

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs**

**AGENDA ITEM: 6 – D (1)**

**DATE: August 4, 2016**

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**SUBJECT: University Center-Sioux Falls Program Approval Process**

Board members noted the importance of academic programming that meets the needs of the Sioux Falls community as part of their discussions on the new operations model for the University Center-Sioux Falls (UC-SF). Those discussions included options for a streamlined approval process for new academic programs at UC-SF to promote agility and responsiveness. Several options for discussion are presented below:

1. *Elimination/modification of the requirement for universities to receive approval for an intent to plan prior to submitting a program proposal.*

Current practice requires a university to receive approval for an intent to plan prior to submitting a new program proposal. The intent to plan is conceptual and addresses issues such as relationship to institutional mission and potential duplication with existing programs, whereas the program proposal addresses issues such as demand, enrollment projections, and curriculum. The Executive Director currently has the option of waiving the intent to plan; however, such waivers have rarely occurred. The Board may consider waiving the requirement for an intent to plan in specific instances such as:

- a. An associate degree program proposal is a two-year version of an existing four-year bachelor's program.
  - b. An associate degree program proposal has 80% of the curriculum derivative of an existing four-year bachelor's degree program.
  - c. A program is expected to have an immediate impact on a demonstrated and documented workforce shortage or economic development need.
2. *Granting approval authority for specified UC-SF programs to the Executive Director.*

Granting approval authority in limited and specified circumstances to the Executive Director would alleviate delays in program approval caused by the Board calendar (i.e., the Board meeting eight times per year).

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**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**