

March 16, 2012

In this edition:

March 16, 2012

[North Dakota Supreme Court hears Fighting Sioux nickname case](#)

By DALE WETZEL | Associated PressBismarckTribune.com

BISMARCK, N.D. — North Dakota's Supreme Court grilled the state Board of Higher Education's lawyer Thursday about the board's tardiness in challenging a law that requires the University of North Dakota's sports teams to carry the Fighting Sioux nickname.

Published March 15, 2012, 11:30 PM

[North Dakota Supreme Court grills attorneys in Sioux nickname case](#)

By **Chuck Haga Forum Communications Co.**, INFORUM

BISMARCK – After an hour of sometimes intricate legal questioning Thursday, the North Dakota Supreme Court took hold of the long-running and much-contested case of the University of North Dakota's Fighting Sioux nickname. An immediate ruling by the court is not expected but could come within the next week or two.

Published March 14, 2012, 09:17 AM

[Lake Region president gets new job in Ohio](#)

By: **Kevin Bonham**, Grand Forks Herald

Mike Bower to take over Owens Community College in July
Bower, 62, has been Lake Region president since 2008. The Ohio native said he and his wife, Carol, had applied for the job because they want to relocate closer to their family.

Published March 14, 2012, 11:30 PM

[Forum editorial: Higher ed board hires new chancellor](#)

At first glance, Hamid Shirvani looks to be a good fit for North Dakota

Published March 14, 2012, 11:30 PM

[Oregon deals with own school nickname issue](#)

By: **Chuck Haga, Forum Communications Co.**, INFORUM

BISMARCK – The emotional issue before a state education board last week was the use of an American Indian name and logo for a school's athletic teams.

March 14, 2012

[Taylor selects Ellen Chaffee as his running mate](#)

Associated Press, BismarckTribune.com

North Dakota Democratic governor candidate Ryan Taylor has chosen former Valley City State President Ellen Chaffee as his running mate.

March 14, 2012

[Plan is like a statewide conversation](#)

by Miles Trump • Daily News milest@wahpetondailynews.com

2020 & Beyond was recently launched by Gov. Jack Dalrymple and the N.D. Chamber of Commerce to gather input and address North Dakota's future

March 13, 2012

[Shirvani hired as new North Dakota university chancellor](#)

Associated Press, Bismarck Tribune

Hamid Shirvani, president of a state university in central California, was named Tuesday as the new chancellor of North Dakota's university system, where he will be the top administrator of 11 public colleges.

Published March 13, 2012, 07:34 PM

[North Dakota finds new chancellor at California school](#)

By: Teri Finneman, INFORUM

Shirvani to succeed Goetz as state's top higher education official July 1
BISMARCK – The state Board of Higher Education has hired a chancellor they believe can bring change to the system.

March 13, 2012

[Signatures OK; Jaeger orders vote on UND nickname](#)

Associated Press, BismarckTribune.com

Secretary of State Al Jaeger on Tuesday ordered a statewide vote on a law that requires the University of North Dakota to keep its Fighting Sioux athletics nickname and an American Indian sports logo.

Published March 13, 2012, 04:13 PM

[Jaeger places Sioux nickname, logo referendum on June 12 ballot](#)

By: Chuck Haga, Forum Communications Co., INFORUM

GRAND FORKS – North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger certified Tuesday that there are enough signatures to put the UND Fighting Sioux nickname referendum on the ballot in June.

Published March 13, 2012, 11:30 PM

[**Forum editorial: Historic day at ND high court**](#)

Thursday will be a history-making day in North Dakota. Arguments regarding the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux logo and nickname will be aired before the state Supreme Court in Bismarck.

***Click on the title to go to the full article.**

****Some of the articles are no longer available seven days after publication. They are, however, archived on the publication's website and are available for a small fee.**

March 16, 2012

North Dakota Supreme Court hears Fighting Sioux nickname case

By DALE WETZEL | Associated PressBismarckTribune.com

To view the original article, please visit: http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/north-dakota-supreme-court-hears-fighting-sioux-nickname-case/article_21bfd2bc-6ef2-11e1-87fe-001871e3ce6c.html

BISMARCK, N.D. — North Dakota's Supreme Court grilled the state Board of Higher Education's lawyer Thursday about the board's tardiness in challenging a law that requires the University of North Dakota's sports teams to carry the Fighting Sioux nickname.

State lawmakers first approved the pro-nickname law in March 2011. Yet it wasn't until last month, after the law was repealed and then revived in a referendum campaign, that the higher education board sued to block the law, Justice Daniel Crothers said.

"That harm has been there since the statute was passed almost a year ago ... Why now? Why in the face of a referral?" Crothers asked Douglas Bahr, an assistant attorney general who is representing the board, during Supreme Court oral arguments Thursday.

Secretary of State Al Jaeger scheduled a June 12 referendum on the law after nickname backers turned in more than 16,000 petition signatures demanding a ballot.

