



# Senate Bill 55 Task Force

Report to the Interim  
Joint Committee on Appropriations  
*December 6, 2021*



# Senate Bill 55 - Adopted by the 2020 South Dakota Legislature

Required Board of Regents to assemble a task force to study the operations and functions of higher education under the Board's authority.

## Possible combining of:

- ▶ administration at all levels of operation within an institution;
- ▶ operations and functions across multiple institutions;
- ▶ administration of programs across multiple institutions;

- ▶ Any other possible cost-effective measures the task force determines worthy of examination.

## Review of:

- ▶ duplication of program offerings;
- ▶ academic majors with low enrollments and low numbers of graduates;
- ▶ functions outside core missions of teaching, learning, and research;
- ▶ operations and functions provided as an efficiency through the central office of the Board of Regents;
- ▶ the viability of university centers (Rapid City and Sioux Falls);





# SB55 Task Force Membership

- Sen. Ryan Maher, Isabel
- Sen. Reynold Nesiba, Sioux Falls
- Rep. Hugh Bartels, Watertown
- Rep. Chris Karr, Sioux Falls
- Dr. Brian Maher, Pierre
- Regent Jim Thares, Aberdeen
- Regent Joan Wink, Howes
- Regent Barb Stork, Dakota Dunes
- USD President Sheila Gestring
- BHSU President Laurie Nichols
- SDSU President Barry Dunn
- Jim Neiman, Hulett, Wyo.
- Tyler Tordsen, Sioux Falls
- Paulette Davidson, Rapid City
- Elsie Meeks, Pine Ridge
- Nadifa Mahamed, Sioux Falls
- Hal Clemensen, Aberdeen
- Jon Veenis, Sioux Falls
- Jim Lochner, Dakota Dunes
- Doug Morrison, Sioux Falls

# Task Force & Subcommittee Meetings

- Six meetings of the full task force:
  - Oct. 8, 2020 – Rapid City
  - Nov. 12, 2020 – Vermillion
  - Jan. 7, 2021 – Virtual meeting
  - April 15, 2021 – Spearfish
  - May 13, 2021 – Sioux Falls
  - June 3, 2021 – Brookings
- Nearly 20 subcommittee meetings were also held.
- Task force findings were due no later than Nov. 15, 2021, to Governor and the Legislature's Joint Committee on Appropriations.

# Recommendations – Who, What & When?

- ▶ Task force recommendations are relevant to:
  - Current and future students,
  - Alumni,
  - Communities,
  - Faculty and staff, and
  - Citizens of South Dakota.
- ▶ Board of Regents' commitment: Opportunities for students to learn, develop, and succeed through delivery of quality higher education.
- ▶ Task force recommendations not inclusive of all topics investigated; in some cases, insufficient evidence to recommend changes.
- ▶ Some recommendations already completed or in process; others require more study and analysis.
  - Task force report will inform next Board of Regents' strategic plan.



# Recommendations - Completed

- ▶ Revise statutory requirements for high-performance green building standards.
  - Since 2008, new or renovated public buildings in South Dakota must secure a 'silver' rating in green building standards.
  - These regulations have cost the university system an estimated \$5 million over the last 5 years.
  - [Senate Bill 134](#) became law after the 2021 legislative session.
    - Adjusts the state's required application of green building standards from a **silver** standard rating to a **certified** rating.
    - Will save taxpayer dollars on building construction, while still ensuring efficiency and energy savings.

# Recommendations – Final This Week

- ▶ Publish study of the six public universities' economic impact on the South Dakota economy.
  - Parker Philips Inc. measured economic contribution of public higher education overall and of each individual university.
    - Gathered student, financial, and employment data from each university.
    - Visited each campus.
    - Conducted multiple interviews.
    - Researched secondary data on visitor and student spending.
  - Primary research tool used in Parker Philips study: input-output model and data set, developed by IMPLAN Group LLC.
  - **Study's findings to be reported to Board of Regents this week (Wednesday, December 8).**





## Recommendations – In Process

- ▶ Each university currently has its own food service contract with a vendor individually selected.
- ▶ Issued Request for Proposals (RFP) Sept. 13, 2021, for a system-wide food service contract.
  - Proposals submitted by three vendors.
  - Top two vendor finalists interviewed Nov. 30, 2021.
  - Final contract expected to be executed January 2022.
- ▶ Dining services will commence under new contract June/July 2022.



