

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes of the

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Dickinson State University and Dickinson Research Extension Center
Dickinson, North Dakota

Senator Ray Holmberg, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. (MDT) on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, in the Student Center at Dickinson State University, Dickinson.

Members present: Senators Ray Holmberg, Tim Flakoll, Ed Kringstad, Elroy N. Lindaas, Dave Nething; Representatives Ole Aarsvold, Mary Ekstrom, Nancy Johnson, Bob Martinson, Darrell D. Nottestad, Steven L. Zaiser

Members absent: Senators Tony Grindberg, Nicholas P. Hacker, David O'Connell; Representatives Larry Bellew, Tom Brusegaard, Lois Delmore, Kathy Hawken, Andrew G. Maragos, Mark S. Owens, Earl Rennerfeldt

Senator Hacker informed the staff he was unable to attend the meeting because he was out of state on other legislative business attending the National Conference of State Legislatures Leadership Institute in Annapolis, Maryland.

Senator O'Connell informed the staff he was unable to attend the meeting because he was attending a Legislative Management Committee meeting.

Others present: Rich Wardner, State Senator, Dickinson

See attached appendix for additional persons present.

DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Lee Vickers, President, Dickinson State University, welcomed the committee and distributed a tour packet. A copy of the tour packet is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Dr. Vickers provided information regarding the university's economic development efforts. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. He said the university's fall 2005 enrollment is summarized as follows:

	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Increase (Decrease)
Headcount enrollment	2,479	2,516	37
Full-time enrollment	1,749	1,755	6
Part-time enrollment	730	761	31
On-campus headcount enrollment	1,769	1,754	(15)
Distance education headcount enrollment	710	762	52

	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Increase (Decrease)
Total credit hours produced	30,517	30,470	(47)
On-campus credit hours produced	26,574	25,458	(1,116)
Distance education credit hours produced	3,943	5,012	1,069

Dr. Vickers said the university's enrollment goal for the next three years is to sustain an overall enrollment growth of 3 percent per year with a 2 percent growth of full-time enrollment and a 5 percent growth of part-time enrollment. He said the university is in the process of seeking approval from the State Board of Higher Education to establish an In-China program under which the university would offer two academic programs in China. He said members of the university's faculty would travel to China during the summers to assist with the program. He said the university anticipates enrolling 150 students per academic program per year in the program.

In response to a question from Senator Flakoll, Dr. Vickers said students who enroll in Dickinson State University programs in Bismarck are included in Dickinson State University's distance education headcount enrollment.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Dr. Vickers said the university does not analyze secondary school origins of students requiring remedial education.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Dr. Vickers said in most cases international students are very motivated and do not require remedial education.

In response to a question from Senator Flakoll, Dr. Vickers said most international students are strongly encouraged to return to their home country after graduation.

Senator Nething suggested the university may want to consider increasing the tuition rates for international students to cover the cost of education because the students do not stay in the state after graduation.

Senator Nething requested the committee receive information from the North Dakota University System regarding dual-credit programs at higher education institutions, including enrollment, student costs, and potential barriers to students.

In response to a question from Senator Flakoll, Dr. Vickers said the university will sign a contract with the Chinese government to operate the In-China program for a five-year period.

Dr. Vickers said the university is in the process of establishing a Center for Entrepreneurship and Rural Revitalization. He said the center is to promote entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial leadership, and an entrepreneurial approach to community development; address outmigration and the decline of rural communities in southwestern North Dakota; and mobilize the region's resources. He said the university will seek approval of the Budget Section on June 14, 2006, for centers of excellence funding of \$1,150,000 for the establishment and operation of the Institute for Technology and Business, a component of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Rural Revitalization. He said the institute will initially focus on a keystone project that will enable Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing to expand its high-tech aerospace manufacturing business but the institute will also collaborate with partners in the region to create a capacity for supporting other entrepreneurs and businesses.

Dr. Richard D. Brauhn, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding educational excellence. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. He said the university uses several measures to assess and improve academic performance. He said the university in cooperation with North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota has been awarded \$1.2 million over five years to conduct biomedical research. He said the university has 100 students plus 20 associates in its Theodore Roosevelt Honors Leadership program.