The law says UND's sports teams must be known as the Fighting Sioux and keep a separate logo that depicts the profile of an American Indian warrior.

NCAA officials have told UND that as long as the nickname and logo are kept, the Grand Forks school may not host NCAA post-season tournaments. Its teams, cheerleaders and band members may not wear them on uniforms during post-season play.

The Board of Higher Education contends the law interferes with its own powers, granted under the North Dakota Constitution, to manage the state's 11 public colleges. The board wants the Supreme Court to declare the law unconstitutional and take the referendum off the ballot.

Crothers and Justices Carol Ronning Kapsner and Mary Muehlen Maring questioned whether waiting for the June vote would harm UND. The election will let voters decide whether the law should be kept or repealed.

Bahr said the board delayed legal action because state legislators wanted to see whether the law would cause the NCAA to rethink its opposition to UND's nickname and logo. It did not. The NCAA considers both offensive to American Indians.

The pro-nickname referendum campaign has required the board "to backtrack, and have its authority infringed and all the issues re-raised," Bahr said.

The problems the law causes "may go away in three months," Bahr added. "But the board should not have to suffer this injury for three months."

Bahr and lawyers for Jaeger, the Legislature and the pro-nickname referendum committee took turns making their arguments Thursday during an hour-long Supreme Court session. Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle said the court will make its ruling later.

The justices also peppered Patrick Durick, a Bismarck attorney representing the Legislature, and Reed Soderstrom, a Minot lawyer who was chairman of the referendum campaign, about assertions in their own arguments.

Durick argued that the nickname and logo, and protecting their monetary value, are part of the university's work, which he said the state constitution allows the Legislature to regulate.

VandeWalle said Durick's contention was so broad that it "would consume the constitutional authority of the board, if the Legislature wanted to do it."

Justice Dale Sandstrom asked whether the Legislature could use Durick's argument to set class schedules, decide which professors may teach certain courses, and specify the colors and designs of the teams' uniforms.

"I don't know a bright-line test. I'm here to tell you that (the Legislature) can decide what the nickname of the athletic program is," Durick replied.

He said the Board of Higher Education had presented nothing but "bare allegations" that the university had been harmed by keeping the nickname.

"I think there needs to be some evidence," Durick said. "You've got to either have (a sworn statement), or you've got to do something."

The NCAA's logo-related penalties were on display last Saturday, when the University of Minnesota's women's hockey team beat UND 5-1 in Minneapolis during the quarterfinals of the women's college hockey playoffs.

The tournament's program did not carry a photo of the UND team, because the women were wearing Fighting Sioux jerseys when it was taken. The team took the ice wearing jerseys without the nickname or logo, with an interlocking "ND" featured instead.

Published March 15, 2012, 11:30 PM

North Dakota Supreme Court grills attorneys in Sioux nickname case

By **Chuck Haga Forum Communications Co.**, INFORUM

To view the original article, please visit: http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/354287/publisher_ID/1/

BISMARCK – After an hour of sometimes intricate legal questioning Thursday, the North Dakota Supreme Court took hold of the long-running and much-contested case of the University of North Dakota's Fighting Sioux nickname.

An immediate ruling by the court is not expected but could come within the next week or two.

The five justices grilled all the parties in the case, especially on whether the court should exercise its original jurisdiction to judge the constitutionality of the law adopted by the 2011 Legislature directing UND to keep the nickname despite NCAA opposition and sanctions.

That law was repealed in November but reinstated when petitions were filed last month to refer the repeal to a statewide vote in June.

The state Board of Higher Education, which seeks to have UND drop the nickname to comply with an NCAA policy and avoid sanctions, has asked the court to declare the nickname law unconstitutional and the referendum on its repeal moot. The Legislature and nickname supporters at the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation are resisting those efforts.

The justices also sought guidance Thursday on whether Secretary of State Al Jaeger should be directed to remove the referred measure from the June primary election ballot. Jaeger certified the referral petitions earlier this week and began preparing ballot language.

The referral would upend the Legislature's repeal of the nickname law it adopted just months earlier. After a visit to NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis in August, lawmakers and other state leaders were persuaded that the nickname law would lead the NCAA to sanction UND.

The arguments

But the primary issue before the court "is not whether UND's nickname should continue" to be the Fighting Sioux, Douglas Bahr, an assistant attorney general, argued on behalf of the state board. Rather, the central question is whether the Legislature intruded on the board's constitutional authority to control and administer the institutions it governs.

By their questions, the justices came at that issue from both sides.

"I wonder," Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle asked an attorney representing the Legislature, "if there's another legislature in the country that has picked the nickname" of a school's athletic teams.

Justice Dale Sandstrom asked whether the Legislature admits any limits on its authority to legislate regarding the institutions of higher education. "Can they decide what combination of colors are used on uniforms, or who the teams are going to play?"

