Student Affairs Council Minutes  
September 25, 2008  
Bismarck State College

Members Present
Mike Hillman, NDUS      Glen Schmalz, VCSU
Janna Stoskopf, NDSU    Donna Fishbeck, BSC
Hal Haynes, DSU         Laurel Goulding, LRSC
Ray Gerszewski, MaSU    Bob Boyd, UND
Dick Jenkins, MiSU      Georgia Pullen, NDSCS (via telephone)
Paula Berg, MiSU-BC (via telephone)

Others Present
Deanna Dailey, NDUS

Mike Hillman called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Additions to the agenda are as follows:
- SAC Workshop
- House Resolution 2352 (Immediate Notify Issue)
- Criminal History – International Students
- Sharon Parks visiting UND
- Funding for hearing impaired students (potential legislation)

There were no corrections or additions to the draft minutes from the July 15, 2008, Student Affairs Council Retreat. The minutes were, by consensus, approved as presented.

Updates:
Academic Affairs Council – AAC met via conference call on September 2, 2008. All academic requests considered at this meeting were approved and subsequently taken before the Chancellor’s Cabinet and the SBHE.

Chancellor’s Cabinet – The cabinet met on September 3, 2008, at Bismarck State College. All academic requests were recommended by the cabinet for final consideration by the SBHE. The cabinet discussed the NDUS workplan for the upcoming year, as well as expectations for the 2009 Legislative Session.

State Board of Higher Education – The SBHE met at Valley City State University on September 17 and 18, 2008. On Wednesday (September 17, 2008) afternoon, the SBHE was updated on the current finance plan. Hillman told the SAC that the SBHE will begin meeting on the Wednesday afternoon prior to the regularly-scheduled meetings to discuss policy issues that require no action. This meeting is also considered a public meeting and appropriate notification is made. Hillman said the board also discussed the potential impact of Measures 1 and 2 on the higher education system in North Dakota, should those measures pass. However, board members agreed to wait until more information was officially released before considering a formal position on the matter. Hillman summarized the measures as follows: One would
dedicate 90% of the revenues from the Oil Trust Fund and place them in a “lock box,” and the other would dedicate these revenues in the state general fund to a 50 percent reduction in income taxes. Hillman said there may be special board meeting to determine a position on the issues and how to get that message out to the public. The board also discussed the Higher Education Interim Committee meeting and the finance plan proposed by Dennis Jones. There was some concern that this plan may be adopted by the Legislature without an understanding of the full impact on the system’s budget. Hillman clarified that any future changes to the NDUS finance plan, if approved, would not affect the budget request that has already been submitted for the 2009-11 biennium.

The next SBHE meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2008, at Williston State College.

**Interim Higher Education Committee** – Hillman distributed materials from the September meeting of the Interim Higher Education Committee, along with his summary of the meeting. At this meeting, it was agreed that the Roundtable will reconvene on October 8, 2008. The meeting notice and new Roundtable membership information was sent to the SAC recently. The Interim Higher Education committee will be having its final meeting on October 9-10, 2008, at which time they will be making their final recommendations. Hillman suggested that every institution have representation at both the Roundtable and the Interim Higher Education Committee meetings.

Boyd asked about the joint interim committee meeting (Workforce Committee, Higher Education Committee, and Education Committee) which took place on June 24, 2008. The minutes from this meeting were distributed with the SAC agenda materials. There was some concern expressed regarding the setting of admission standards for community colleges by the joint committee. Hillman said he believes this is a constitutional issue and therefore, could not be accomplished without approval from the voters.

Goulding said she attended the May 21-22, 2008, Interim Higher Education Committee meeting which was held at the School for the Deaf in Devils Lake. In response to a request from Senator David Oehlke, Goulding prepared a memorandum describing NDUS funding for services for the disabled, which she distributed at the meeting. Senator Oehlke is considering introducing legislation that would provide funding for services provided to students with hearing impairments. This funding would be included in the Department of Public Instruction’s budget, and, if awarded, could free up dollars in the board contingency fund to be used for assistance to students with other special needs.

Hillman said that on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, the Joint Boards met in Bismarck. They passed a resolution to create a P-20 Task Force whose specific task is to recommend an alignment of standards between preparation for college, preparation for work, and preparation for college, although no resources were identified with which to fund this new task force.

**Student Mental Health Services**

Boyd distributed the April 2008 issue of the “Spectrum,” a publication of Aetna Student Health. Boyd expressed his hope that the chancellor continues to focus on mental health issues, as was relayed at the June 4, 2008, cabinet meeting. At this meeting, each president outlined the mental health services available on their campus. Hillman said the WICHE mental health program has submitted a proposal outlining ways they can assist the NDUS with mental health issues. The
proposal has been forwarded to Karin Walton for review; however, Hillman has not had the opportunity to visit with her regarding their proposal. Haynes suggested this as a topic for the 2009 SAC workshop and the council agreed with this idea.

After a discussion regarding the various mental health issues faced by the NDUS institutions, it was agreed that a committee/council/task force be created to review existing services and make recommendations for improvements. At the last SAC meeting, members were asked to be prepared to recommend some individuals to sit on this committee. However, it was agreed that it would be helpful to review the presentations given by their presidents at the June 4, 2008, cabinet meeting, prior to establishing the committee. Dailey will compile this information and distribute it to the SAC as soon as possible. At the October 23, 2008, meeting, the SAC will further discuss the issue of committee meeting and makeup.

