

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

HIGHER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE

The Higher Education Roundtable first met during the 1999-2000 interim as a result of House Bill No. 1003 (1999). The bill directed a study to solicit input from the Governor, State Board of Higher Education, executive branch, and representatives of business and industry. The roundtable was used to discuss issues affecting higher education, develop expectations for the North Dakota University System, provide recommendations concerning higher education in North Dakota, and formulate accountability measures and success indicators that correspond with the expectations for the University System. The six roundtable cornerstones identified were:

1. Economic development connection.
2. Education excellence.
3. Flexible and responsive system.
4. Accessible system.
5. Funding and rewards.
6. Sustaining the vision.

Since its inception, the Higher Education Roundtable has met nine times. The table below summarizes the meeting dates of the Higher Education Roundtable from the 1999-2000 interim through the 2007-08 interim:

Interim	Meeting Dates
1999-2000	September 28-29, 1999 (Jamestown) October 29, 1999 (Carrington) April 19, 2000 (Rugby)
2001-02	July 18, 2001 (Mandan) June 12, 2002 (Bismarck)
2003-04	October 21, 2003 (Bismarck) June 15, 2004 (Bismarck)
2005-06	February 15, 2006 (Bismarck)
2007-08	October 8, 2008 (Bismarck)

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES AND ROUNDTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS 1999-2000 Study

During the 1999-2000 interim the Higher Education Committee studied higher education funding, including the expectations of the University System in meeting the state's needs in the 21st century, the funding methodology needed to meet those expectations and needs, and the appropriate accountability and reporting system for the University System. The committee, through the use of the Higher Education Roundtable consisting of 21 committee members and 40 representatives from the State Board of Higher Education; business and industry; higher education institutions, including tribal and private colleges; and the executive branch, provided recommendations

concerning higher education. A copy of the 1999-2000 Higher Education Roundtable recommendations concerning higher education in North Dakota is attached as [Appendix A](#).

The committee recommended six bills for consideration by the 2001 Legislative Assembly:

1. Senate Bill No. 2037 (2001), which was amended into Senate Bill No. 2003 (2001), provided a continuing appropriation for all higher education institutions' special revenue funds, including tuition income and local funds, and allowed institutions to carry over at the end of the biennium unspent general fund appropriations. The legislation was effective through June 30, 2003.
2. Senate Bill No. 2038 (2001), which was amended into Senate Bill No. 2003 (2001), required the budget request for the University System to include budget estimates for block grants for a base funding component and for an initiative funding component and a budget estimate for an asset funding component and the requirement that the appropriation for the University System include block grants for a base funding appropriation and for an initiative funding appropriation and an appropriation for asset funding. The legislation was effective through June 30, 2003.
3. Senate Bill No. 2039 (2001), as passed, allowed the State Board of Higher Education to authorize campus improvements and building maintenance projects that are financed by donations, gifts, grants, and bequests if the cost of the improvement or maintenance is not more than \$385,000.
4. Senate Bill No. 2040 (2001), which failed to pass, would have allowed the University System to provide bonuses, cash incentive awards, and temporary salary adjustments without reporting the activity to the Office of Management and Budget as a fiscal irregularity.
5. Senate Bill No. 2041 (2001), as passed, included the committee's recommendation to recognize the institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education as the North Dakota University System and to require the University System to develop a strategic plan, which defines University System goals and objectives, and to provide an annual performance and accountability report regarding performance and progress toward the goals and objectives.

6. Senate Bill No. 2042 (2001), as passed, included the committee's recommendation to amend and repeal statutes relating to the powers of the State Board of Higher Education and the duties and responsibilities of institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education which were no longer appropriate.

The committee also recommended financial and nonfinancial accountability measurements to be reported annually at the University System level.

2001-02 Study

During the 2001-02 interim the Higher Education Committee studied the State Board of Higher Education's implementation of the performance and accountability measures report. The committee, through the use of a Higher Education Roundtable consisting of the 22 members of the Higher Education Committee and 44 representatives from the State Board of Higher Education; business and industry; higher education institutions; including tribal and private colleges; and the executive branch, reviewed plans for and accomplishments relating to the recommendations of the 1999-2000 Higher Education Roundtable, reviewed the state's New Economy Initiative and its linkage to the Higher Education Roundtable cornerstones and recommendations, and developed high-priority action items concerning higher education in North Dakota. The committee also reviewed the University System long-term financing plan and resource allocation model approved by the State Board of Higher Education and the University System first annual performance and accountability report. A copy of the Higher Education Roundtable high-priority action items concerning higher education in North Dakota is attached as [Appendix B](#).

The committee recommended four bills for consideration by the 2003 Legislative Assembly:

1. House Bill No. 1039 (2003), which was amended into House Bill No. 1003 (2003), provided for the extension of the continuing appropriation authority for higher education institutions' special revenue funding, including tuition. The legislation was extended through June 30, 2005.
2. House Bill No. 1040 (2003), which was amended into House Bill No. 1003 (2003), provided for the extension of the University System's authority to carry over at the end of the biennium unspent general fund appropriations. The legislation was extended through June 30, 2005.
3. House Bill No. 1041 (2003), which was amended into House Bill No. 1003 (2003), continued the requirement that the budget request for the University System include budget estimates for block grants for a base funding component and for an initiative funding component and a budget estimate for

an asset funding component and the requirement that the appropriation for the University System include block grants for a base funding appropriation and for an initiative funding appropriation and an appropriation for asset funding. The legislation was extended through June 30, 2005.