Reed Soderstrom, attorney for the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe's pro-nickname Committee for Understanding and Respect, told the justices that the issue goes beyond that and is "a religious issue" relating to sacred Sioux ceremonies involved in the tribes' giving the right to use the name to UND.

Justice Carol Ronning Kapsner asked whether there exists "any competent admissible evidence" relating to the 1969 ceremony at UND that nickname supporters cite as a foundation for the university's right to use the name. Soderstrom and others have pointed to a brief reference in a contemporary newspaper account, but more importantly, they say, to oral tradition.

Soderstrom said after the hearing that he couldn't tell whether the justices had been persuaded one way or another.

"I can't read these guys," he said. "I can't tell how they'll rule."

Why now?

Backstrom asked why the constitutional question has to be decided at this point, or why it couldn't wait until the people vote in June, when the referendum might fail and the constitutional issue becomes moot?

"This law is in effect today," Bahr said. "This law is infringing on the authority of the board today."

Justice Daniel Crothers raised the same point. The parties were gathered at the court because of a controversy, but "might not that controversy go away" if voters uphold the repeal?

Bahr responded that "every day this controversy exists," the board and UND are harmed.

Justice Mary Muehlen Maring asked Bahr why the matter shouldn't be handled first in a district court.

Bahr said that could take "months and months," adding to the harm caused to the board's constitutional position and UND's efforts to sustain its athletic programs.

In response to another question regarding evidence of that harm, Bahr cited testimony offered by UND officials and students as the nickname law and later the repeal bill were being considered. That testimony related to the potential impact of NCAA sanctions on recruiting, scheduling and the viability of UND athletic programs.

Justices also raised questions about how the Legislature's involvement in the UND nickname issue may differ from previous legislative acts changing the name of one of the institutions under the board.

Tribal supporters

Sitting in on the hearing, Eunice Davidson, a leader of the pro-nickname Committee for Understanding and Respect at Spirit Lake, said she heard “some good arguments on both sides,” but “I hope the Supreme Court will let us go ahead and have a vote.”

She said she believes a strong showing of support for the nickname, including at the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, “still could make a difference” in persuading the NCAA to relax sanctions against UND.

“What are they going to say? That it’s too late? Do you know how people would feel about that?” she said.

Archie Fool Bear, a nickname supporter from Standing Rock, also sat in on the hearing.

“If I were a justice, I would let the people have their say,” he said afterward. “I would let the people vote.

“I’m no attorney, but it’s my feeling after listening to this that the court is going to let the people have their say.”

Published March 14, 2012, 09:17 AM

Lake Region president gets new job in Ohio

By: **Kevin Bonham**, Grand Forks Herald

Mike Bower to take over Owens Community College in July
Bower, 62, has been Lake Region president since 2008. The Ohio native said he and his wife, Carol, had applied for the job because they want to relocate closer to their family.

To view the original article, please visit: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/232070/>

Mike Bower, president of Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, has been named president of Owens Community College in the Toledo, Ohio, suburban community of Perrysburg Township.

The Owens board of trustees unanimously approved the appointment Wednesday. He will start the job July 1.

"I am pleased to announce and proud to welcome Dr. Mike Bower as the new president of Owens Community College," Dee Talmage, chair of the Owens Community College board of trustees, said in a news release. "Dr. Bower is highly respected among the higher education community nationwide and brings to Owens Community College and the Northwest Ohio region a strong background and extensive experience as an academic leader. Most of all, he leads with his core value of how can we best benefit the students. He is the right person to lead this academic institution and build on the college's longstanding commitment to serving our students and the surrounding communities through excellence, innovation and collaboration."

Bower, 62, has been Lake Region president since 2008. The Ohio native said he and his wife, Carol, had applied for the job because they want to relocate closer to their family.

Their son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren live in northern Indiana, about four hours from Toledo.

"These are always tough decisions," he said. "It's because of family. It has nothing to do with the college here. The Devils Lake community has been just wonderful."

Bower came to Lake Region from Mott Community College in Flint, Mich., where he served as executive dean for continuing education at that multi-campus college with more than 10,000 students.

Owens has 16,161 students, amounting to about 9, 100 full-time equivalents, at its Toledo-area main campus in Perrysburg, and 2,800, or 1, 840 full-time equivalents, at its Findlay, Ohio, campus.

A record 2,021 students are enrolled at Lake Region this semester. That's up from 1,851 in the spring of 2011 and 1,695 in 2010.

Bower said he is proud of the collaboration that has developed between Lake Region and other institutions in the state, including partnerships with UND, North Dakota State University, Mayville State University and Minot State University.

"I've seen it here, throughout the higher education system in North Dakota," he said. "That's what we're here for, working as a team, for the students."

