

# NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## Minutes of the

### HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday and Thursday, October 8-9, 2008  
West Heritage Room, Doublewood Inn  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Ken Svedjan, Chairman, called the meeting to order on Wednesday, October 8, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the West Heritage Room, Doublewood Inn, Bismarck.

**Members present:** Representatives Ken Svedjan, Lois Delmore, Kathy Hawken, RaeAnn G. Kelsch, Matthew M. Klein, Bob Martinson, Jasper Schneider, Bob Skarphol, John D. Wall, Clark Williams; Senators Ray Holmberg, Karen K. Krebsbach, Elroy N. Lindaas, Dave Nething, Dave Oehlke, Tracy Potter, Larry J. Robinson

**Roundtable members present:** Joseph A. Chapman, David Fuller, Gary Hagen, Robert Kelley, Richard McCallum, Franklin Michael, Deanette Piesik, John Richman, Shirley Wilson, William G. Goetz (ex officio nonvoting), David Farnsworth, Jennifer Feist, John Giese, Don Hedger, Don Morton, Mark Nisbet, Roger Reiersen, Joe Rothschiller, Jason Zimmerman, Robert S. Badal, Sue Andrews, Jon Backes, Haylee Cripe, Duaine Espégard, Michael Haugen, Jon Jackson, Pam Kostelecky, Grant Shaft, Richie Smith, Maren Daley, Dakota Draper, Shane C. Goettle, David Kemnitz, Wayne Kutzer, Wayne Sanstead, David Sprynczynatyk, Senator Tony Grindberg, Julie Kubisiak on behalf of Eric Hardmeyer, Paul Johnson on behalf of Paul Stremick

**Roundtable members absent:** Ken Quamme, Greg Allen, Marlys Brown, Dennis Hill, Terry J. Jorde, James K. Laducer, David Molmen, Gene Veeder, Delore Zimmerman, Jim Davis, Ron Rauschenberger

**Others present:** Jim W. Smith, Legislative Council, Bismarck

Representatives Al Carlson and Merle Boucher and Senator David O'Connell, members of the Legislative Council, were also in attendance.

See attached [appendix](#) for additional persons present.

**It was moved by Senator Robinson, seconded by Representative Delmore, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the August 20, 2008, and September 9-10, 2008, meetings be approved as distributed.**

#### HIGHER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE

Chairman Svedjan welcomed representatives of business, industry, the State Board of Higher Education, the institutions of higher education, higher education students, and the executive branch who

joined the committee for a Higher Education Roundtable discussion. He said the Higher Education Roundtable will be used to determine priority areas of consideration for the Higher Education Committee.

Chairman Svedjan recognized Mr. William G. Goetz, Chancellor, North Dakota University System, who commented on the roundtable process. He said the Higher Education Roundtable plays a significant part in the determination of higher education initiatives. He said the roundtable has gained national prominence as an effective method to connect thoughts and ideas between higher education, government, and the private sector.

Roundtable Member Morton, Microsoft, presented information regarding the results of previous Higher Education Roundtable meetings. He said higher education is important to the development of private industry. He said the Higher Education Roundtable has allowed a connection between higher education and private businesses to grow economic development in the state.

Roundtable Member Rothschiller, Steffes Corporation, presented information regarding the work of previous Higher Education Roundtable meetings. He said the Higher Education Roundtable has allowed higher education to be responsive to the needs of private industry. He said the roundtable process should be utilized to an even greater extent.

Chairman Svedjan called on Mr. Dennis Jones, President, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, to facilitate discussion of the roundtable.

Mr. Jones said North Dakota is experiencing several demographic changes that will impact the future of the state. He said higher education is critically important in growing the population and economy of the state.

The committee recessed at 10:00 a.m. to convene the Higher Education Roundtable task forces of education attainment, accessibility, contribution to economic development, and workforce needs. The task forces recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and the Higher Education Roundtable reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Svedjan called on representatives of the discussion groups who provided the following group recommendations in the four key task force areas:

