

SECTION 23. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - HIGHER EDUCATION.

1. The legislative council shall consider appointing a higher education committee for the 2007-08 interim. If appointed, the committee shall spend a majority of time studying the means by which the North Dakota university system can further contribute to developing and attracting the human capital to meet North Dakota's economic and workforce needs, and if time allows, the committee may visit select higher education institutions.
2. The study must focus on ways to increase postsecondary access, improve the quality of education, contain costs and other means, including productivity, to maximize the usage of the North Dakota university system in meeting the human capital needs of the state.
3. The study must include a review of policy recommendations, as appropriate, which address the postsecondary delivery system, including the mix of institutions, educational attainment gaps, degree production gaps, recruitment and retention of students, and workforce training needs.
4. The study must include a review of the impact of the state's changing demographics on the university system long-term financing plan.
5. The study must recommend goals for each of the higher education cornerstones.
6. The study may include the use of a higher education roundtable format.
7. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-first legislative assembly.
8. The state board of higher education also shall take the recommendations into account and make appropriate changes to practices, board policy, and budget needs and allocation.