Published March 14, 2012, 11:30 PM

Forum editorial: Higher ed board hires new chancellor

To view the original article, please visit: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/354146>

At first glance, Hamid Shirvani looks to be a good fit for North Dakota

It's far too early to conclude that the new chancellor of the North Dakota University System will have a successful run. But it is safe to assume that Hamid "Ham" Shirvani is both qualified to do the job and has the confidence of the state Board of Higher Education. Board members hired him this week. He will go to work in July. Chancellor Bill Goetz retires in August.

Shirvani's latest stop in an impressive career in higher education is California State University – Stanislaus, where he is president. Some North Dakota eyebrows might be raised because the new chancellor is coming from California. But Stanislaus is not the California of Hollywood or Berkeley. It's in rural California in the heart of one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world, the Central Valley. The university's home, Turlock, has a population of about 68,000, including the 12,000-plus at the school.

The board conducted an extensive nationwide search for a new chancellor, eventually winnowing the pool to four. All brought strengths to their candidacies, but a majority of the board found Shirvani uniquely qualified to take on the considerable challenges of the system in North Dakota. Board members said that in addition to his administrative skills and educational pedigree, Shirvani's personality looks to be a good fit for North Dakota.

Several challenges will face the new chancellor, not the least of which will be reviewing and likely changing policies and practices that might have led to granting unearned degrees at Dickinson State University, and a somewhat overblown controversy over funding construction of a new president's house at North Dakota State University. Shirvani was aware of those issues during the board's interview process, and seemed to embrace change when change is warranted.

Also, Shirvani's experience in the California system certainly prepares him for whatever funding challenges confront the North Dakota system. Unlike North Dakota, California has been in a financial crisis for several years, and state universities have taken severe hits to their budgets. Shirvani will have to deal with a Legislature that sometimes doesn't understand the long-term value of higher education investments, but he will not be facing overall state budget shortfalls.

Again, it's too soon to know if Shirvani will be all the higher ed board expects him to be. But he seems to have the abilities, experience and persona to continue the system's march toward excellence.

Published March 14, 2012, 11:30 PM

Oregon deals with own school nickname issue

By: **Chuck Haga, Forum Communications Co., INFORUM**

To view the original article, please visit: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/354185/>

BISMARCK — The emotional issue before a state education board last week was the use of an American Indian name and logo for a school's athletic teams.

Some, including American Indians, fervently support the tradition. Others, including American Indians, just as passionately oppose it.

No, not here. This was in Oregon, where Scapoose High School athletes are known as the Indians and their logo is a fiercely determined American Indian in full headdress. That image may be banned, along with more than a dozen others in Oregon, within a few weeks.

As attorneys gather at the North Dakota Supreme Court today for another showdown over UND's Fighting Sioux nickname, it may seem to people weary of the drawn-out struggle that the last bitter fight over American Indian iconography in sport is happening here on the northern Great Plains.

But people in Oregon are debating a proposed ban on all Indian-based names and symbols by high schools, 15 of which have ignored a 2007 state recommendation that all should go.

Some of the dialogue there, including talk of honor and honoring, of acts hostile and abusive, would ring familiar to people involved in the North Dakota dispute.

"We live off honor and respect," Che Butler, a member of the Siletz tribe of western Oregon, told the state's Board of Education last week, The Associated Press reported. "We're taught to respect all human beings and things on Earth, and live in harmony with them. That's all I ask of this board and this state. Show us the respect, us Native people."

But just as in North Dakota, where opinion among Indians is divided, Butler's testimony was countered by other Indians, including Jeff Williams, also a member of the Siletz tribe. His argument, that the nicknames, logos and even mascots provide tribes with valuable visibility, would draw appreciative nods from some at North Dakota's Spirit Lake and Standing Rock Sioux reservations, but negative shakes of the head from others.

"You want to get rid of the Native American mascots, you're saying Natives are a shameful part of American history," Williams told the board.

'Harmful effects'

Since 2005, when the American Psychological Association cited dozens of scholarly studies on the alleged harmful effects of such usages and called for an end to them, hundreds of high schools and scores of colleges have dropped Indian-based names, mascots and logos.

Wisconsin, where Indian nicknames and logos were widespread, outlawed them in 2010 after years of protests and campaigns.

At the collegiate level, the APA resolution was a major influence in the NCAA's adoption of its policy against the use of Indian names and imagery. UND is the last listed school to resist, its resistance compelled now by legislative and legal action.

The issue before the Supreme Court today is whether a state law adopted last year requiring UND to keep the Fighting Sioux nickname is constitutional and whether a referendum on the name should be placed on the June primary election ballot.

Tradition, honor

In Oregon, the state Board of Education heard testimony March 8 from several people who argued that continued use of such names and imagery "is insensitive and creates a potentially harmful environment" for Indian people, the AP reported.

But others noted that the names and mascots are venerable community traditions meant to honor Indian culture.

John Lindsey, a county commissioner, defended the Lebanon (Ore.) High School Warriors' mascot, an Indian on horseback. It represents "a proud heritage," he said. "It is an honor to be named something like that."