Task Force	Recommendations
Education attainment	<p>Market degrees that take less than four years to complete.</p> <p>Focus on the American Indian subpopulation.</p> <p>Prepare students for success by providing tools to assess colleges, programs, and careers that are the best fit for their skills and abilities.</p> <p>Expand career advising to send students to college "with a purpose" and develop programs to assist freshmen with undecided majors.</p> <p>Show how majors can relate to occupational needs (e.g., an art student learning about graphic design).</p> <p>Teach money management in high schools.</p> <p>Use higher education as a coach to assist students to prepare for success.</p> <p>Use higher education to provide feedback to high schools. (This could be a role for the statewide longitudinal data system.)</p> <p>Develop a graduation standard for high school.</p> <p>Educate the working age population to the level of the best in the world and consider salary levels paid in the state.</p> <p>Focus efforts at the associate's degree or certificate level to meet state needs. This level also moves students onto the economic "onramp" and prepares them for higher levels of education.</p> <p>Focus on the American Indian population as a major growth segment that will be the state's future workforce.</p> <p>Address the needs of the adult population when developing higher education delivery systems.</p> <p>Implement systematic P-20 career counseling in North Dakota.</p>
Accessibility	<p>Develop higher education centers.</p> <p>Make higher education affordable for all economic backgrounds.</p> <p>Use lifelong learning to promote access to all demographics.</p> <p>Expand online education opportunities, which are important, especially for place-bound students, adults, and other populations.</p> <p>Create awareness about opportunities--colleges, programs, and jobs--available in the state.</p> <p>Market and communicate with nontraditional students and to targeted geographical areas.</p> <p>Monitor the availability of programs and courses to ensure they are available at the times and places they are needed. Ensure policies and infrastructure are in place to</p>

Contribution to economic development

<p>serve older-than-average and other nontraditional students.</p> <p>Continue creative delivery, partnerships, and collaborations.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate financial aid is available.</p> <p>Encourage employer partnerships with higher education for the training and development of employees.</p> <p>Continue to upgrade infrastructure such as the Internet and the Northern Tier Network.</p> <p>Provide an opportunity to allow anyone who wants to go to college the ability to be prepared and have the opportunity to attend college.</p> <p>Consider addressing accessibility barriers such as economic and financial (e.g., time commitments, job duties, and family responsibilities) and psychological (e.g., leaving home for the first time, lack of encouragement and advisement, coming from a small school to a larger school, the stigma of going to a community college, etc.).</p> <p>Make access financially affordable, especially for online education. (The online education cost should not be higher than on-campus courses.)</p> <p>Maintain affordability, particularly at community colleges which are low-cost access points. Review higher education funding to support online costs as well as on-campus costs.</p> <p>Maintain efficient pathways between degrees and support partnerships and collaboration which improve statewide access.</p> <p>Raise the skill level of North Dakota's workforce to the highest level.</p> <p>Focus resources to build workforce skills that meet the economic development needs of the state.</p> <p>Provide higher education classes in the workplace.</p> <p>Offer shorter term programs.</p> <p>Expand workforce recruitment efforts to address economic development needs.</p> <p>Provide career and vocational advising in high schools including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying career projections for the next five years;</li> <li>• Informing students of skills needed to fill jobs;</li> <li>• Assessing students' interests and skills using programs such as WorkKeys; and</li> <li>• Keeping students' goals as a priority.</li> </ul> <p>Offer higher level classes in high school.</p> <p>Expand university internships with North Dakota businesses.</p> <p>Further develop opportunities involving centers of excellence.</p> <p>Enhance entrepreneurship opportunities.</p>
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Task Force	Recommendations
	<p>Develop the ability to immediately respond to workforce needs with new programs and provide financial resources.</p> <p>Conduct regular meetings between the North Dakota University System and the private sector.</p> <p>Provide tax breaks and opportunities to encourage recent college graduates to remain in state.</p> <p>Continue the excitement of the research currently being conducted through programs such as the centers of excellence and the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.</p> <p>Research the feasibility of a tax deduction being used as an incentive for businesses to work with universities.</p>
Workforce needs	<p>Develop the ability for higher education to respond rapidly to workforce needs and adjust resource allocations.</p> <p>Allow higher education to continue a relationship with private industry, especially targeted industries.</p> <p>Work with businesses to develop curriculum and programs to meet future workforce needs.</p> <p>Be responsive to workforce needs.</p> <p>Expand internships in partnership with North Dakota businesses.</p> <p>Provide employer feedback to higher education on the skill levels of interns and graduates.</p> <p>Provide an office at each university that allows businesses to communicate directly with the university.</p> <p>Provide more distance education to meet business needs across the state.</p> <p>Provide incentives for students or universities to meet selected workforce needs.</p>

Stakeholder	Roundtable Assignments
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the discussion of job preparedness assessments.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for student internships.</li> <li>• Assess college graduate preparedness to determine institution program strength.</li> </ul>
State Board of Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define common expectations of student preparedness for college.</li> <li>• Review the missions and roles of institutions to determine the most effective way to serve the state.</li> <li>• Review higher education finance policy.</li> </ul>
Legislative Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the expectations of the North Dakota University System through accountability measures.</li> <li>• Create expectations for a longitudinal database and provide resources for its development.</li> </ul>

Representative Skarphol requested comments from private sector members regarding higher education funding priorities.

