

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**AGENDA ITEM: 3 – E (1)**

**DATE: May 11, 2021**

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**SUBJECT**

**Report of the Executive Director – Return to Normal Transition**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

[BOR Policy 1:15, Section C.2 \(2.10\)](#)

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

The South Dakota Board of Regents system has continuously responded to the changing dynamics caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. With vaccines now available in the higher education setting, the system continues to adjust as it looks toward the Fall 2021 semester.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

An initial [news release](#) on “return to normal” operations was provided by the Board of Regents on March 15, 2021. This statement indicated that the university campuses would transition to pre-COVID operations by the fall 2021 semester.

In an effort to begin this transition, the presidents requested permission to lift the on-campus mask requirement at their April 27<sup>th</sup> Council of Presidents meeting. They requested that the change go into effect at the conclusion of the spring 2021 semester. Dr. Maher accepted these requests and determined that the universities would become “mask optional” environments as of May 10, 2021.

Additional transition efforts are on-going and will take place over the next several weeks. However, the presidents have requested that any action may be re-evaluated based on evolving health considerations.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

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**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**