Andrae Brown, a psychologist and professor at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore., challenged that, testifying that intentions don't matter. Race-based mascots, often based on inaccurate stereotypes, are racist, he said.

In an email summary of his testimony, Brown said the APA recognizes that the continued use of American Indian mascots and images "undermines the educational experiences of members of all communities" and often establishes a hostile environment for American Indian students.

The use of such names and imagery by school systems "in particular appears to have a negative impact on the self-esteem of American Indian children," he said. It also "undermines the ability of American Indian nations to portray accurate and respectful images of their culture, spirituality and traditions."

He said he understands the passions involved but suggested they were misplaced. "We do not want to let go of something that was never ours to begin with."

Administrators at Scappoose High said they hoped the board could reach a compromise that respected both tradition and cultural sensitivity.

Butler, the Siletz Indian who testified for a ban, had gone to the board with the same message in 2006, according to an account distributed last week by the Portland Tribune.

“Butler said he took on the cause after his younger brother Buddha witnessed an upsetting halftime display at a Molalla (Ore.) Indians game featuring a Native American child with a target on his chest,” according to the report.

That hearing led to the 2007 advisory that schools still with Indian-based names should change. None did, however.

Kept in the past?

But several members of the state board — including Chairwoman Brenda Frank, a member of the Klamath tribe — are ready for a ban.

“There needs to be a ban,” she said in a telephone interview this week.

Frank recalled a push to get rid of race-based nicknames in Oregon in the mid-1970s, and about half of the 40 or so did drop them. But the remaining schools have hung on.

“To move closer to ‘I’m the same as you,’ we need to remove this rock from the path so the path will become smoother,” she said. “We may live differently and we may have different traditions, but I believe in racial equality, and we need to remove as much stereotyping as we can.

“I understand honoring. I understand all their words. But why is it so important for them to keep us in the past? Why can’t they see us as doctors, attorneys, engineers, artists or ballerinas?”

Frank said she expects the board to post a proposed rule later this month, schedule a public hearing in April and be ready to adopt a ban as early as May.

“I’m confident the board will do the right thing,” she said.

March 14, 2012

Taylor selects Ellen Chaffee as his running mate

Associated Press, BismarckTribune.com

To view the original article, please visit: http://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/taylor-selects-ellen-chaffee-as-his-running-mate/article_fde0a890-6df6-11e1-beac-0019bb2963f4.html?mode=story

North Dakota Democratic governor candidate Ryan Taylor has chosen former Valley City State President Ellen Chaffee as his running mate.

Taylor and former first lady Jane Sinner announced the selection on Wednesday in Fargo.

The 67-year-old Chaffee retired from Valley City State in 2007, after serving as the school's president for 15 years.

North Dakota Democrats are holding their convention this weekend in Grand Forks. Delegates historically have picked their favored lieutenant governor candidate at the state party's convention. Taylor has said that he wanted to choose his own running mate before the convention begins.

The Democrats will be opposing incumbent Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple and Lt. Gov. Drew Wrigley.

Dalrymple has been governor since December 2010, when former Gov. John Hoeven resigned to go to the U.S. Senate.

March 14, 2012

Plan is like a statewide conversation

by **Miles Trump** • Daily News milest@wahpetondailynews.com

To view the original article, please visit: http://www.wahpetondailynews.com/news/article_069696a4-6de6-11e1-9c48-001871e3ce6c.html

Andy Peterson, president and CEO of the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce, talks about some of the ideas gathered from the 2020 & Beyond meeting which took place in Wahpeton Tuesday

A group of local residents, business leaders, government officials and professionals gathered Tuesday in Wahpeton to provide ideas to leaders of "North Dakota 2020 & Beyond," a 20-year development plan initiative for the state.

2020 & Beyond was recently launched by Gov. Jack Dalrymple and the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce. Public meetings are being held throughout the state for project leaders to gather input on opportunities and challenges that will be addressed in the plan.

"We're looking for things that are on their mind," said Roger Reiersen, who facilitated Tuesday's meeting, "things that they feel either need to be changed, or things that they feel North Dakota should be doing to ensure a bright future for the people of North Dakota."

More than 40 people packed into the conference room at the Wahpeton Breckenridge Area Chamber of Commerce in Wahpeton to discuss development ideas and provide input to project leaders on how to make the state a better place to live.

The initiative is a "statewide conversation" to build on the successes of the state's current strategic plan and advance North Dakota's opportunities into the future, Reiersen said. 2020 & Beyond is "a vision for the future," he said.

After a presentation on the plan and the state by project leaders, those in attendance filled out sticky notes with ideas for regional and statewide development, and project organizers stuck them on the walls along three corners of the room, each representing one of the three discussion themes: people, places and opportunities.

