1. **Issue:** The University of North Dakota (UND) has submitted a Stage II request to create the Institute for Unmanned and Autonomous Research (IUAR).

2. **Proposed actions:** Approve/deny the Stage II request of UND to create the Institute for Unmanned and Autonomous Research (IUAR).

3. **Background information:** UND seeks to establish the Institute for Unmanned and Autonomous Research (IUAR) in order to effectively leverage the expertise, infrastructure, activities and resources of UND with the goal of establishing ongoing and sustainable externally funded unmanned and autonomous systems research that will lead to economic development and diversification in the state of North Dakota.

4. **Financial implications:** The IUAR is anticipated to operate as a virtual institute utilizing existing university facilities. Approximately $400,000 is anticipated to cover the salary and benefits of an executive director, administrative support, operating expense to include travel and other ‘business development’ expenditures. The Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development will provide initial funds with long term sustainability achieved through federal and state research grants and industrial partnerships and memberships.

5. **Legal/policy issues:** State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) Policy 307.1 *Institutional Organization Notice and Approval* states: “1. Board approval is required to create, discontinue or name a school, college, center or institute. Institutions shall submit such requests, along with rationale and supporting information, to the Chancellor and the Chancellor shall forward the proposal to the Board with a recommendation.”

   “2. As used in this policy, ‘center or institute’ means a unit that has as a primary function or activity academic instruction, research, or service beyond the immediate campus community. The terms do not include space designations, or units that simply have the word ‘center’ in their title, or units that provide non-academic services, such as dining centers.”

6. **Academic issues:** No academic issues were raised at the April 5, 2017 Academic Affairs Council (AAC) meeting.

7. **Coordination:** On April 5, 2017, the AAC voted unanimously to recommend the Stage II request for review by the Chancellor’s Cabinet and advance to the SBHE Academic and Student Affairs Committee/SBHE for approval/denial.

8. **Attachments:** The Stage II request is attached.

9. **Contact information:** Richard M. Rothaus, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, NDUS. Ph: 701-328-4136/email: richard.rothaus@ndus.edu.
10. **Chancellor’s recommendation**: Chancellor recommends approval.