

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

South Dakota Board of Technical Education
Minutes of the October 10, 2019 Regular Meeting
Teleconference

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The South Dakota Board of Technical Education (hereinafter referred to as “BOTE”) met telephonically on October 10, 2019. Secretary Terry Sabers called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 am (CST) with the following members present: Bob Faehn (Vice-Chair), Terry Sabers (Secretary), Rod Bowar, Doug Ekeren, Scott Knuppe, Ed Mallett, and Diana VanderWoude. One member, Scott Peterson, joined shortly after rollcall.

Also present:

Nick Wendell (Executive Director, BOTE)

Scott DesLauriers (Deputy Director, BOTE)

Michael Cartney (President, Lake Area Technical Institute)

Diane Stiles (Vice President, Lake Area Technical Institute)

Mark Wilson (President, Mitchell Technical Institute)

John Heemstra (Vice President, Mitchell Technical Institute)

Julie Brookbank (Associate to the President, Mitchell Technical Institute)

Robert Griggs (President, Southeast Technical Institute)

Dr. Benjamin Valdez (Vice President of Academic Affairs, Southeast Technical Institute)

Stephen Williamson (Director, Southeast Technical Institute Foundation)

Dr. Ann Bolman (President, Western Dakota Technical Institute)

Todd Thorin (Director of Safety and Training, VIKOR Teleconstruction)

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion made by Mallett and seconded by Bowar to adopt the proposed agenda. Voice vote, all present voted in favor. Motion carried. ([Attachment #1](#))

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 30, 2019

Motion made by Peterson and seconded by Faehn to adopt the meeting minutes from the May 15, 2019 regular meeting. Voice vote, all present voted in favor.

Motion carried. ([Attachment #2](#))

4. Declaration of Conflicts

In accordance with SDCL 3-23-10, state boards and commissions are required to publicly address the expectations regarding annual disclosures and waivers. No BOTE members submitted new declaration of conflicts.

5. Public Comment

Secretary Sabers opened the floor to public comment, though none present.

6. Executive Director Update, Nick Wendell

Wendell provided two updates:

The System Office is coordinating with the South Dakota Bureau of Finance and Management (BFM) to finalize the FY21 budget request and submit responses to written follow-up questions. Mallett inquired if there were specific concerns regarding funding status. Wendell responded this will be a tight revenue year, and the System will need to reaffirm its priorities. Wendell emphasized the value of the Postsecondary Data Partnership (PDP), an initiative through the National Student Clearinghouse, to strengthen the System's work around institutional research, data, and reporting. Sabers affirmed the need for continued legislative relationship building and engagement.

Both Wendell and DesLauriers will attend a regional listening session on state oversight of quality assurance in higher education. The listening session is hosted by the National Governors Association and is focused on mapping out the variety of agencies and mechanisms that constitute the state's role in higher education oversight. The Listening Session will take place on October 18, 2019, in Denver, CO.

7. Deputy Director Update, Scott DesLauriers

DesLauriers provided an update on the work of the System Office and technical institutes around the Legislative Research Council's Program Evaluation on the High School Dual Credit Program. DesLauriers has been in close collaboration with the Department of Education, Board of Regents, and Legislative Research Council in responding to information requests. The System is currently working on its final submission. Legislative Research Council will publicly submit the finalized program evaluation report to the Executive Board on November 18, 2019.

8. Reports

A. Fall 2019 Enrollment Report

Secretary Sabers recognized DesLauriers to provide an overview of the Fall 2019 Enrollment report ([Attachment #3](#), [Attachment #4](#)). Overall, the System saw increases in enrollments in Fall 2019. In Fall 2018, 6,825 students were enrolled within the System; in Fall 2019, 7,122 students, which reflects a growth of 297 students. Dual enrollment opportunities have increased enrollments, DesLauriers noted. However, there has also been incremental growth in non-dual enrollment students. When dual enrollment students are removed from the Fall 2019 headcount, the System enrolls 5,996 students. In Fall 2018, 5,945 non-dual enrollment students were enrolled; the year before that (Fall 2017), 5,909. The System enrolls more students in the Health Science career cluster than any other cluster; state-sponsored dual credit was the second-highest cluster. Mallett inquired about academic programs that have small enrollment numbers and how the System Office monitors those. DesLauriers stated the System Office annually completes a program review of each program within the System and examines three metrics:

enrollment, retention, and placement in students' training-related field. Programs falling below thresholds within any one of those three metrics are required to engage in a continuation review process. DesLauriers concluded by stating the System Office is constantly working to revise and improve reporting processes and would welcome Board members' feedback.