"It was a good brainstorming session that let you think out of the box," said Ron Rowland, executive vice president of the Wahpeton Breckenridge Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I didn't hear a single bad idea" Rowland said. "I really didn't. There's some that are going to require more work than others, some were a bit more ambitious than others, but that's what you need. You need big thoughts and you need big ideas."

People submitted tons of local and statewide ideas, ranging anywhere from offering tax incentives that draw people into North Dakota to broadening mass transit; from creating a think-tank for business development to marketing and promoting the state.

Locally, several ideas included tax incentives for retail spaces, growing enrollment at North Dakota State College of Science to 10,000 students and keeping NDSCS graduates in Wahpeton.

Establishing more affordable housing also appears to be a common theme for the area, Andy Peterson, president and CEO of the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce, told the group as he read aloud some of the ideas.

Peterson said he was impressed with people who came to the input meeting.

"...they're invested in their community, they're invested in the region and they're invested in the future of the state," he said, "so that's an exciting thing when you come to a smaller community, to see people buy in."

Before the meeting ended, participants were asked to narrow down the three most important ideas they heard throughout the session.

After ideas are compiled from each of the meetings, a steering committee will provide a report on the plan to Dalrymple and the Legislature this fall, outlining its recommendations. Several legislative initiatives are expected to result from the report.

A steering committee and an advisory committee with business leaders from the state's eight regions are leading the project. Thomas Shorma, member of the advisory committee for District 5, which includes Wahpeton and Fargo, and steering committee members Bill Marcil Jr. and Kathy Neset attended the meeting Tuesday.

More input meetings will be held throughout the state until March 27. An update on the project will be given at an April 3 meeting in Minot.

Ideas from Wahpeton's input meeting will be posted on the 2020 & Beyond website, www.nd2020andbeyond.com. Reiersen said people can comment on and "like" each of the ideas, and can add more ideas on the website.

March 13, 2012

Shirvani hired as new North Dakota university chancellor

Associated Press, Bismarck Tribune



Hamid Shirvani

To view the original article, please visit:

http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/shirvani-hired-as-new-north-dakota-university-chancellor/article_d3f5ca52-6d5a-11e1-b843-001871e3ce6c.html

Dale Wetzel photo

BISMARCK, N.D. — Hamid Shirvani, president of a state university in central California, was named Tuesday as the new chancellor of North Dakota's university system, where he will be the top administrator of 11 public colleges.

North Dakota's Board of Higher Education voted 5-3 to hire Shirvani late Tuesday after board members interviewed four finalists for the job. The three dissenters favored Marshall Hill, a Nebraska higher education administrator.

Grant Shaft, the board's president, said Shirvani and Hill presented "two fairly stark choices" to the board.

Shirvani, 61, who is an architect by training, is viewed as a strong leader, a potential "rock star and a visionary" who will be willing to shake up North Dakota's university system, Shaft said. Hill was considered a more conventional option, the board's president said.

North Dakota officials said Shirvani undertook some difficult budget decisions in California that prompted a faculty vote of no confidence about his leadership.

Shirvani, in an interview, said he "wouldn't consider myself a maverick."

"I want to do the right things, and I'm going to do it as consultatively as possible and as humanely as possible, but change is not something that is comfortable to a lot of people," he said. "In order to improve a system, in order to move forward, there has to be some changes made."

Robert Vallie, the Board of Higher Education's student member, opposed the hiring, saying he feared Shirvani would be viewed as a polarizing figure.

"Certainly Shirvani has the ability to come in, shake things up," Vallie said. He described Hill as "an individual who, in his own unique way, brings enthusiasm, brings passion into higher education."

Shirvani's pay and the length of his contract will be negotiated later. He will be paid between \$340,000 and \$350,000 annually, Shaft said.

The larger figure is the top of the job's advertised salary range, and Shirvani will be paid more than Robert Kelley, the president of the University of North Dakota and the system's highest-paid campus

administrator, Shaft said. Kelley's salary is now \$330,158 annually, and it is likely to be raised to about \$340,000 on July 1, Shaft said.

Shirvani will succeed William Goetz, who is retiring in August. The North Dakota university system has six four-year and five two-year colleges, an operating budget of \$1.2 billion for two years, and about 49,000 students.

Shirvani, Hill, state Sen. Tim Flakoll, R-Fargo, and Warren Wray, an interim chancellor of the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, were the finalists for the position. After finishing their interviews late Tuesday, board members voted to drop Flakoll and Wray as candidates.

Shirvani is coming into a system that has been roiled by a long-running controversy about the University of North Dakota's Fighting Sioux nickname and efforts by its supporters to make sure it is kept despite the NCAA's belief that it is offensive to American Indians.

Shirvani also must grapple with the aftermath of a degree-awarding scandal at Dickinson State University. A recent audit showed almost 600 Chinese students at the university were awarded four-year degrees without completing the required course work.

Shirvani is an Iranian by birth and an American citizen whose family left Iran when he was a youngster to escape religious persecution. He described himself as a devout Roman Catholic and said he prefers to be called Ham, rather than Hamid.

