

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: I - E

DATE: October 14-15, 2009

SUBJECT: 2009-2010 Discipline Council Membership, Leadership and Direction

Discipline Councils are established each fall with the Board formally approving membership and leadership. The campus representatives for each council have been compiled in the attached matrix. In addition, the Council of Presidents and Superintendents has approved a chair for each council as required in BOR policy 1:7:8.

The letters outlining topics of discussion have been sent from the Executive Director to the Discipline Council members. While these naturally do vary, in all cases the Councils have been asked to discuss strategies to move teaching and learning into a wireless environment. Many of the disciplines in Arts and Sciences were asked to continue to work with colleagues in K-12, especially as high schools continue to move to common End of Course Exams. These are logical tools that can provide evidence of college readiness and which may, in some cases also serve as additional tools for placement. In addition, the Councils are being asked to once again review the system's set of common courses to make sure these continue to align across the system.

Each campus was asked to have a meeting with their assigned representatives to discuss the importance of these assignments to ensure that faculty members assigned can best meet expectations. To assist with these meetings, a background paper describing the history and workings of the Councils was prepared and circulated. A copy is attached.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Information only.

**Discipline Council Rosters
2009 - 2010**

University	Arts & Science	Social Science	English	Math	Information Technology	Business	Humanities	Education	Fine Arts	HPER
BHSU	Holly Downing	Laura Colmenero-Chilberg Sandra Marker	Gary Groce Christine Shearer-Creman	Curtis Card Daluss Stewert	Jean Johnson Mike Turner	Priscilla Romkema Sheila Aaker	Kathleen Parrow. Vice Chair Mary Husemann	Nancy Hall David Calhoon	Jim Knutson Janeen Larsen	Betsy Silva Sandy Klarenbeek
DSU	Kari Forbes-Boyte	Kurt Kemper Viki Johnson	John Laffin Nancy Moose	Jeffrey Palmer Richard Avery	Wayne Pauli Steve Krebsbach	Jack Walters Rick Puetz	Mary Lynn Ryan Sue Conover	Judy Dittman, CHAIR Crystal Pauli	Dan Mortenson Tom Jones	Gale Wiedow, CHAIR Andrew Shim
NSU	Celestino Mendez	John Schaif Ken Blanchard	Patrick Whiteley Lysbeth Benkert-Rasmussen	Abid Elkhader Ricardo Rojas	Tobin Lindblom Lu Zhang	Hillar Neumann	Virginia Lewis, CHAIR Art Marmorstein	Connie Geier Nancy Barondeau	Alan LaFave, Vice Chair Peter Kilian	Camille Thomas, Vice Chair Kathie Courtney
SDSMT	Sue Shirley	Roger Dendinger	Kathy Antonen Sally Palmer, Co-Vice Chairs	Kyle Riley, CHAIR Don Teets	John Weiss Jeff McGough	Sue Shirley (liaison)	Rod Rice	Josephine (Jo) Lee (liaison)	Deborah Mitchell Jim Feiszli	Barbara Felderman
SDSU	Jerry Jorgensen, CHAIR	Pat Joffer April Brooks, CHAIR	Mike Keller Kathleen Donovan	Kurt Cogswell Dan Kemp	George Hamer Mike Adelaine	John Sondey, CHAIR Carol Cumber	Laurie Haleta Maria Ramos	Andrew Stremmel Lon Moeller David Hilderbrand	Don Crowe, CHAIR Michael Steele	Patty Hacker Bernadette Olson
USD	Matthew Moen	Richard Fox Mary Pat Bierle	Kenneth Green Emily Haddad, CHAIR	Jose Flores Dan van Peursem, Vice Chair	Bijay Naik Asai Asaithambi, Chair	Mike Keller	Carrie Prentice Susan Wolfe	Linda Reetz Rick Melmer	Ron Moyer Darlene Fett	Tim Mirtz Larry Tentinger
BOR	Sam Gingerich	Paul Gough	Janelle Toman	Sam Gingerich	Doug Knowlton	Cathy Anderson	Jim Shekleton	Sam Gingerich	Sam Gingerich	Paul Turman

Discipline Councils

This document provides members of the Discipline Councils an understanding of the history and purposes of these groups. These Councils are envisioned as defined fora that permit faculty members to address specific academic issues facing the system. However, experience has shown that these groups are effective if the members clearly understand how the Councils function and how their work guides and shapes system initiatives. Members of the Councils should review this document and during the first meeting of the year each Council is asked to discuss this. If the Council is unclear about any aspect of their operations, the chair should direct questions to the Board liaison, the campus Provost/VPAA, or the system's Chief Academic Officer.