B. Appendix A, 2018-2019

Secretary Sabers recognized DesLauriers to provide an overview of the Appendix A report ([Attachment #5](#)). According to DesLauriers, Appendix A is a report that primarily examines completions of credentials at each institution and across the System. Traditionally, Appendix A includes a historical chart of full-time equivalent calculations. Due to the turnaround time of the data and the timing of the meeting, the System Office is finalizing figures. DesLauriers noted the System Office will follow-up with an addendum at the December board meeting. In 2018-19, the System conferred a total of 2,625 credentials to 2,395 unique graduates. These figures represent slight increases from 2017-18, where 2,605 credentials were awarded to 2,393 unique graduates. The System confers more associates of applied science degrees than diploma and certificates. Mallett inquired of the difference between the student to faculty ratios. Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDT) has a lower number of hours taught than the three other institutions. Bolman stated the academic semesters at WDT are shorter and the ratio is more aligned with local needs. Wendell stated this is a metric the System Office is working to standardize in partnership with the technical institutes. Sabers requested additional information to be presented on personnel ratios. DesLauriers noted he would coordinate with the technical institutes.

C. Accelerating Opportunity: An Analysis of Dual Enrollment at South Dakota's Technical Institutes

Secretary Sabers recognized DesLauriers to provide an overview of the Accelerating Opportunity report ([Attachment #6](#)). In response to an increased emphasis, the System Office initiated an analysis of dual enrollment opportunities. DesLauriers stated the System Office worked closely with the technical institutes to compile the report. For this study, the System Office analyzed first-time students who graduated from a South Dakota high school and then enrolled at one of the four technical institutes in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Only students who graduated after 2015 were included, as the High School Dual Credit Program began in the 2014/15 academic year. In total, this study included about 3700 students. The total number of credits a student started with were analyzed, and DesLauriers noted there was no differentiation of the source of the credits. The credits could come from a technical institute, public university, students' home school district, or a combination of all three. DesLauriers highlighted four findings: First, lower socioeconomic status, first-

generation, and racial/ethnic minority students are less likely to matriculate with credits. Second, in addition to total cohort sizes steadily growing from 2015 to 2017, the number of average credits at matriculation per student also increased from 2.18 to 2.75, which reflects an increase of 0.57. Third, students with 0.5 or more credits at matriculation had higher term-to-term and year-to-year retention rates and were more likely to complete their degree at 100 and 150 percent of normal time-to-degree. Fourth, students matriculating with three or more credits had lower average total student loans than their peers matriculating with fewer than three.

Mallett asked if the study was shared with school counselors. DesLauriers replied the report was finalized the previous week, and the System Office is now working with other state agency partners to identify next steps. Wendell stated he expects legislation around the High School Dual Credit Program in 2020. At the recommendation of Knuppe, the System Office will develop an executive summary of the study's findings for broader distribution.

9. Academic Program Approvals

a. Southeast Technical Institute: New Program, Certificates in Wireless Infrastructure Technician

Secretary Sabers recognized President Griggs to introduce and overview Southeast Technical Institute's (STI) proposed certificates. According to Griggs, STI was approached by VIKOR Teleconstruction in Fall 2018 to assist in meeting the ever-growing needs of the wireless telecommunications industry in South Dakota. The Wireless Infrastructure Technician certificates will provide students with both the hands-on educational experience and necessary educational theory to receive certification as Telecommunication Tower Technician 1 and Telecommunication Tower Technician 2.

Motion made by Bowar and seconded by Ekeren to approve Southeast Technical Institute's request to introduce two Wireless Infrastructure Technician (TTT1 and TTT2) certificates, as presented in [Attachment #7](#). Roll call vote, all present voted in favor. Motion carried.

10. Technical Institute Presidents' Reports (0:02)

Wilson (MTI), Griggs (STI), Bolman (WDT), Cartney (LATI), provided presidents' updates. An audio recording of the presidents' reports can be heard here: <https://sdpb.sd.gov/streamarchive/bote10102019.mp3>

11. Adjournment

Motion made by VanderWoude and seconded by Mallett to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote, all present voted in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 am CST.

A partial audio recording of this meeting can be electronically accessed through the South Dakota Public Broadcasting's (SDPB) Stream Archive. The above timestamps in Agenda Item 10 are aligned with SDPB's audio stream, which can be accessed at:

<https://sdpb.sd.gov/streamarchive/bote10102019.mp3>

**The audio recording is only a partial recording of the meeting due to error.*

Submitted on:
October 14, 2019

Approved on:
December 3, 2019