He holds a master's degree from Harvard and a doctorate from Princeton. He has been a teacher or administrator at universities in Pennsylvania, New York, Kentucky, Colorado, Massachusetts and California.

Since 2005, he has been president of California State University, Stanislaus, which is located in Turlock, Calif., in California's Central Valley. The school has almost 9,300 students.

He said he did not foresee any problems with adapting to a rural, sparsely populated state, saying his current job was in a rural area of California and that Bismarck had a more impressive airport than Turlock.

"People say California. I'm not coming from San Francisco. I am not a Beverly Hills person," he said. "Most of my board members never (wear) ties ... and they drive pickup trucks, and in fact, I will be driving a truck too."

Board member Mike Haugen said he was impressed that Shirvani, in his interview, emphasized that "students come first, students come second, students come third."

"Too many times, we're talking about, how is the Legislature going to feel about this, or how are the university presidents?" Haugen said. "It's the students that we need to think about."

Published March 13, 2012, 07:34 PM

North Dakota finds new chancellor at California school

By: **Teri Finneman**, INFORUM

Shirvani to succeed Goetz as state's top higher education official July 1

BISMARCK – The state Board of Higher Education has hired a chancellor they believe can bring change to the system.

To view the original article, please visit: http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/354045/publisher_ID/1/

BISMARCK – The state Board of Higher Education has hired a chancellor they believe can bring change to the system.

The board voted 5-3 Tuesday to choose Hamid “Ham” Shirvani, president of California State University-Stanislaus, as the next leader of the state’s university system.

He expects to officially begin July 1 but said he plans to make trips to North Dakota before then to begin preparing for his new role.

Board Vice President Duaine Espgaard of Grand Forks said he was impressed with Shirvani’s commitment to students, his confidence and his personality.

President Grant Shaft of Grand Forks said they need a chancellor who can engage legislators, who has vision and “who is going to shake the system up a bit.” Shaft was impressed with Shirvani’s rapport with stakeholders throughout the interview process.

“He is the one person who you almost can never get out of a room because everybody flocks to that guy, and I see staff nodding their heads,” Shaft said. “Whoever he sits with, they get so drawn into this fellow, and there’s something about him.”

Shirvani, 61, has degrees from Princeton and Harvard and has worked for five university systems, according to his job application. He was selected President of the Year twice by the California State Student Association.

Shirvani said he’s grateful for the opportunity and looks forward to moving to North Dakota. As an architect, he said he considers himself someone who puts together a vision and the structure necessary to achieve it.

“Change is not something that is comfortable to a lot of people,” he said. “In order to improve a system, in order to move forward, there has to be some changes made.”

Shirvani also wants to review the system’s policies and procedures. Many issues, including granting unwarranted degrees and other issues at Dickinson State University, would not have arisen were the right people, policies and procedures in place, he said.

Some board members had concerns about Shirvani's background, including a vote of no confidence from faculty in California. In his application, Shirvani said the vote of no confidence was related in part to state mandated budget cuts.

Shirvani said he comes from a rural area of California and believes North Dakotans will realize he's not different from them once they get to know him. He will move to Bismarck with his wife Fatemeh, a physical therapist.

Shaft said he will negotiate a salary with Shirvani in the range of \$340,000 to \$350,000, which Shaft said is in line with what other chancellors in the region are paid.

Sen. Tim Flakoll, R-Fargo, provost of the Tri-College University of Fargo-Moorhead, was also a finalist for the position. Board members expressed concern about Flakoll's lack of a doctorate, though a few thought he should have been considered in the top two.

Shirvani will replace Chancellor Bill Goetz, who retires in August

March 13, 2012

Signatures OK; Jaeger orders vote on UND nickname

Associated Press, BismarckTribune.com

Secretary of State Al Jaeger on Tuesday ordered a statewide vote on a law that requires the University of North Dakota to keep its Fighting Sioux athletics nickname and an American Indian sports logo.

Jaeger's decision came two days before the North Dakota Supreme Court will consider arguments that the vote should be stopped because the pro-nickname law allegedly violates the state constitution.

The referendum will be listed as Measure 4 on the June 12 primary election ballot if the vote is allowed to go ahead, Jaeger said.

The Board of Higher Education, which wants to retire the nickname and logo, is suing Jaeger in an attempt to forestall the ballot.

The North Dakota Constitution gives the board expansive powers to manage the state's 11 public colleges, and board members argue the pro-nickname law is itself illegal.

Nickname supporters needed petition signatures from at least 13,452 North Dakota voters to force a vote on the law. They turned in 16,824 names. On Tuesday, Jaeger said 14,901 signatures had been judged valid, or 1,449 more than required.

Most of the disqualified signatures had incomplete, illegible or out-of-state addresses, or the petitions were improperly notarized, Jaeger said. Seven people signed the petition more than once, and one signer was younger than the 18 minimum voting age.