4. House Bill No. 1042 (2003), which failed to pass, would have amended North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 15-10-14.2 to require the University System performance and accountability report to include an executive summary and specific information regarding education excellence, economic development, student access, student affordability, and financial operations. The 2003 Legislative Assembly amended House Bill No. 1003 to provide legislative intent that the University System performance and accountability report include an executive summary and specific information regarding education excellence, economic development, student access, student affordability, and financial operations.

2003-04 Study

During the 2003-04 interim the Higher Education Committee studied higher education to further refine the expectations of the University System in meeting the state's needs in the 21st century, the funding methodology needed to meet those expectations and needs, and the accountability system and reporting methodology for the University System. The committee, through the use of a Higher Education Roundtable consisting of the 16 members of the Higher Education Committee and 45 representatives from the State Board of Higher Education; business and industry; higher education institutions, including tribal and private colleges; and the executive branch, reviewed the status of higher education in North Dakota; developed recommendations for enhancing the economy and other appropriate issues concerning higher education in North Dakota; reviewed the progress made, current status, and further actions needed to enhance the economic and social vitality of the state and make the state more attractive for new business and business expansion; reviewed the impact of the Higher Education Roundtable on higher education in the state; and developed recommendations for action by the Legislative Assembly, University System, executive branch, and private sector. The committee also reviewed the University System long-term financing plan and resource allocation model approved by the State Board of Higher Education and the University System third annual performance and accountability report. A copy of the Higher Education Roundtable recommendations for enhancing the economy and other appropriate issues concerning higher education in North Dakota and recommendations for action by

the Legislative Assembly, University System, executive branch, and private sector is attached as [Appendix C](#).

The committee recommended four bills for consideration by the 2005 Legislative Assembly:

1. Senate Bill No. 2034 (2005), as passed, provided for the continuation of the continuing appropriation authority for higher education institutions' special revenue funds, including tuition, through June 30, 2007.
2. Senate Bill No. 2035 (2005), as passed, provided for the continuation of the requirement that the budget request for the University System include budget estimates for block grants for a base funding component and for an initiative funding component and a budget estimate for an asset funding component and the requirement that the appropriation for the University System include block grants for a base funding appropriation and for an initiative funding appropriation and an appropriation for asset funding through June 30, 2007.
3. Senate Bill No. 2036 (2005), as passed, provided for the continuation of the University System's authority to carry over at the end of the biennium unspent general fund appropriations through June 30, 2007.
4. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4002 (2005), which failed to pass, directed the Legislative Council to study during the 2005-06 interim the State Board of Higher Education performance and accountability measures included in the report required by NDCC Section 15-10-14.2.

2005-06 Interim

Senate Bill No. 2003 (2005) directed the 2005-06 interim Higher Education Committee to study higher education funding and accountability. The roundtable was used to receive information regarding Operation Intern, "soft skills" areas of education and training, and centers of excellence. The roundtable was organized into four discussion groups to consider any three of the following points:

- How the accountability measures of the assessment systems should be refined.
- Strategies that can be used to attract and retain the best and brightest graduates.
- The connection between the performance of the University System and the rewards and incentives provided to the University System.
- How access to higher education should be increased.
- How the state should not only sustain the momentum of the Higher Education Roundtable but take it to a higher level of performance.
- How the centers of excellence initiative should be improved.

A copy of the Higher Education Roundtable recommendations for the discussion points is attached as [Appendix D](#).

The committee recommended three bills for consideration by the 2007 Legislative Assembly:

1. House Bill No. 1030 (2007), as passed, provided for the continuation of the continuing appropriation authority for higher education institutions' special revenue funds, including tuition, through June 30, 2009.
2. House Bill No. 1031 (2007), as passed, provided for the continuation of the requirement that the budget request for the University System include budget estimates for block grants for a base funding component and for an initiative funding component and a budget estimate for an asset funding component and the requirement that the appropriation for the University System include block grants for a base funding appropriation and for an initiative funding appropriation and an appropriation for asset funding through June 30, 2009.
3. House Bill No. 1032 (2007), as passed, provided for the continuation of the University System's authority to continue at the end of the biennium unspent general fund appropriations through June 30, 2009.

2007-08 Interim

House Bill No. 1003 (2007) directed the 2007-08 interim Higher Education Committee to study the means by which the University System can further contribute to developing and attracting the human capital to meet North Dakota's economic and workforce needs. The study focused on ways to increase postsecondary access; improve the quality of education; contain costs; and other means, including productivity, to maximize the usage of the University System in meeting the human capital needs of the state. The study included:

- A review of policy recommendations, as appropriate, which address the postsecondary delivery system, including the mix of institutions, educational attainment gaps, degree production gap, recruitment and retention of students, and workforce training needs;
- A review of the impact of the state's changing demographics on the University System long-term financing plan; and
- Recommendations for goals for each of the higher education cornerstones.

The roundtable was organized into four discussion groups to focus on the following areas:

- Education attainment.
- Accessibility.
- Contribution to economic development.
- Workforce needs.

A copy of the Higher Education Roundtable recommendations for the discussion points is attached as [Appendix E](#).

The committee recommended Senate Bill No. 2038 to the 2009 Legislative Assembly to extend the continuing appropriation of higher education institutions' special revenue funds, extend the requirement of the University System block grant format budget request and appropriation, extend the exemption of University System unexpended appropriation cancellations, provide for a 2009-10 interim Legislative Council study of higher education, and provide performance measures to be included in the higher education performance and accountability report pursuant to NDCC Section 15-10-14.2.

ATTACH:5