Contingency Funds/Disability Services
Boyd referred to an email conversation between Laura Glatt and Deb Glennen regarding the $125,000 line item budget request for services for disabled students. Glatt indicated that this request did not make the final cut in the budget proposal and any funding needed for this purpose will have to come from the board contingency fund, if available. Hillman said Glennen will be drafting a needs-assessment for disability related services and will soon be contacting SAC members for updated information.

There was more discussion regarding the possible legislation proposed by Senator Oelhke for funding of services rendered to students with hearing impairments. It was stressed that the NDUS should still have a contingency fund available for our institutions to draw from to serve students with other types of disabilities. Concerned was also expressed that this legislation may compromise our ability to get our own funding for serving disabled students.

It was agreed that before the system can determine whether it could support Senator Oelhke’s bill, we would need to review the draft legislation to be sure it is in alignment with the NDUS goals. Hillman said a draft of the bill would be distributed to the SAC for review and, if necessary, hold a special meeting determine whether we would recommend board support for this legislation.

Plans for 2009 Professional Development Workshop
Haynes said he and Mr. Long have been working on the preparation of a professional development workshop for April/May 2009 in the western part of the state. They have not yet had a chance to meet, but they are collecting ideas and data from the recent SAC workshop and hope to be able to give a preliminary report at the October SAC meeting.

Announcements of Institutional Professional Development Opportunities
- The UND-hosted Beyond Boundaries conference has been cancelled. The pre-conference session, however, will still be held on October 1, 2009. It is open to everyone and there is no charge. Currently, about 53 people have registered for this event. Members were advised to contact Bob Larson, Director of NDUS Online, if they have any questions.

- The NASPA regional conference is scheduled for November 5-7 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Online registration is available at NASPA.org.
The 3rd Annual Transfer Student Conference will take place at UND on November 3, 2008.

Undocumented Aliens Admission
Discussion took place regarding whether public institutions can enroll undocumented alien students. According to Pat Seaworth, the US Supreme Court has held that it is unconstitutional for a state to deny undocumented aliens the right to a free public school education, but that ruling applies only to K-12 schools and has not been extend to public colleges and universities. Haynes said two of the undocumented alien students currently attending DSU are receiving institutional financial support. Internally, DSU has informally decided not to provide them with any future financial aid; however, they will likely honor the offers made for this year. Haynes said when they formally resolve the matter, he will share their decision with the SAC.

Collaborative Students, Distance Education, and Tuition
Julie Schepp reviewed the Collaborative Student draft procedure and outlined the changes suggested by the Administrative Affairs Council. She explained that the reason for moving to a system procedure is for consistency among campuses in dealing with collaborative student issues.

The new procedure relating to “Distance Learning Courses-Distribution of Revenue” will be put into the appropriate format by Seaworth before being presented to the cabinet at its October 22, 2008, meeting. There was consensus from the SAC to move this procedure forward, with the understanding that it must be re-reviewed after being drafted by Seaworth.

Higher Education Opportunity Act Requirements
Gerszewski asked for clarification regarding the new Higher Education Opportunity Act reporting requirements. IPEDS and other reporting programs will be impacted by this Act by the spring of 2009. Schepp said this is just one example of how important it is to have one common application form in order to collect all of the information from each student for reporting purposes. There was concern expressed from the SAC members regarding the amount of time given to comply with some of these new reporting requirements.

Some of the requirements in the new Higher Education Opportunity Act specify future reporting dates, but some (e.g. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention on p. 63 of the attachment) specify "Beginning on the date of enactment (August 14, 2008), institutions must include in their biennial review..." SAC members question whether this means that "Cleary Act" reports filed in October of 2008 need to include this additional new information. Hillman will ask Seaworth for clarification on this matter and provide the SAC with his response.

Sharon Parks
As part of UND’s 125th celebration, Dr. Sharon Daloz Parks will be discussing the Artistry of Leadership at the North Dakota Museum of Art on November 6, 2008, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. Boyd distributed a list of the IVN rooms that have been reserved for this event, allowing everyone interested to participate.

House Resolution 2352
Boyd announced that the US House of Representatives recently passed a resolution (HR 2352), requiring all campuses receiving federal funds to conduct an annual safety and security assessment.

**Criminal History/International Students**
Discussion took place regarding whether international students should be required to complete the criminal history questionnaire since these questions have been answered by the student when they apply for a student visa. It was the consensus of the SAC that:
1. institutions do not have regular access to F-1 information, therefore it does not duplicate any information they have, but more importantly,
2. as the application process goes, students first fill out an application for admission, then the institution issues an I-20, and finally, the student uses the I-20 as the basis to fill out the F-1. In other words, information on the application, including criminal history, is needed before an F-1 is completed.

Hillman will share the SAC’s position on the matter with Seaworth.

**Future Meetings**
There was some discussion regarding proposed SAC meeting dates for calendar year 2009. The council agreed that during the legislative session (January through March 2009), it would be more convenient to meet via conference call. Boyd suggested the SAC’s 2009 planning session be held the day before or the day after the workshop in May. Haynes said the NASPA national conference is being held in March of 2009 and this may be the only event that would significantly impact everyone’s schedules. Hillman said he would bring some proposed dates for consideration at the next SAC meeting.

**Other**
The SAC discussed the NDUS common application, which is not being used by all campuses at this time. Realizing the need for individuality on each campus, Schepp said it would be most helpful if there is at least one page of the ‘common application’ that all would utilize so that all the information needed for reporting purposes would be collected. The Academic Affairs Council recommended that a representative from the Academic Affairs Council, SAC, registrars, graduate, and continuing education groups form a group to develop a new common application and see that it gets used appropriately. Paula Berg volunteered to rep the SAC on this committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.