

**BOARD OF REGENTS  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
May 1, 2018**

**Contents**

APPOINTMENT OF USD PRESIDENT	1156-1159
ADJOURN	1159

**BOARD OF REGENTS  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**University of South Dakota  
Sanford Coyotes Sports Center  
Vermillion, South Dakota  
May 1, 2018**

The Board of Regents convened at the University of South Dakota (USD) in Vermillion, South Dakota, and via teleconference at 3:30 p.m. on May 1, 2018.

ROLL CALL:

Adam – PRESENT  
Bastian – PRESENT (via teleconference)  
Morgan – PRESENT (via teleconference)  
Roberts – PRESENT (via teleconference)  
Schaefer – PRESENT  
Thares – PRESENT (via teleconference)  
Wink – PRESENT (via teleconference)  
Schieffer – PRESENT  
Sutton – ABSENT

Also present during all or part of the meeting were Mike Rush, Executive Director and CEO; and members of USD and the Vermillion community.

Regent Adam called the public meeting of the Board of Regents to order and declared a quorum present.

Regent Schaefer announced that the Board dissolved into Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, and at Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. on April 25, 2018 to discuss personnel matters; and that it adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. He reported that while in executive session, the Board considered personnel matters, and gave directions to its executive director concerning these matters.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Schaefer, seconded by Regent Schieffer, that the Board approve directions given to the executive director with respect to matters discussed in executive session, and that it defer until the completion of further remarks at this meeting approval of the appointment of a successor to James Abbott as President of the University of South Dakota; and adopt the report of the Executive Session.

ROLL CALL:

Adam – AYE  
Bastian – AYE  
Morgan – AYE  
Roberts – AYE  
Schaefer – AYE

Thares – AYE  
Wink – AYE  
Schieffer – AYE  
Sutton – ABSENT

Motion passed.

Regent Adam thanked the campus community for its support during the presidential selection. He introduced and thanked the regents on the search committee:

- Kevin Schieffer, Chair
- Pam Roberts
- Joan Wink
- Bob Sutton, Board President, Ex-officio

He additionally introduced and thanked the Campus Search Committee:

- **Scott Pohlson**, Administration Representative
- **Allen Madison**, Faculty Representative
- **Beth Boyd**, Faculty Representative
- **Jewel Goodman Shepherd**, Faculty Representative
- **Josh Anderson**, Student Representative
- **Taylor Gubbrud**, Student Representative
- **Cheryl Tiaht**, Non-Faculty Exempt Staff Representative
- **Binnie Goodwin**, Civil Service Staff Representative
- **Torrey Sundall**, Alumni Representative
- **Ryan Taylor**, USD Foundation Representative
- **Nate Welch**, Community Representative
- **Kevin Doyle**, At-Large Representative
- **José-Marie Griffiths**, Representing the Board of Regents' Council of Presidents and Superintendents, President of Dakota State University

Regent Adam explained that this has been a process that has taken considerable time and energy over the past several months. Each of the committee members made important contributions to the process and the selection of the school's next president. He gave them a special thank you for their dedication and commitment.

Regent Adam also thanked the campus community for its participation in the process. He explained how the campus assisted the Board in the beginning by nominating colleagues to serve on the search committee, by soliciting and making nominations of outstanding candidates, by patiently responding to the process, and by participating in the two-day campus interviews. He stated that one of the great things about the selection process is that it allows the campuses and the Board of Regents to become better acquainted and to work together on issues concerning all of us.

He said this effort has also served to remind the Board of the extremely valuable role that the University of South Dakota plays in the development of the region's economy and its people.

Regent Adam asked for a motion from the presidential search committee for the appointment of the new president of the University of South Dakota.

Regent Schieffer said at this time he was pleased to present to the Board of Regents a report from the presidential search committee. He explained that with an outstanding field of candidates, the committee narrowed the field to an excellent pool of finalists that visited the campus last week. It is from this group of talented and experienced leaders that he recommended the appointment of Sheila Gestring as President of the University of South Dakota.

Regent Schieffer introduced Sheila Gestring to the campus community and shared her biographical information. He explained that Sheila Gestring is currently vice president of finance and chief financial officer at the University of South Dakota. As chief financial officer since 2010 and on the USD finance staff since 2006, Gestring has stabilized the university's financial position, developed innovative financing plans for new facilities, and worked with the USD Foundation to set major fund-raising goals and priorities for the university. A record-setting donor campaign surpassed its goal of \$250 million several months early. Prior to coming to USD, Gestring was chief financial officer at Flathead Valley Community College in Montana and worked in increasingly responsible finance positions for South Dakota state government. She has a M.B.A. from the University of South Dakota and a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration from the University of Sioux Falls. Sheila's incredible knowledge of the institution as well as her commitment and passion for the future success of the University of South Dakota is clear. She is joined today by her husband, Keith, and sons Dillon and Wyatt.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Schieffer, seconded by Regent Schaefer, that Sheila Gestring be appointed President of the University of South Dakota effective June 22, 2018.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Adam – AYE  
Bastian – AYE  
Morgan – AYE  
Roberts – AYE  
Schaefer – AYE  
Thares – AYE  
Wink – AYE  
Schieffer – AYE  
Sutton – ABSENT

Motion passed.

Regent Adam invited Sheila Gestring to make brief remarks.

Sheila made remarks regarding her enthusiasm for the role of President of the University of South Dakota and her vision for its future.

Regent Adam announced that Sheila Gestring and the other regents would be available to the media for interviews following the meeting adjournment. Additionally, he welcomed the audience to a reception held in the arena immediately following the meeting.

**ADJOURN**

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Schieffer, seconded by Regent Schaefer, to adjourn the meeting of the full board at 4:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Adam – AYE  
Bastian – AYE  
Morgan – AYE  
Roberts – AYE  
Schaefer – AYE  
Thares – AYE  
Wink – AYE  
Schieffer – AYE  
Sutton – ABSENT

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

The South Dakota Board of Regents adjourned its special business meeting on May 1, 2018 and will meet again in regular session on May 8-10, 2018 in Vermillion, South Dakota.

I, Mike Rush, Executive Director and CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents, declare that the above is a true, complete and correct copy of the minutes of the Board of Regents meeting held on May 1, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Rush". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Rush  
Executive Director and CEO