Roundtable Member Farnsworth, Great River Energy, said focus needs to be placed on two-year degrees and certificate programs. He said the workforce demand of these programs has been increasing.

Roundtable Member Morton said the research institutions provide an array of economic development possibilities. He suggested additional funding be provided to research institutions to allow for increased growth.

Roundtable Member Feist, Valley Development Group, said all areas of higher education are important. She said workforce needs should be considered when determining focus areas for higher education funding.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Roundtable Member Morton said businesses prefer to employ graduates of local institutions because of lower attrition rates.

Chairman Svedjan thanked the members of the Higher Education Roundtable for their participation.

The committee recessed at 4:30 p.m.

### HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY

The committee reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2008, in the Roughrider Room, State Capitol, Bismarck.

Mr. Jones said major recommendations of the Higher Education Roundtable that should be considered include:

- Focus on the accessibility of higher education by adults and American Indians.
- Improve accessibility through the use of distance education and higher education learning centers.
- Respond rapidly to workforce needs.
- Generate entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Expand internships.

Roundtable Member Hedger said using assessment tools is important to determine workforce readiness. He said it is imperative to determine the cause of areas deemed insufficient by the assessment tools.

Roundtable Member Jackson said future Higher Education Roundtable discussions may need to include more institution faculty and staff.

Roundtable Member Morton said the scope of the Higher Education Roundtable should be defined to utilize the private sector in the most beneficial way. He said discussions should be strategic and the uniqueness of campuses should be factored into task force group discussions.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan, Mr. Jones suggested the following stakeholder assignments resulting from the roundtable:

- Consider the use of incentives for students and institutions.
- Consider providing tuition incentives that could result in increasing the state's population.
- Complete the statewide longitudinal data system.
- Develop standard assessments of college preparedness.
- Include the private sector in determining investment funding priorities.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan regarding reviews of academic programs to determine whether or not they should be continued, Dr. Michel Hillman, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System, said State Board of Higher Education policy requires a periodic review of all programs offered at system institutions.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Dr. Hillman said he would provide the committee with a list of programs that recently have been discontinued at system institutions.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Jones said a successful tuition incentive program is offered in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He said funding for the program is provided primarily through private funds.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan, Dr. Robert Kelley, President, University of North Dakota, said the university is working to increase the size of its endowment. He said the endowment can be used to increase student affordability.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan, Representative Kelsch said the state P-16 task force completed its work prior to the start of the 2007 Legislative Assembly. She said some issues reviewed by the task force are currently being reviewed during joint meetings of the State Board for Career and Technical Education, the Education Standards and Practices Board, the State Board of Higher Education, and the State Board of Public School Education.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Jones said a rapid response funding pool for workforce needs can have a private sector matching funds requirement. He said a matching funds component would be appropriate for the development of programs that provide training to businesses that currently exist in the state.

Mr. Goetz said the momentum generated by the Higher Education Roundtable needs to continue in the future. He said increased communication with private sector members is important.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan, Mr. Goetz said the North Dakota University System will work to respond to the needs expressed by the Legislative Assembly and the private sector.

In response to a question from Senator Holmberg, Mr. Goetz said the North Dakota University System has developed a communication plan that involves

more information dissemination of the Higher Education Roundtable recommendations.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan, Mr. Jones said he would provide the committee with a document outlining the various followup areas resulting from the roundtable meeting.

In response to a question from Senator Oehlke, Mr. Goetz said a P-20 commission could be utilized to develop standardized high school curriculum. He said the North Dakota University System is planning to introduce legislation during the 2009 Legislative Assembly that would establish a P-20 commission.

