

**BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Board of Regents Central Office (Teleconference)
Pierre, South Dakota
March 8, 2019**

The South Dakota Board of Regents convened by teleconference at 4 p.m. Central Time on March 8, 2019, with the following members in attendance:

ROLL CALL:

Lucas Lund – PRESENT
David Mickelson – PRESENT
Jim Morgan, Secretary – ABSENT
Pam Roberts – PRESENT
Randy Schaefer – ABSENT
Jim Thares – PRESENT
Joan Wink – PRESENT
John Bastian, Vice President – PRESENT
Kevin Schieffer, President – ABSENT

Also present were Dr. Paul B. Beran, Executive Director and CEO; members of the system office; and other members of the regental system.

Regent Bastian called the public meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 4 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Dr. Janelle Toman, System Director of Communications, said it is end of Week 9 of the legislative session. Only three days next week remain in the main run of the 94th legislative session. Yesterday was the final day for bills to pass both houses of the Legislature, so it was a long day. For the time remaining, the focus will be on conference committees, where negotiators work out differences between the House and Senate on certain bills, plus getting the state budget finalized.

System Vice President for Finance and Administration Monte Kramer reported we were in Joint Appropriations Committee on Thursday for budget setting for most of the cost centers within the Board of Regents' budget. Budget lines were approved for the following cost centers: SDSD, SDSBVI, USD, USD law and medical schools, SDSU, SDSU Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station, SDSM&T, NSU, BHSU, and DSU. What remains to be determined are final budget numbers for the BOR Central Office (final decisions needed on Maintenance and Repair) and Scholarships (re: Opportunity Scholarship funding). There were no unexpected adjustments to our budget this week. The last of the budget setting for BOR, and consideration of the state's general budget bill, should happen Monday or Tuesday in Joint Appropriations Committee.

Dr. Toman, Dr. Beran, and Nathan Lukkes shared updates on the following bills of most importance to the system:

HB 1087 (promote free speech and intellectual diversity at certain institutions of higher education) – After first killing this bill, the Senate State Affairs Committee reconsidered that decision Monday and the bill was reposted Wednesday for another committee hearing. Considerable discussion occurred behind the scenes with the bill’s sponsors, various senators, and this office to determine if a compromise amendment could be agreed to. The bill was amended with language reflecting our preferences and passed in Senate State Affairs on a 6-3 vote. Yesterday, on the Senate floor the compromise version of the bill passed 26-7. The House must now concur in those Senate amendments Tuesday. At that point, the bill would be final and sent to the Governor, who is expected to sign it.

SB 116 (create the Dakota promise fund, provide Dakota promise grants, and to make an appropriation) – In the House Education Committee Monday, this bill was further amended to eliminate the \$1 million appropriation. It was sent to the House floor for further debate. Yesterday, the House failed to pass the bill by the two-thirds vote necessary to approve a dedicated fund. The vote was 37-28, but would need 47 votes to pass.

Another bill we are supporting in the legislative process is SB 140. The original bill authorized and encouraged BOR to develop programs to increase enrollment, improve retention, and offer student support for students from the nine federally recognized Indian tribes in South Dakota. When it reached the House floor Wednesday, some House members questioned whether such a law was needed for the Board to work with tribal entities. At first the bill failed but was reconsidered and amended. The new amendments require annual reports from BOR as to activities and progress, beginning July 1, 2020, and eliminated the bill’s original language that “encouraged” BOR to develop programs. It also eliminated language authorizing “development” of tuition assistance or waiver programs. The remaining language only says the Board may explore such programs. After these amendments were approved, the bill passed 52-12. The Senate will consider the House amendments Monday and whether to concur in those changes.

ADJOURN

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Wink, seconded by Regent Mickelson, to adjourn the meeting of the full Board at 4:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Lund – AYE
Mickelson – AYE
Morgan – ABSENT
Roberts – AYE
Schaefer – ABSENT
Thares – AYE
Wink – AYE
Bastian – AYE
Schieffer – ABSENT

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.