



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday and Tuesday, May 2-3, 2022

Room 335, National Energy Center of Excellence, Bismarck State College
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Mark Sanford, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members present: Representatives Mark Sanford, Larry Bellew, Jay Fisher, LaurieBeth Hager, Karla Rose Hanson, Zachary Ista, Dennis Johnson, Bob Martinson, Brandy Pyle, David Richter, Mike Schatz, Cynthia Schreiber-Beck; Senators JoNell A. Bakke, Robert Erbele, Karen K. Krebsbach*, Dave Oehlke

Members absent: Representative Gary Paur; Senator Jim P. Roers

Others present: Senator Donald Schaible, Mott, member of the Legislative Management; Representative Karen Karls, Bismarck

See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

**Attended remotely*

It was moved by Senator Oehlke, seconded by Senator Bakke, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the February 15-16, 2022, meeting be approved as distributed.

Dr. Douglas Jensen, President, Bismarck State College, presented an overview ([Appendix B](#)) of Bismarck State College (BSC). He noted BSC's expanded polytechnic mission is designed to address workforce needs for the state. He noted the BSC Foundation provides \$1.8 million per year in grants and scholarships to BSC faculty, staff, and students.

In response to a question from a committee member, Dr. Jensen indicated nontraditional students are eligible for federal financial aid.

Mr. Patrick Lane, Vice President of Policy Analysis and Research, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding student financial aid and recruitment programs in other states. He noted financial aid programs may be targeted to enrollment, retention, and workforce.

Ms. Susan Heegaard, President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, presented information ([Appendix D](#)) regarding student financial aid and recruitment programs in other states. She noted North Dakota provides the second highest average merit-based grant aid in the Midwest, but North Dakota's needs-based grant aid was less than the regional average. She noted the average net price, the total cost of attendance minus grant aid, was higher in North Dakota than the regional average.

Ms. Brenda Zastoupil, Director of Financial Aid, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix E](#)) regarding the Native American scholarship program and tribally controlled community college grants.

Mr. Chris Bonnell, Vice President of External Affairs, Western Governors University, presented information ([Appendix F](#)) regarding the Western Governors University.

The committee recessed at 4:45 p.m. and reconvened at 8:03 a.m. on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Mr. Stephen D. Easton, President, Dickinson State University, presented an overview ([Appendix G](#)) of Dickinson State University, including facility needs. He noted the Dickinson State University Foundation provides approximately \$1.1 million in scholarships annually.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Easton noted the Back in the Saddle Scholarship program targets former students, who had not completed their degree, to encourage them to return to school. He noted getting students to return is difficult and requires personalized contact rather than mass marketing.

Mr. Jason Ehlert, President, North Dakota Building Trades Unions, and member, North Dakota Workforce Development Council, presented information ([Appendix H](#)) regarding construction trades workforce needs in the state.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Ehlert indicated it may be beneficial to include registered apprenticeship programs in the career builders scholarship and loan repayment program to reimburse for the cost of tools and other items.

Ms. Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix I](#)) regarding enrollment and graduation trends in construction trades programs.

Ms. Johnson presented information ([Appendix J](#)) regarding certificate programs.

The committee toured BSC, including the Health Sciences building and the National Energy Center of Excellence.

No further business appearing, Chairman Sanford adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Alex J. Cronquist
Senior Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:10