

**BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**Northern State University
Centennial Rooms
Aberdeen, South Dakota
May 26, 2016**

The Board of Regents convened at Northern State University in Aberdeen and via teleconference at 3:30 p.m. on May 26, 2016.

ROLL CALL:

Randy Schaefer – PRESENT via teleconference
Bob Sutton – PRESENT
Kevin Schieffer – ABSENT
John Bastian – PRESENT
Harvey Jewett – PRESENT
Kathryn Johnson – PRESENT
Jim Morgan – ABSENT
Pam Roberts – PRESENT

Also present during all or part of the meeting were Mike Rush, Executive Director and CEO; Molly Weisgram, BOR; and members of NSU and the Aberdeen community.

Regent Bob Sutton explained that he will preside over the meeting because Regent President Randy Schaefer is present via telephone. Regent Sutton called the public meeting of the Board of Regents to order and declared a quorum present. He announced that the Board dissolved into Executive Session at 11:30 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 23, 2016, to discuss personnel matters; that it adjourned and reconvened in executive session at 8:00 a.m., at 12:00 p.m., and at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 to discuss personnel matters; and that it adjourned at 6:00 p.m., all as shown on the published agenda for the meeting.

Regent John Bastian 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 Bastian, seconded by Regent Johnson that the Board approve directions given to the executive director with respect to matters discussed in executive session, that it defer until the completion of further remarks at this meeting approval of the appointment of a successor to Dr. Jim Smith as President of Northern State University; and adopt the report of the Executive Session.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

SCHAEFER – AYE
SUTTON – AYE
SCHIEFFER – ABSENT

BASTIAN – AYE
JEWETT – AYE
JOHNSON – AYE
MORGAN – ABSENT
ROBERTS – AYE

The MOTION CARRIED.

Regent Sutton thanked the campus community for its support during the presidential selection. He introduced and thanked the Regents search committee:

Harvey Jewett, Chair
Kevin Schieffer
John Bastian
Randy Schaefer

He additionally introduced and thanked the Campus Search Committee:

Debbi Bumpous, Administrator
Erin Fouberg, Faculty
Sara Schmidt, Faculty
Taylor Ellingson, Student
Ian Coughlin, Student
Susan Bostian, Non-Faculty Exempt Staff
Judy Lapka, Career Service Staff
Mike Evans, Alumni
Jim Thares, NSU Foundation
Art Russo, Community
Rod Fouberg, Community
Cindi Walsh, At-Large
Rod Tobin, At-Large
James Abbott, System President
José-Marie Griffiths, System President
Marje Kaiser, System Executive

Regent Sutton 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. A special thank you to each of them for the professional manner in which they conducted the business of the committee. The results of this search are directly attributed to your dedication and commitment.

Regent Sutton 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. Given the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, such cooperation can only be beneficial.

He said this effort has also served to remind the Board of the extremely valuable role that Northern State University plays in the development of the region's economy and its people. Our search for excellence also demands leadership that is responsive and innovative; aware not only of the present, but also of the potential. At this point, Regent Sutton asked for a motion from the presidential search committee for the appointment of the new president of Northern State University.

Regent Harvey Jewett 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 Dr. Tim Downs as President of Northern State University.

Dr. Downs is currently the provost and chief academic officer of Niagara University in New York where he manages a salary budget of more than \$12 million. A professor of communication and management at Niagara, he is also chair of the Western New York Chief Academic Officers consortium. Prior to Niagara University, Dr. Downs served as Dean at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. Dr. Downs also served as Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at Emporia State University in Kansas, assistant vice president for academic affairs at California State University in Los Angeles, and as Department Head of Speech Communications. Dr. Downs has held continuous faculty appointments since 1988. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in communication studies from California State University and West Virginia University respectively, and a Ph.D. in organizational communication from the University of Oklahoma. As we met with Dr. Downs, it became evident that he is student focused. We learned that for him, seeing students realize their potential and make contributions to the communities in which they live is his true motivation.

He introduced Dr. Downs.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Jewett, seconded by Regent Bastian that Dr. Downs be appointed President of Northern State University effective June 27, 2016.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

SCHAEFER – AYE
SUTTON – AYE
SCHIEFFER – ABSENT
BASTIAN – AYE
JEWETT – AYE
JOHNSON – AYE
MORGAN – ABSENT
ROBERTS – AYE

The MOTION CARRIED.

Regent Jewett invited Dr. Downs to make brief remarks.

Dr. Downs made remarks regarding his enthusiasm for the role of President of Northern State University and his vision for its future.

Regent Sutton announced that Dr. Downs, Dr. Rush, and the other Regents present would be available to the media for interviews following the meeting adjournment. Additionally, he welcomed the audience to a reception held in the back of the Centennial Rooms immediately following the meeting.

ADJOURN

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

All voted AYE. The MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned.

The South Dakota Board of Regents adjourned its regular business meeting on May 26, 2016 and will meet again in regular session on June 28-30, 2016 in Madison, 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 26, 2016.

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