# Recommendations – In Process

- Improve upon and expand Board of Regents' advocacy for public higher education.
- Transition to single nursing education program in Rapid City.
  - SDSU to become primary program delivering BSN degree in Rapid City area, end Rapid City delivery site for USD's program;
  - Direct SDSU and BHSU to develop plans to increase resources for future nursing program delivery at BHSU's Rapid City location;
  - Increase admissions to admit more nursing students into the BSN program in western South Dakota;
  - Utilize BHSU-Rapid City for instructional needs.

# Recommendations – In Process



- ▶ Use Degree & Workforce Demand Gap Analysis data to inform decisions on academic program duplication.
  - Private labor market analytics firm (Emsi) analyzed current alignment of public universities' major fields of study with South Dakota's workforce needs.
  - Emsi's data serves as starting point for data-driven decisions on academic proposals going forward.
  - Gap analysis will guide academic program reviews and help allocate resources tied to workforce needs.
- ▶ Revise policies related to minimum course section size.
- ▶ Revise policies for academic programs, including New Program Requests and Program Evaluation, and for low-enrolled programs.

# Recommendations – Institution Related

- Institute new framework for institutional missions that more clearly defines the contributions and expertise of each institution.
- Use improved data to analyze institutional staffing and expenditure levels.
- Review institutional funding models.
- Review and revise each institution's list of peer institutions.
- Implement new business model for university centers in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.
- Recommend BHSU and SD Mines consolidate certain common functions, contracts, services, and coordinate efforts on others.



