



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Rooms 218 and 219, Klinefelter Hall, Dickinson State University, Dickinson, North Dakota

Thursday, August 3, 2023

Roughrider Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Mark Sanford, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time at Dickinson State University.

Members present: Representatives Mark Sanford, Landon Bahl, Larry Bellew, Claire Cory, Jay Fisher, Karla Rose Hanson, Matt Heilman, Dennis Johnson, Bob Martinson, Mike Nathe, Mike Schatz, Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, Steve Swiontek; Senators Sean Cleary, Robert Erbele, Karen K. Krebsbach, Curt Kreun, Jonathan Sickler, Ronald Sorvaag

Members absent: No members absent

Others present: Senator Tim Mathern, Fargo, member of the Legislative Management
See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

Mr. Alex Cronquist, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, distributed a memorandum entitled [Supplementary Rules of Operation and Procedure of the North Dakota Legislative Management](#).

Chairman Sanford welcomed the committee members and stated the committee would continue to meet on North Dakota University System campuses throughout the interim.

Mr. Stephen D. Easton, J.D., President, Dickinson State University, provided an overview ([Appendix B](#)) of the university.

The committee toured Klinefelter Hall and Buildings A and B of the Southwest Career and Technical Education Academy.

Ms. Brenda Zastoupil, Director of Financial Aid, North Dakota University System office, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding state student financial assistance programs. She noted the workforce development scholarship and loan repayment programs, known collectively as the career builders program, target high-need occupations. She noted approximately \$3.3 million had been awarded as of July 2023, including \$1.7 million in scholarships and \$1.6 million in loan repayments.

Ms. Susan Heegaard, President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), presented information ([Appendix D](#)) regarding student financial aid programs in other states. She noted:

- A promise program, also known as a free college program or a tuition-free program, is a financial aid program that typically provides a "promise" to qualified middle or high school students that part or all of the costs of tuition will be paid by the state when the student enters college.
- There are 12 statewide promise programs in the Midwest, including in Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- The Minnesota North Star Promise Program:
 - Has an appropriation of \$120 million, with the first awards expected in the fall 2024 semester;
 - Is open to all adult Minnesota residents who have not earned a bachelor's degree and have a family adjusted gross income below \$80,000; and
 - Is a last-dollar program covering the remaining balance of tuition and fees after all other aid is exhausted.

Mr. Aaron Horn, Midwest Higher Education Compact, presented information ([Appendix E](#)) regarding net tuition and fees paid by students and student migration trends. He noted Minnesota was the largest source of in-migrants at both public 2- and 4-year institutions in North Dakota in the fall 2020 semester.

Mr. Tim Mihalick, President, State Board of Higher Education, commented regarding the University System.

Dr. Laura Oster-Aaland, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, North Dakota State University, and Ms. Janelle Kilgore, Vice Provost for Student Enrollment Management, University of North Dakota, presented information ([Appendix F](#)) regarding University System enrollment and regional enrollment trends. She noted a program for North Dakota and Minnesota residents similar to the Minnesota North Star Promise Program would cost an estimated \$13.5 million per year.

Dr. Brian Van Horn, President, Mayville State University, commented on the potential impact of the Minnesota North Star Promise program on Mayville State University.

Dr. Alan D. LaFave, President, Valley City State University, commented on the potential impact of the Minnesota North Star Promise program on Valley City State University.

Dr. Rod Flanigan, President, North Dakota State College of Science, commented on the potential impact of the Minnesota North Star Promise program on the North Dakota State College of Science.

Dr. Andrew Armacost, President, University of North Dakota, commented regarding enrollment at the University of North Dakota.

Dr. David Cook, President, North Dakota State University, commented on the potential impact of the Minnesota North Star Promise program on North Dakota State University.

Senator Mathern presented testimony ([Appendix G](#)) and a bill draft [[23.1134.02000](#)] to provide for a North Dakota promise scholarship program and income tax credit for the committee's consideration.

Mr. Cronquist presented a memorandum entitled [Duties of the Higher Education Committee - Background Memorandum](#) regarding the assigned studies and duties of the committee.

Dr. Rick Becker, Bismarck, commented regarding University System enrollment and the cost of higher education to the state.

Dr. Douglas Jensen, President, Bismarck State College, commented regarding the agenda for the second day of the committee's meeting.

The committee recessed at 4:20 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time, and reconvened at 9:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time on Thursday, August 3, 2023, in the Roughrider Room, State Capitol.

Dr. Mark R. Hagerott, Chancellor, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix H](#)) regarding the state of the University System.

Dr. Jennifer Weber, Director of Institutional Research, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix I](#)) regarding University System enrollment trends.

Ms. Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix J](#)) regarding University System academic programs.

Mr. David Krebsbach, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs and Chief Financial Officer, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix K](#)) regarding University System financial information.

Dr. Hagerott presented information ([Appendix L](#)) regarding trends in higher education.

Dr. Jensen presented an overview ([Appendix M](#)) of Bismarck State College.

The committee toured Bismarck State College and the Bismarck Career Academy.

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

Alex J. Cronquist
Senior Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:13