Ms. Karen Nelson, K-16 Teaching and Learning Strategist, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding educational excellence. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. She said the university has been awarded approximately \$1.3 million over three years for a mathematics and science partnership grant. She said goals of the grant are to strengthen the mathematics and science content knowledge of kindergarten through grade 12 educators and strengthen educator knowledge of real world applications for mathematics and science.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Ms. Nelson said the number of mathematics credits required for high school graduation varies by school district. She said most districts require two or three credits of mathematics for graduation.

Dr. Patrick Glashan, Chair, Department of Teacher Education, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding educational excellence. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. He said the university has been awarded approximately \$350,000 over four years for a rediscovering excellence in teaching through research and application grant. He said the purpose of the

grant is to design strategies to implement the federal No Child Left Behind Act; provide professional development for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers; and increase the content knowledge of teachers in mathematics, reading, language arts, and science.

Dr. George McClellan, Vice President for Student Development, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding educational excellence. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. He said the university's retention rate (freshmen to sophomore) for 2005 was 62.5 percent. He said the university's retention initiatives include emphasis on motivation, mattering, and transition theories as a framework and intrusive advising and attendance monitoring. He said the university has established an academic success center to provide centralized academic assistance, monitoring, and intervention services to students. He said the university has implemented Project A.C.E., a collaborative effort using community-based assets to change attitudes and behaviors, for the purpose of helping young people make healthier choices regarding suicide, violence, alcohol, gambling, sex, and drugs.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Dr. McClellan said the university's retention rate relates to the number of students enrolled from freshman to sophomore year.

In response to a question from Representative Aarsvold, Dr. McClellan said students are working more hours due to increases in tuition and fees; however, the primary reason for students not returning to the university is a lack of motivation and of purpose by the student.

Ms. Cindy Sanford, Coordinator, Extended Campus at Bismarck State College, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding accessible efforts of the university. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. She said the university offers programs in Dickinson, Bismarck, Williston, and several high schools in southwest North Dakota. She said the university also offers several online courses. She said the university's enrollment at the Bismarck site was 219 for the fall 2005 semester and 247 for the spring 2006 semester. She said the university's online enrollment was 334 for the fall 2005 semester and 326 for the spring 2006 semester.

Mr. Kevin J. Thompson, Executive Director, Dickinson State University Foundation, provided information regarding the Dickinson State University Foundation. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. He said the foundation strives to be the premier support for the university's commitment to provide the finest and most invigorating global-learning environment. He said the foundation's assets have increased to approximately \$10.2 million. He said the foundation is in the process of constructing Hawks Landing, a senior living facility on campus.

Mr. Alvin Binstock, Vice President for Business Affairs, Dickinson State University, provided

information regarding budget issues. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. He said the university's operating budget for the 2005-07 biennium totals approximately \$28.8 million, of which \$15.1 million is from the general fund and \$13.7 million is from tuition revenue. He said the university increased tuition rates for the 2005-06 school year by 9.5 percent and will increase tuition rates for the 2006-07 school year by the same percentage. He said the 2005 Legislative Assembly provided a \$4,100,557 special funds appropriation from state bonding proceeds for the second phase of the Murphy Hall renovation project and a \$383,690 general fund appropriation for extraordinary repairs. He said the university's extraordinary repairs for the 2005-07 biennium are:

Masonry tuck-pointing projects	\$100,000
Library modifications (accessibility)	80,000
Stickney Auditorium power and lighting upgrade	123,690
South campus photography lab renovation	20,000
HVAC and electrical upgrades	60,000
Total	\$383,690

Mr. Binstock said the university is concerned with increasing energy and transportation costs and the challenge to recruit and retain quality faculty and staff. He said the university's capital improvement needs for future bienniums are:

Information Commons, Learning, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Center	\$12 million general fund
Center for Agriculture Education and Research	\$4 million general fund
Whitney Stadium renovation and addition (reauthorization)	\$8 million special funds

Ms. Lillian Crook, Director of Library Services, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding Stoxen Library and the proposed Information Commons, Learning, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Center. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. She said Stoxen Library was built in 1960 when the university's enrollment was 647. She said the university's enrollment for the fall 2005 semester was 2,516. She said the library's student and computing space is in high demand. She said the proposed Information Commons, Learning, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Center would include the renovation of the library and would provide a quality flexible learning environment supported by advances in information technology.

