

**BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
University Center-Sioux Falls
Avera Hall
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
May 18, 2015**

The Board of Regents convened at University Center in Sioux Falls and via teleconference at 10:00 a.m. on May 18, 2015.

ROLL CALL:

Terry Baloun – PRESENT via teleconference
John Bastian – PRESENT via teleconference
Harvey Jewett – PRESENT via teleconference
Kathryn Johnson – ABSENT and not voting
Jim Morgan – PRESENT
Joe Schartz – ABSENT and not voting
Bob Sutton – PRESENT
Randy Schaefer – PRESENT
Kevin Schieffer – PRESENT

Also present during all or part of the meeting were Jack Warner, Executive Director and CEO, BOR; Janelle Toman, Director of Communications, BOR; and members of the higher education and Sioux Falls-area community.

Regent Schaefer called the public meeting of the Board of Regents to order and declared a quorum present. He thanked everyone for attending to share in the announcement of a new executive director and CEO for the South Dakota Board of Regents.

Regent Schaefer thanked members of the constituent panel who participated in the search process, which included the following members:

Courtney Huse-Wika, BHSU Faculty
Bill Figg, DSU Faculty
Erin Fouberg, NSU Faculty
Chase Vogel, BHSU Student
Caleb Finck, SDSU Student
Jess Peterson, USD Student
Jim Moran, USD Administrator
Alan Lafave, NSU Administrator
Kim Wadsworth, SDSD Administrator
David Chicoine, SDSU President
Heather Wilson, SDSM&T President

Marje Kaiser, SDSD and SDSBVI Superintendent
Miles Beacon, DSU Foundation
Kim Tyler, SDSU Foundation
Janelle Toman, Board Staff
Nathan Lukkes, Board Staff
Daniel Palmer, Board Staff
Tony Venhuizen, Governor's Chief of Staff
Rep. Spencer Hawley, House Minority Leader
Sen. Corey Brown, Senate President Pro Tempore
Sen. Billie Sutton, Senate Minority Leader

Regent Schaefer said the Regents have been working toward this moment for the past several months. He thanked fellow Regents for their work and dedication to this task. He also expressed thanks to John Thornburgh, the search consultant who did an outstanding job in assisting this process.

Regent Schaefer said it was time to bring this search process to a conclusion. He introduced Dr. Michael Rush, who Board members will be asked later today to appoint as the next Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for the South Dakota Board of Regents. Dr. Rush and his spouse, Linda Rush, were asked to stand and be recognized.

Regent Schaefer continued with Dr. Rush's introduction:

Dr. Michael Rush is currently the executive director of the Idaho State Board of Education/Board of Regents. He has committed his life's work to education, from his early career as a high school vocational agriculture teacher, then in state-level administrative work, to his current position supporting a state board with significant oversight over a majority of Idaho's budget.

His broad experience and strong advocacy for both higher education and K-12 education made him a perfect fit for South Dakota and the Board of Regents' strategic priorities here.

Dr. Rush has been executive director in Idaho since 2007. He serves as the state's higher education executive officer. The state board governs Idaho's higher education institutions and also has general supervision over all public education, including community colleges.

Prior to his time with Idaho's state board, Dr. Rush served as an administrator, director of research, and state supervisor for the Division of Vocational Education, also in Idaho. He has experience as an assistant professor of agricultural and Extension education at The Pennsylvania State University, as an instructor of vocational and technical education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and as a secondary vocational agriculture instructor.

He is active professionally at the state and national levels, currently serving on the executive committee for the State Higher Education Executive Officers and as chair of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

He holds a doctorate of education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, as well as master's and bachelor's degrees in agricultural education, both from the University of Idaho.

Concluding with Dr. Rush's introduction, Regent Schaefer asked that Regent Sutton give a report on the actions of the Board in executive session.

Regent Sutton said that, while in executive session, the Board reviewed applications for Executive Director. IT WAS MOVED by Regent Sutton, seconded by Regent Morgan, that Dr. Michael G. Rush be appointed as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for the South Dakota Board of Regents, effective on or around July 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Terry Baloun – AYE via teleconference
John Bastian – AYE via teleconference
Harvey Jewett – AYE via teleconference
Kathryn Johnson – ABSENT and not voting
Jim Morgan – AYE
Joe Schartz – ABSENT and not voting
Bob Sutton – AYE
Randy Schaefer – AYE
Kevin Schieffer – AYE

Motion passed. Regent Schaefer invited Dr. Rush to make some brief remarks.

Dr. Rush said that we get so caught up in our traditions, procedures, and habits that we sometimes forget why our institutions were created in the first place. It is clear that the system of higher education in South Dakota has not forgotten why it was created. The institutions, led by the Board of Regents, have clearly articulated goals for student success, academic quality, economic development, and accountability.

There has not been a more important time in our nation's history to make sure higher education is serving our students well. The disparity in economic prosperity continues to increase at a rather alarming rate. We know that, while necessary as a safety net, direct government subsidies can never fix that disparity. But public higher education can.

In a recent study conducted by the Milken Foundation, it was discovered that 70 percent of the change in economic improvement of a region was due to increased education. In fact, for every year of additional education beyond high school, the Gross Domestic Product of a region goes up by 17 percent. We also know that individuals with a college degree of some type make more money, are less likely to be unemployed, are healthier, and are more likely to be positively engaged in their communities.

That is why our institutions and special schools must continue to be on top of their game: to create and innovate to ensure that the people of South Dakota are served in the best possible way.

There is certainly value in the stability of our traditions, but we must not be afraid to change our approach when we find that our fundamental goals are not being accomplished.

Dr. Rush said he was enormously privileged to join an incredible team in South Dakota: Marje Kaiser, Superintendent of the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the School for the Deaf; James Smith, President of Northern State University; José Marie Griffiths, incoming President of Dakota State University; Tom Jackson, President of Black Hills State University; David Chicoine, President of South Dakota State University; Heather Wilson, President of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, and James Abbott, President of the University of South Dakota. Dr. Rush said he looked forward to working with and learning from each of them.

Dr. Rush acknowledged the gifted leadership exercised by his predecessors, Dr. Tad Perry and Dr. Jack Warner. He said those two men had created a robust public higher education system in South Dakota that will be a privilege to lead. And finally, to President Schaefer and the rest of the Board of Regents, Dr. Rush said he was deeply humbled by the trust they had placed in him. He told each person attending today's announcement that we hold in our hands an incredible gift: the gift of opportunity through education. It is our privilege and responsibility to use that gift well.

Following Dr. Rush's remarks, Regent Schaefer announced that Dr. Rush would be available to the media for interviews. He also invited the audience and guests to greet Dr. Rush and Linda Rush.

ADJOURN

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Schieffer, seconded by Regent Morgan, to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Regents at 10:30 a.m.

Terry Baloun – AYE via teleconference
John Bastian – AYE via teleconference
Harvey Jewett – AYE via teleconference
Kathryn Johnson – ABSENT and not voting
Jim Morgan – AYE
Joe Schartz – ABSENT and not voting
Bob Sutton – AYE
Randy Schaefer – AYE
Kevin Schieffer – AYE

Motion passed.