A decade ago, the Board authorized the establishment of Discipline Councils as a vehicle to enhance opportunities for collaboration among the faculty and staff of the separate institutions. The underlying concept for these Councils arose from the initial set of state-wide roundtables which were held in the mid-1990's. A system-wide leadership team used the PEW Beta Project on Executive Education with the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania to develop a draft policy statement that fleshed out this concept. This policy, approved by the Board in 1997, sets out in policy the assumptions behind, mission and responsibilities of the Councils (see BOR Policy 1:7:8 – Discipline Councils - <http://www.sdbor.edu/policy/1-Governance/1-7-8.pdf>).

The Board item that proposed this policy included the following statement which outlines the benefits these Councils are expected to provide (Agenda Item K, BOR Meeting March 26-27, 1997).

“Linking discipline delivery across institutions is essential in serving statewide needs. To insure an integration of curriculum service to students and graduates who may be highly mobile, and to ensure that system resources are effectively used at multiple instructional sites and through the use of technology, a relationship within academic disciplines should be structured through system-wide Discipline Councils. Approaching academic program curriculum and resource utilization, particularly faculty, through an alliance, each institution's program will be strengthened. This alliance could produce a fuller curricular offering at each instructional site, a curriculum that facilitates student mobility, a better use of faculty expertise and specialization, and the ability to bring more depth to academic programs by building discipline expertise across institutions. It also permits institutions to focus on recruiting faculty with stronger specialty areas, rather than using limited faculty positions to seek generalists who are required to handle a wide range of

academic material. One of the major benefits derived from Discipline Councils is the systemic, statewide perspective on needs to be addressed by a specific discipline. The Discipline Council approach also shifts the primary orientation of the inter-institutional discipline activities from a competitive to a collaborative model.”

This statement clearly establishes the system-wide, discipline based perspective that the Councils are expected to bring to their deliberations. It is expected that members function as representatives of their disciplines. While faculty members do have opportunity to shape the system’s agenda as part of their campus’s administrative activities, these Councils ask members to share their expertise in a different light. The following broad responsibilities were assigned to the Councils:

Descriptive activities: The Discipline Councils shall develop and maintain system inventories for curriculum and courses, faculty expertise, faculty scholarship, and efforts to acquire external resources and awards. The Council shall develop recommendations for approaches for common course numbering, common course descriptions, and articulation within the system.

Collaborative activities: The Discipline Councils shall develop recommendations concerning the means for assessing and coordinating the available expertise within the system to meet individual institutions’ needs in a discipline; develop collaborative approaches, where feasible, to meet institutional and system needs within the discipline; and provide a recommendation for reviewing system resources for a discipline. The Discipline Councils shall develop recommendations for meeting the state needs for the discipline.

Reportage activities: The Discipline Councils shall make recommendations and reports as appropriate, but, at a minimum, annually. Each Discipline Council shall report to the Board of Regents through the Academic Affairs Council and the Council of Presidents and Superintendents and shall insure community participation at the institutional level.

Each Council is assigned a Board staff member who will serve as a liaison while also serving as an active member of the Council. It is expected that the Council Chair will work with this person to discuss the schedule and agendas for meetings. In addition, the Chair and the Liaison should work together to coordinate the work of the Council within the broader context of the system. Throughout the year, if the members of the Council have questions or have suggested agenda items, they should work with the Council Chair.

A table is included which provides a list of the members of all of the Discipline Councils. Those of you new to this process are encouraged to visit with members of other Councils. While each Council has evolved some unique practices, the effective ones have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the groups and function within these frameworks. Discussions with members of other groups can be helpful.

One final note. Each year, one or two of the Councils ask questions about support. Historically, each campus has supported the travel of faculty to participate in meetings and in most disciplines this is understood and the schedule of meetings is set accordingly. In most cases, Councils will have two meetings per year with one being in person and the second a conference call or DDN session. Board staff will assist with these.

If you have questions, please contact your Board staff liaison, your campus Provost/VPAA, or the system Chief Academic officer.