Dr. Gary White, Chair, Department of Agriculture and Technical Studies, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding agricultural student education and leadership. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. He said the

Department of Agriculture and Technical Studies prepares students for careers in agriculture business, agriculture economics, and agriculture technology.

DICKINSON RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

Dr. Kris Ringwall, Director, Dickinson Research Extension Center, provided information regarding the center's programs, status of the 2005-07 biennium budget, and major needs for the 2007-09 biennium. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office. He said the center was founded in 1905 and is the oldest branch station of the North Dakota State University Experiment Station. He said the center's work focuses on:

- Grass production.
- Rangeland management and increasing the grazing capacity of the land.
- Rangeland conservation and preservation.
- Beef and swine genetics, nutrition, management, and disease control.
- Crop variety testing and development of profitable cropping systems for the region.
- Testing and demonstration of lawn, garden, and tree crops suitable to the region.

Dr. Ringwall said the 2003 Legislative Assembly authorized the construction of a new headquarters office and multipurpose room building. He said the construction of the new facility is almost complete. He said the new facility is scheduled to be officially dedicated on July 13, 2006, as part of the center's Centennial Field Day. He said the center's major needs for the 2007-09 biennium include:

Business and marketing associate	\$160,000
Operating funds	62,500
Horticultural specialist	200,000
Sustainable specialist	180,000
Support staff	66,000
Equipment pool	50,000
Total	\$718,500

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND STAFF DIRECTIVES

Chairman Holmberg said he has requested the Legislative Council staff to prepare the following bill drafts for committee consideration:

- A bill draft to extend the continuing appropriation authority for higher education institutions' special revenue funds through June 30, 2009.
- A bill draft to extend the requirement that the budget request for the North Dakota University System include budget estimates for block grants for a base funding component and for an initiative funding component and a budget estimate for an asset funding component and the requirement that the appropriation for the North Dakota University System include block

grants for a base funding appropriation and for an initiative funding appropriation and an appropriation for asset funding through June 30, 2009.

- A bill draft to extend the North Dakota University System authority to carry over unspent general fund appropriations at the end of the biennium through June 30, 2009.

Chairman Holmberg said the next meeting of the committee will be on Thursday, July 13, 2006, at the State Capitol, Bismarck, to discuss the MGT of America, Inc., final report for the higher education funding and accountability study and related issues. He said a representative of MGT of America, Inc., will participate at the meeting via conference call to address committee members' requests for clarification of recommendations and explanation of supporting information relating to the final report for the higher education funding and accountability study. He said to facilitate the MGT of America, Inc., responses, committee members are to submit requests to be addressed by representatives of MGT of America, Inc., to the Legislative Council office by Tuesday, June 20, 2006.

Senator Nething said he is concerned with the amount of money higher education institutions are spending on remedial education. He said the state should consider requiring students who need remedial education to pay the costs for the remedial education. He said he believes a similar requirement exists in South Dakota. He requested the committee receive a

status report on the P-16 Initiative, including information on the provision of remedial education by higher education institutions, how higher education institutions determine remedial education is necessary, and the possibility of requiring four credits of mathematics for high school graduation.

The committee recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. (MDT).

TOUR

After lunch the committee conducted a tour of the university's Stoxen Library and Agrosecurity Center and Dickinson Research Extension Center's new headquarters office and multipurpose room building.

Upon completion of the tour, the committee adjourned subject to the call of the chair at 2:00 p.m. (MDT).

Roxanne Woeste
Senior Fiscal Analyst

Jim W. Smith
Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor

[ATTACH:1](#)