

- c. Average amount of student loan debt incurred each year by undergraduate students benchmarked against the national average and the state with the lowest ratio.
- 5. Education excellence, including:
  - a. Student performance on nationally recognized exams benchmarked against national averages.
  - b. First-time licensure pass rates benchmarked against the best performing states.
  - c. Alumni and student-reported satisfaction with preparation in selected major, acquisition of specific skills, and technology knowledge and abilities benchmarked against historical trends.
  - d. Employer-reported satisfaction with preparation of recently hired graduates benchmarked against historical trends.
- 6. Financial operations, including:
  - a. Appropriations for general operations plus net tuition revenue per full-time equivalent student benchmarked against the national average and the best-performing state.
  - b. Student share of funding for general operations benchmarked against the national average and historical trends.
  - c. Number of degrees and certificates produced relative to annual state appropriations for general operations plus net tuition revenue benchmarked against the best-performing state.
- 7. System functioning, including:
  - a. Number of student credit-hours delivered by North Dakota university system institutions to students attending another system institution benchmarked against historical data.
  - b. Results of a biennial survey of state leaders regarding the perceptions of the system's functionality benchmarked against historical data.

**SECTION 8. STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION - REPORTS TO SIXTY-SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.** Each institution under the control of the state board of higher education shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-second legislative assembly regarding:

- 1. A comparison of the budgeted amounts to actual expenditures by major expenditure type for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.
- 2. A comparison of the budgeted amounts to actual expenditures by major expenditure type through the most recent month available at the time the report is presented to the appropriations committees.

**SECTION 9. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY - HIGHER EDUCATION.**

- 1. During the 2009-10 interim, the legislative council chairman shall appoint an interim higher education committee to study issues affecting higher education.
- 2. The interim committee shall hold at least six education summit meetings to discuss topics that may include:
  - a. Alternative uses of institutions and changes to institutional missions;
  - b. Issues affecting two-year campuses;

- c. Tuition affordability, including a review of tuition reciprocity agreements;
  - d. Accessibility of higher education;
  - e. Workforce needs;
  - f. Contributions to economic development;
  - g. Utilization and capacity of higher education institution facilities;
  - h. Quality of education being delivered; and
  - i. Revenue-neutral policies that would aid in the reduction of student loan debt.
3. The chairman of the interim higher education committee may invite summit topic experts, representatives of the North Dakota university system, the private sector, and students to participate in the summit meetings to provide information to the committee as determined necessary to assist the committee in conducting its study.
4. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-second legislative assembly.