

Information Technology Committee
Rich Lehn, Assistant to the CIO, NDUS
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Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Rich Lehn, Assistant to the CIO, North Dakota University System.

I am here today on behalf of the System to report and inform you of IT initiatives the State Board of Higher Education has identified be undertaken to maximize results through efficiencies. Also, I will update you on the current status of the NDUS IT Facilities being constructed on the UND campus.

SBHE IT Initiatives – “Maximizing Results Through Efficiencies”

The State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) identified several IT initiatives that working in consultation with the campuses, the Chancellor will pursue a strategy to implement System-wide services that are cost-effective, easily integrated and consistently improving.

An action plan for each initiative has or is being developed with a recommendation on direction to be taken. The State Board of Higher Education created an Oversight Committee consisting of several SBHE members and oversees workgroups as they develop the action plan for each initiative. Dates provided are subject to change based on Oversight Committee member's availability.

Lecture Capture and Content Management

An action plan for the first initiative, Lecture Capture, was presented to the Oversight Committee on March 30th for their review and recommendation. The Oversight Committee approved the action plan and forwarded it to the Board. Board approval was granted on April 12. The approved Lecture Capture product is Tegrity.

As mentioned at the last meeting, the lecture capture system includes common software, hosting, and content delivery. It is an online technology that can readily and easily record video, audio and content that will provide a vast new opportunity for teaching and learning across the System.

Faculty can incorporate recorded tutorials or lab assignments into their curriculum. They can also choose to record their daily classroom lecture. In turn, students would have the ability to watch the recordings at any time on almost any PC or mobile device.

Learning Management System (LMS)

On April 30, background information was presented on learning management systems used within the NDUS. An action plan is being developed with a final recommendation to be made in November. This will allow faculty time for input and discussion on future directions.

Document Imaging Scanning

A document imaging scanning initiative had its background information and the action plan recommendation presented to the Oversight Committee. Approval of the action plan was granted and the SBHE is scheduled to act on the plan.

The document imaging scanning system includes common software and hosting. Most institutions use document-scanning software for some current business functions, such as invoice processing, contract management, electronic personnel files and student records. Most of these currently used systems are departmental-based and departmental-housed which do not provide operational efficiencies or sound security practices. They are not scalable as needs grow and opportunities arise.

Recommendations to improve efficiencies and provide for a common administrative approach are needed as well as use of consistent software and hardware accomplished through leveraging the overall NDUS buying power.

Other Initiatives

- Unified Communications System
- HR Electronic Workflow
- Integrated Approach to Delivering IT Services

NDUS IT Facilities Update

At your last meeting I mentioned bids for the IT Office building were released mid April with a response bid opening date in May. Bid opening occurred on May 22nd and the review process began immediately.

While we anticipated pricing may be impacted by the construction occurring in the western part of the state and bid responses were coming in from fewer contractors than we had hoped for, prices on the electrical and mechanical were in line with what had been estimated. Prices for general contractor were approximately 10% higher than estimates. We were not alone in higher prices as BSC had indicated some of their construction projects were as much as 25% higher in just the past couple of months. We will be working with the architects and contractors on some adjustments.

As for the data center project going into a renovated warehouse space at UND, minimal general contractor involvement is required and costs for that building is on track with budget. Equipment bids for electrical and mechanical came in at or below anticipated. These items were the largest cost for the structure and will be ordered as they have a long lead-time. Since contractors will know the specifics on type of components to be installed, pricing from them to install said components will be more accurately reflected in their bids. Construction bids for the data center renovation and systems installation are out and bid response due date is July 10th.

I reported last meeting that the legislature approved an appropriation of \$12.5M and authorized up to another \$5M from internal funds through found efficiencies.

Current office construction timelines are for occupancy in August/September 2013.

The data center should be ready at approximately the same time.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you and I will answer any questions.