### Higher Education Committee Goals

Mr. Jones said the committee has adopted several goals throughout the interim that should be considered when reviewing higher education policy during the 2009 Legislative Assembly. He said the adopted goals include the following:

Policy Area	Goals
Accessibility	Students in all parts of North Dakota will have ready access to both two-year and four-year degrees in a wide range of academic programs.
Contribution to economic development	North Dakota will have an increasing number of high-wage jobs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North Dakota University System will produce graduates who are educated to meet the needs of the state's economy.</li> <li>• The North Dakota University System will be responsive to the training needs of the state's employers.</li> <li>• The research conducted at the state's universities will contribute to the expansion and diversification of the state's economy.</li> </ul>
System functioning	The North Dakota University System will function in a way that all the assets of the system will be efficiently utilized in achieving the goals established.
Affordability	Higher education in North Dakota will be affordable to both the students and the taxpayers of the state.

Representative Hawken expressed concern with the goals. She said it may not be realistic to achieve some of the goals adopted by the committee.

**It was moved by Senator Krebsbach, seconded by Senator Holmberg, and carried on a roll call vote to approve the following goals for higher education:**

Policy Area	Goals
Accessibility	<b>Students in all parts of North Dakota will have ready access to both two-year and four-year degrees in a wide range of academic programs.</b>
Contribution to economic development	<b>North Dakota will have an increasing number of high-wage jobs.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The North Dakota University System will produce graduates who are educated to meet the needs of the state's economy.</b></li> </ul>

Policy Area	Goals
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North Dakota University System will be responsive to the training needs of the state's employers.</li> <li>• The research conducted at the state's universities will contribute to the expansion and diversification of the state's economy.</li> </ul>
System functioning	The North Dakota University System will function in a way that all the assets of the system will be efficiently utilized in achieving the goals established.
Affordability	Higher education in North Dakota will be affordable to both the students and the taxpayers of the state.

Representatives Svedjan, Delmore, Hawken, Kelsch, Klein, Martinson, Skarphol, Wall, and Williams and Senators Holmberg, Krebsbach, Lindaas, Nething, Oehlke, Potter, and Robinson voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

**Higher Education Accountability Measures**

Mr. Jones presented the following schedule that details the accountability measures he recommends for higher education:

Policy Area	Accountability Measures
Education attainment	<p>Proportion of the population aged 25 to 34 with an associate's degree or higher benchmarked against the national average and best-performing country.</p> <p>Number of certificates, associate's degrees, and baccalaureate degrees awarded to the 18-year-old population six years prior benchmarked against the national average and best-performing state.</p>
Accessibility	<p>Proportion of recent high school graduates enrolled in two-year and four-year North Dakota University System institutions the following fall by county.</p> <p>Proportion of the population aged 25 to 44 with at least a high school diploma, enrolled in either a two-year or four-year North Dakota University System institution for a credit-bearing course by county.</p>
Contribution to economic development	<p>Number of individuals who graduated within the past three years from the North Dakota University System employed in North Dakota benchmarked against historical trends.</p> <p>Number of individuals who graduated within the last three years from the North Dakota University System employed in North Dakota in jobs paying at least twice the amount established as poverty level in the state benchmarked against historical trends.</p> <p>Annual dollar amount of research expenditures by North Dakota institutions of funds received from federal, foundation, and business sponsors benchmarked against historical trends.</p>

Affordability	<p>Number of certificates and associate's degrees awarded in vocational and technical fields benchmarked against historical trends.</p> <p>Number of baccalaureate degrees awarded in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics benchmarked against historical trends.</p> <p>Tuition and fees relative to the lowest quintile per capita income in the state benchmarked against the national average and the state with the lowest ratio.</p> <p>Percentage of family income--an average of all income groups--needed to pay for college expenses after deducting grant aid benchmarked against the national average and the state with the lowest ratio.</p> <p>Average amount of student loan debt incurred each year by undergraduate students benchmarked against the national average and the state with the lowest ratio.</p>
Education excellence	<p>Student performance on nationally recognized examinations benchmarked against national averages.</p> <p>First-time licensure pass rates benchmarked against the best-performing states.</p> <p>Alumni- and student-reported satisfaction with preparation in selected major, acquisition of specific skills, and technology knowledge and abilities benchmarked against historical trends.</p> <p>Employer-reported satisfaction with preparation of recently hired graduates benchmarked against historical trends.</p>
Financial operations	<p>Appropriations for general operations plus net tuition revenue per full-time equivalent student benchmarked against the national average and the best-performing state.</p> <p>Student share of funding for general operations benchmarked against the national average and historical trends.</p> <p>Number of degrees and certificates produced relative to annual state appropriations for general operations plus net tuition revenue benchmarked against the best-performing state.</p>
System functioning	<p>Number of student credit-hours delivered by North Dakota University System institutions to students attending another system institution benchmarked against historical data.</p> <p>Results of a biennial survey of state leaders regarding the perceptions of the system's functioning benchmarked against historical data.</p>

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Jones said if the appropriate data is available from private and tribal institutions, the accountability measures could be revised to refer to all North Dakota higher education institutions instead of just North Dakota University System institutions.

