State Board of Higher Education  
Academic Committee

The State Board of Higher Education Academic Committee met on Thursday, January 17, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. CT, in Room 433, National Energy Center of Excellence, Bismarck State College, Bismarck, ND.

Committee members present:
  Dr. Kirsten Diederich, Chair  
  Ms. Janice Hoffarth  
  Mr. Sydney Hull  
  Dr. Douglas Munski  
  Ms. Kari Reichert  
  Mr. Grant Shaft  

Staff present:  
  Dr. Hamid Shirvani, Chancellor  
  Dr. John Haller, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
  Ms. Aimee Copas, Academic Affairs Associate  
  Mr. Noah Brisbin, Special Assistant

It was moved by Hull, seconded by Munski, to approve the November 15, 2012, meeting minutes. Hoffarth, Hull, Munski, Reichert, Shaft, and Diederich voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

System vision and goals

Chairwoman Diederich stated that she believed the Academic Committee’s next task should be to improve the academic excellence of NDUS institutions. Chancellor Shirvani stated that based on the Board’s discussion from the January 7 dinner, he and the NDUS office developed a rhetoric-free, pragmatic five-point vision for all the colleges and universities in the system. The vision Chancellor Shirvani explained would lead NDUS to become a premier system of higher education, offering measurable quality education promoting student success and the economic and social development of North Dakota while being mindful of cost.

Chancellor Shirvani explained that the NDUS’s goals for 2020 stemmed from an op-ed column by Mr. Espegard. The goals include higher quality education as measured by learning assessments; improved graduation and retention rates; better resources to serve student needs, and access and quality of service for those needs; and better oversight, transparency, oversight, and accountability.

The chancellor added that quantifiable goals, such as increasing graduation and retention rates by fifteen percent at research universities, are clearly articulated and reasonable. Other goals include 10 percent increases in graduation and retention rates at four-year universities, and 10-place improvements for research universities in NSF research expenditure rankings. New resources would include advisors and better services in scheduling, degree audit, and student services.
Nationally tested models of student learning would assess the efficacy of NDUS schools and the achievement of their students.

Mr. Shaft asked how a student learning assessment would be administered. Chancellor Shirvani replied that they are subjective tests given to freshmen and seniors. Students’ graduation requirements do not hinge on their assessment performance, but they are given as part of their college experience. Chairwoman Diederich added that Concordia College has used the Collegiate Learning Assessment and shared results with faculty and administration, who have found the information very helpful.

Other objectives for NDUS schools, Chancellor Shirvani added, would include the formation of corporate partnerships. Mr. Morton lamented the intellectual property issues that set back this kind of cooperation for three years.

While setting these goals, Chancellor Shirvani noted that there are no prescriptions for campuses; instead; they have $27 million additional funding to implement toward achieving the goals.

Finally, Chancellor Shirvani cited the struggle to build a full staff in the NDUS office. Work is needed, for example, on Board policies, in human resources, and to create an institutional research template.

Ms. Reichert suggested that, if possible, the NDUS administration develop clear metrics for goals other than rates and rankings to further clarify the NDUS’s vision for the system.

**Board Policy Manual Revision**

402.9 Admission Policies – New International Students

Chairwoman Diederich reviewed revised Policy 402.9 for the Committee, citing that it considers international applicants’ academic records by requiring credential evaluation by approved organizations, language proficiency, and documentation. It also prohibits the use of commission-based recruiting, which Dr. Munski praised.

**It was moved** by Munski, seconded by Hull, to recommend approval of revised Policy 402.9. Hull, Munski, Reichert, Shaft, Hoffarth, and Diederich voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

**Academic Requests**

- BSC Program Terminations:
  - D.P. in Graphic Design and Communication
  - D.P. in Information Processing Specialist
  - D.P. in Lineworker, Electrical

Dr. Haller clarified that diploma programs are rarely chosen by students, given the alternatives of certificate and associate’s degree programs.
It was moved by Hull, seconded by Munski, to recommend approval of the BSC program terminations for D.P.s in Graphic Design and Communication, Information Processing Specialist, and Lineworker—Electrical. Munski, Reichert, Shaft, Hoffarth, Hull, and Diederich voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- NDSU
  - Institutional Organizational Change: Center for Professional Selling and Sales Technology

Chairwoman Diederich described the rationale for this center’s creation as a method to develop student competency in sales, assist student placement, address student needs, and create opportunities for students to gain experience. She also praised the center’s mission, reading it to the Committee.

Dr. Haller added that documentation for the center was updated to show that the center would not be funded by student fees. Dr. Haller cited the center as a creative and impressive concept, duplicated by only three high-research universities nationwide.

Mr. Morton asked about the center’s technological capabilities, citing its relevance to curricula akin to those of this center and impressive student placement rates for students who study technological aspects of business. Dr. Haller replied that this center was an addition to management and information systems program, presenting an additional special focus for students. Ms. Copas reiterated that the center would bolster business programs.

Mr. Hull stated that the program struck him as well-considered, as it required no student fees and had the oversight of an advisory board in its development.

It was moved by Munski, seconded by Hull, to recommend approval of the NDSU institutional organizational change creating a Center for Professional Selling and Sales Technology. Reichert, Shaft, Hoffarth, Hull, Munski, and Diederich voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- UND
  - Institutional Organizational Change
    - From: Graduate School
    - To: School of Graduate Studies

It was moved by Munski, seconded by Hull, to recommend approval of the UND institutional organizational change renaming UND’s Graduate School as the School of Graduate Studies. Shaft, Hoffarth, Hull, Munski, Reichert, and Diederich voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

  - Program Termination: P.C. in Graduate Certificate in Mathematics for Middle School Teachers
It was moved by Munski, seconded by Reichert, to recommend approval of the UND program termination for the P.C. Graduate Certificate in Mathematics for Middle School Teachers. Hoffarth, Hull, Munski, Reichert, Shaft, and Diederich voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- WSC
  - Program Terminations:
    - P.C. in Administrative Assistant Health Information Management
    - P.C. in Administrative Assistant Information Processing Technology
    - P.C. in Agronomy Technician
    - A.A.S., P.C. in Entrepreneurship

Chancellor Shirvani noted that courses were not affected by WSC’s proposed program terminations, as student demand had proven insufficient to offer courses toward many programs like these. Dr. Haller applauded the effort of the NDUS colleges and universities to trim their offerings to conform to the realities of their situations.

It was moved by Munski, seconded by Hull, to recommend approval of the WSC program terminations for the P.C.s in Administrative Assistant Health Information Management, Administrative Assistant Information Processing Technology, and Agronomy Technician, and the A.A.S. and P.C. in Entrepreneurship. Hull, Munski, Reichert, Shaft, Hoffarth, and Diederich voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.