The Supreme Court has been asked to intervene directly in the nickname dispute, without first assigning the lawsuit to a district court for scrutiny. The court is hearing arguments from attorneys at 3 p.m. Thursday.

In court filings, Jaeger contends he has no authority to keep the measure off the ballot if the petitions are sufficient. Nickname backers and the North Dakota Legislature, who have intervened in the lawsuit, argue the pro-nickname law is constitutional and that voters should decide whether it survives.

The Fighting Sioux measure, should it make the ballot, will be listed after three constitutional amendments.

Measure 1 would make it easier for North Dakota lawmakers to accept appointments in state government. Measure 2 would abolish property taxes, and Measure 3 would make it more difficult for state government to regulate religious practices.

Published March 13, 2012, 04:13 PM

Jaeger places Sioux nickname, logo referendum on June 12 ballot

By: **Chuck Haga, Forum Communications Co., INFORUM**

GRAND FORKS – North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger certified Tuesday that there are enough signatures to put the UND Fighting Sioux nickname referendum on the ballot in June.

To view the original article, please visit: http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/354020/publisher_ID/1/

GRAND FORKS – North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger certified Tuesday that there are enough signatures to put the UND Fighting Sioux nickname referendum on the ballot in June.

Tuesday was the final day of the 35-day period allowed his office to review petitions seeking the referendum and validate signatures on them.

Petition circulators, led by the pro-nickname Committee for Understanding and Respect of the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe, submitted petitions bearing 16,824 signatures.

Jaeger's office determined that 14,901 were qualified. Based on the last federal census, the committee needed to collect 13,452.

"Therefore, the referendum will appear on the June 12, 2012, ballot," Jaeger said.

That could change depending on the outcome of a hearing scheduled before the state Supreme Court in Bismarck on Thursday.

The State Board of Higher Education, which seeks to drop UND's Fighting Sioux nickname and logo, has asked the court to declare unconstitutional a 2011 law requiring UND to keep the name.

The board also asks the court to order the nickname law referendum off the June primary election ballot.

The law was repealed in November, but the nickname supporters' filing of petitions to "repeal the repeal" through a referendum had the effect of reinstating the requirement.

The Legislature and the Committee for Understanding and Respect have joined in the case before the Supreme Court to dispute the board's contention that the law is an unconstitutional intrusion into the board's authority.

Each party has retained lawyers and submitted a written brief supporting its position and prepared oral arguments for Thursday's hearing.

In a statement released by his office Tuesday, Jaeger said that 1,923 signatures on the referral petitions were rejected for various reasons, including inadequate signatures, out-of-state addresses and problems

with the petition form. More than 600 signatures were disqualified because the petition circulator did not provide a complete address.

Seven people signed more than once, according to Jaeger's statement.

Published March 13, 2012, 11:30 PM

Forum editorial: Historic day at ND high court

To view the original article, please visit: http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/354035/publisher_ID/1/

Thursday will be a history-making day in North Dakota. Arguments regarding the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux logo and nickname will be aired before the state Supreme Court in Bismarck. The justices will listen to several permutations of the basic argument that goes to the heart of the constitutional relationship between the state Board of Higher Education and the Legislature.

In other words, the question of whether UND should relegate the logo to history is entangled in a thicket of litigation that involves not only the higher ed board and the Legislature but also the secretary of state and various notions of how or if the state's sovereign Sioux tribes have a say in the matter.

If the court's time restrictions stand for Thursday's session, the arguments will be over in about one hour. It will be the unenviable task of the several attorneys in the room to make succinct and cogent arguments about a matter that has become convoluted by emotion and enmeshed in a legislative mistake of historic proportions. Good luck to them.

More to the point: Our sympathies to the justices. They often deal with complex and emotional cases, but this one has taken on an unnatural life. And why? Primarily because of the obtuseness of a legislative majority led by House Majority Leader Al Carlson, R-Fargo, whose conduct in the logo debate ought to disqualify him from leadership, and likely even from re-election to the North Dakota House. Arguably, he is single-handedly responsible for leading his lemming-like caucus into a miasma of litigation and recrimination that has put the university at risk and embarrassed a state that only recently emerged on the national stage as an economic powerhouse, educational leader and rising collegiate sports star.

The court has to cut through all the tangential currents swirling around the logo. The core of the issue is whether the constitutionally mandated higher ed board has the power to do what the state constitution says the board is supposed to do. The question is whether a legislative leader who seems quite willing to undermine the state constitution will be granted more power to pursue a campaign to politicize and micromanage the state's colleges and universities.

Of course, the justices can split legal hairs and cite obscure nuances in order to come up with a decision that makes everyone just a little unhappy but solves little or nothing. Or the court can be bold and come down with an unambiguous order – one way or another – that, at least, puts the legal tussle to rest.

**** Articles are arranged in chronological order from newest to oldest.**