Representative Skarphol suggested the committee receive information regarding the plan for including higher education institutions in the statewide longitudinal data system and whether nonpublic institution data will be included.

**Higher Education Finance**

Mr. Jones said a higher education funding model should involve several components to achieve the goals set for higher education. He presented the following information regarding the proposed funding model:

Funding Component	Description
Increase in base funding	Prior year base funding increased by the higher education cost adjustment index. Both general fund and tuition revenue are used to provide funds for base funding increases.
Investment funding	Funding based on a percentage of state appropriations for higher education. Once an investment funding item is approved, the funding becomes part of the institution's base funding calculation.
Maintenance of noncapital assets	Funding based on a percentage of the prior year full-time faculty and staff salaries. Once funding is allocated, it becomes part of the institution's base funding calculation.
Incentive funding	Funding based on a percentage of state appropriations for higher education. Funds do not become part of an institution's base funding calculation.
Capital asset depreciation funding	Based on a percentage of the total replacement cost of capital assets. Funds do not become part of an institution's base funding calculation.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Mr. Jones said capital asset depreciation funding would be received by campuses each year. He said an annual report on the use of capital asset depreciation funds could be provided to ensure funds are being spent appropriately.

Mr. Jones said the funding components primarily address funding specific to each campus. He suggested two additional funding sources be allocated to the North Dakota University System office:

1. Funding for a response pool to be used to rapidly respond to workforce training needs.
2. Funding for data compilation and analytical capacity.

In response to a question from Representative Skarphol, Ms. Laura Glatt, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs, North Dakota University System, said the University System uses an internal method for computing deferred maintenance costs. She said priority is given to infrastructure that is in the greatest need of repair.

Ms. Glatt presented a schedule detailing the 2007-09 higher education appropriation, the 2009-11 higher education budget request, and the impact of implementing the proposed higher education funding

mechanism. She said the proposed funding mechanism would provide a funding increase of \$84.9 million for the 2009-11 biennium compared to the 2007-09 appropriation. However, she said, the proposed finance model would provide \$95.8 million less than the amount being requested by the University System for funding for the 2009-11 biennium. A copy of the schedule presented is on file in the Legislative Council office.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan, Mr. Jones said the major difference between the current and proposed funding mechanism is the cost-to-continue calculation. He said the calculation may need to be adjusted in the proposed funding mechanism to provide an amount greater than provided by the higher education cost adjustment index to recognize specific conditions that exist in North Dakota.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan, Mr. Jones said it may be beneficial to have the North Dakota University System office review the proposed funding mechanism and provide recommendations for changes. The committee recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

The Legislative Council staff presented a memorandum entitled [2007-09 Higher Education Funding and Proposed Higher Education Finance Model](#). The memorandum provides information on the future costs of the proposed funding mechanism and the impact to current appropriation levels. The Legislative Council staff provided the following schedule, which details future higher education base funding increases under the proposed funding mechanism:

Biennium	Increase in General Fund Base Funding From the Previous Biennium	Percentage Change in General Fund Base Funding From the Previous Biennium
2009-11	\$61,674,795	17%
2011-13	\$82,097,829	19%
2013-15	\$92,976,529	18%
2015-17	\$105,182,510	17%

**It was moved by Representative Skarphol, seconded by Representative Kelsch, and carried on a roll call vote to ask the Legislative Council chairman to encourage the North Dakota University System to continue to analyze and revise the higher education financing system proposed by Mr. Dennis Jones and to develop a financing system proposal based on this concept by June 1, 2009, or later at the discretion of the chairman of the 2009-10 Higher Education Committee.** Representatives Svedjan, Kelsch, Klein, Martinson, Skarphol, Wall, and Williams and Senators Holmberg, Lindaas, Oehlke, Potter, and Robinson voted "aye." Representatives Delmore and Hawken voted "nay."

