommendations.

1. *SB55 Academics Committee* recommends a cooperative and collaborative relationship for the West River Health Sciences Center. This collaboration will service students in the areas of applied health science, nursing, respiratory care, or other health related degrees in the West River Regional Location. This recommendation supports the founding ideals for the Center and the resulting Letter of Intent by the Joint Appropriations Committee dated May 27, 2020. The recommendation is to eliminate duplication of campus programming, thereby, approving one campus to support Nursing. It is the expectation that the university selected will ramp up their efforts to a class-size of 144 to accommodate the nursing demand for the West River Regional Area. The committee also supports reevaluating the tuition and fee schedule for the pre-nursing students at the Black Hills State University-Rapid City.
2. *SB55 Administrative Committee* recommends the combining of non-faculty exempt, civil service, and faculty for nursing in the West River Regional Area to one campus. SB55 Administrative Committee further supports the retention of Black Hills State University (BHSU) in the pre-nursing program as well as utilizing BHSU personnel services to support students in the West River Regional area for Nursing, Respiratory Care, and other Allied Health Sciences programs.
3. *SB55 Infrastructure Committee* recommends moving all Nursing, Respiratory Care and Allied Health Sciences from the Monument Health facility to the Black Hills State University-Rapid City. NOTE: At the May 2021, BOR meeting a preliminary facility statement was presented to explore the costs and specifics of space needs for these programs. This was approved by the Board of Regents.

As this committee is coming to closure, the action required on West River Nursing will be one of the initial actions required by the Board of Regents. While the reduction of duplication of programs is being recommended, the ramping up of enrollments will be critical to the success by the campus selected. There are current efforts to recruit students for the nursing program which will now be focused and streamlined by the full efforts of the assigned nursing program partnering with BHSU.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

The following represents the recommendation to the Board of Regents on behalf of the SB55 Taskforce.

1. South Dakota State University (SDSU) to be selected as the primary West River Regional Nursing Program for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).
2. The Rapid City delivery site location for USD's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) will be inactivated effective June 23, 2021. USD will no longer admit students to the program in the Rapid City, West River Regional Area, effective immediately. All of USD's currently admitted students, including the Fall 2021 cohort, will continue toward the completion of their BSN degree from USD with expected graduation of the final cohort in the spring of 2023.
3. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be required between BHSU and SDSU to ensure commitment of resources, succinct communications, and efforts for success (including recruitment, retention, and completion) are defined. Dr. Maher will work with the President of SDSU and BHSU to complete that effort.
4. SDSU will work on a plan to increase their admissions from 48 applicants to 72 applicants during the next six months to begin in the Spring of 2022.
5. SDSU will work on a plan to further increase their admissions from 72 applicants to 144 applicants with the Black Hills State University-Rapid City facility design plan.

ATTACHMENTS

None