### Higher Education Governance

Mr. Jones said the committee should consider improving the process by which candidates for State Board of Higher Education positions are identified. He said the committee should also review the orientation program of new board members and the evaluation process of the board. Mr. Jones said the ability for applicants' names to remain confidential may encourage more persons to apply for board positions.

In response to a question from Representative Hawken, Representative Svedjan said higher education governance is being reviewed because of the need for strong leaders on the State Board of Higher Education.

Representative Hawken suggested the Higher Education Roundtable be used to encourage more applicants for open board positions.

The Legislative Council staff presented a memorandum entitled [Board of Higher Education Selection Committee](#). The memorandum provides information on the process used to select nominations for members of the State Board of Higher Education.

Mr. Goetz said it is important to increase the number of applicants for board positions. He said the North Dakota University System office is currently working to enhance the training of new board members.

The Legislative Council staff presented a bill draft [\[90310.0100\]](#) relating to higher education. The bill draft extends the continuing appropriation of higher education institutions' special revenue funds, extends the requirement of the North Dakota University System block grant format budget request and appropriation, extends the exemption of University System unexpended appropriation cancellations, provides for a Legislative Council study of higher education, and provides legislative intent for higher education accountability measures.

**It was moved by Representative Skarphol, seconded by Representative Kelsch, and carried on a voice vote to amend the bill draft relating to higher education to include all North Dakota higher education institutions in the appropriate accountability measures if data is available from nonpublic higher education institutions.**

**It was moved by Representative Klein, seconded by Senator Holmberg, and carried on a roll call vote that the amended bill draft relating to higher education be approved and recommended to the Legislative Council.** Representatives Svedjan, Delmore, Hawken, Kelsch, Klein, Martinson, Skarphol, Wall, and Williams and Senators Holmberg, Krebsbach, Lindaas, Oehlke, Potter, and Robinson voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

### STUDY OF THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HEARING-IMPAIRED

Dr. Gary Gronberg, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, provided information regarding potential study options for the School for the Deaf. He said the department is proposing to hire a consultant to develop a plan for short-term and long-range goals. He said areas that need to be reviewed include current service options, potential revenue-generating services, site and facility plans, and service partnerships with other states. He said plan development would begin in July 2009 and changes could be implemented in July 2010. He suggested a legislative interim committee could be assigned responsibility to assist in the development and implementation of the plan. A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan, Dr. Gronberg said the School for the Deaf has included funding for a site and facility plan in its 2009-11 budget request.

In response to a question from Representative Svedjan, Dr. Gronberg said it would be beneficial to begin the review of the school as soon as possible. He said allowing flexibility in the school's budget would enable the review to begin earlier.

The Legislative Council staff distributed a bill draft [\[90312.0100\]](#) relating to the continuation of a study of the provision of services to deaf and hearing-impaired persons.

In response to a question from Senator Krebsbach, Representative Svedjan said the committee may need more information before making a decision to change the services provided by the school. He said a consultant could be utilized to assist the committee in reviewing available options.

Senator Potter said more emphasis should be given to outreach services rather than residential services. He said many deaf and hearing-impaired students enroll in local school districts rather than the School for the Deaf.

**It was moved by Representative Klein, seconded by Senator Robinson, and carried on a roll call vote that the bill draft relating to the deaf and hearing-impaired services study be amended to include an appropriation of \$100,000 and an emergency clause and, as amended, be approved and recommended to the Legislative Council.** Representatives Svedjan, Delmore, Hawken, Kelsch, Klein, Skarphol, and Wall and Senators Holmberg, Krebsbach, Lindaas, Oehlke, Potter, and Robinson voted "aye." No negative votes were cast.

Mr. Jerry Balzer, Bismarck, provided comments to the committee regarding the School for the Deaf. He said the school is an important part of the community of Devils Lake. He said more information should be obtained prior to deciding on services to be provided by the school.

It was moved by Senator Robinson, seconded by Representative Skarphol, and carried on a voice vote that the chairman and the staff of the Legislative Council be requested to prepare a report and the bill drafts recommended by the committee and to present the report and recommended bill drafts to the Legislative Council.

It was moved by Representative Kelsch, seconded by Senator Holmberg, and carried on a voice vote that the committee be adjourned sine die.

Chairman Svedjan adjourned the meeting sine die at 3:30 p.m.

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Brady A. Larson  
Fiscal Analyst

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Allen H. Knudson  
Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor

ATTACH:1