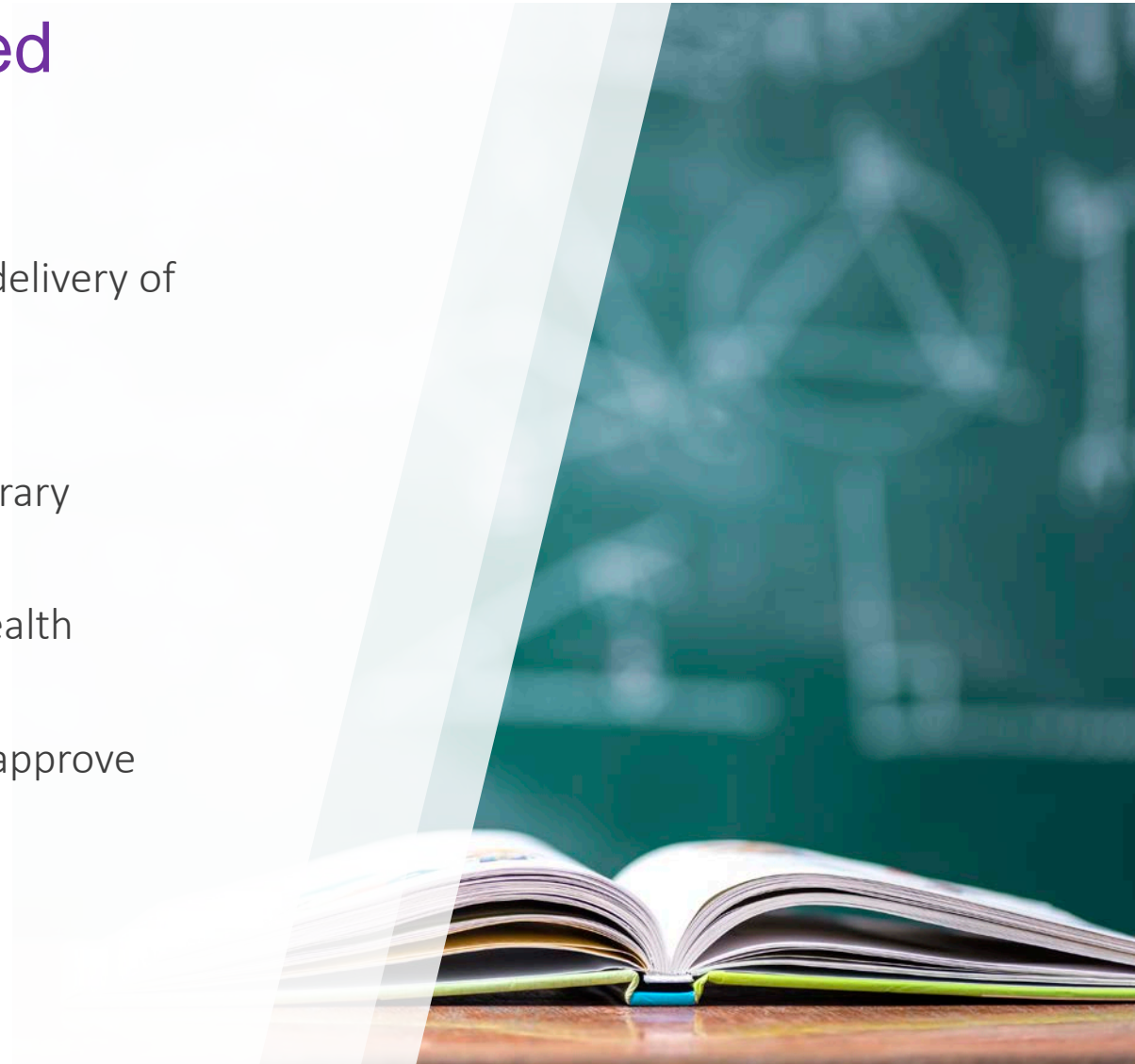
# Recommendations – System Related

- Review potential shared services in human resources and implement technologies to streamline certain HR functions.
- Conduct ongoing Lean review of system practices and procedures.
- Work with Legislature and State Auditor to transfer approval process for employee moving allowances within the university system.
- Establish system-wide approach for Title IX/Equal Employment Opportunity compliance through shared or consolidated services.



# Recommendations – System Related

- Explore additional collaboration among institutions in the delivery of online coursework.
  - Refine policies on distance and online education.
- Investigate options to expand system-wide contracts for library resources.
- Investigate student mental health options to include telehealth services.
- Revise process used to analyze facility space needs and to approve new buildings or renovations.
- Monitor central office staffing and functions.



# Recommendations – Information Technology Related

- ▶ Purchase and implement contract management software.
- ▶ Investigate potential savings from a single DocuSign contract, rather than individual contracts with each institution.
- ▶ Establish system-wide approach for high-performance computing.
- ▶ Implement single, system-wide service and project management software.
- ▶ Establish system-wide telephone standard, using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology.
- ▶ Establish common system standard for Identity and Access Management (IAM).
- ▶ Establish common system standard for Endpoint Detection and Recovery/Response.



## Next Steps: Board Action & Implementation

- ▶ Board of Regents accepted task force recommendations Oct. 6, 2021.
  - Final report sent to Gov. Noem and the Joint Committee on Appropriations Oct. 27, 2021.
- ▶ Senate Bill 55 Task Force recommendations may require:
  - Adoption of policy changes by the Board,
  - Legislative action, or
  - Additional review and analysis.
- ▶ Timelines for implementation vary, depending on topic.
  - Many task force recommendations already in process.
  - Most to be implemented or addressed by June 2022.



## Next Steps: New Strategic Plan & Performance Metrics

- ▶ Board will establish new performance measures tightly coupled with the next 5-year strategic plan.
  - Potential measurement categories may include academic quality, access and affordability, financial health, student success, workforce development, or others.
- ▶ Performance indicators will serve as foundation for the new 5-year strategic plan.
  - Connected to measurable outcomes.
  - Invite campus feedback.
- ▶ Delivery of Board's draft strategic plan anticipated Spring 2022.





# So Now What?

- ❑ Along with creating a new strategic plan, other important work driven by the Senate Bill 55 Task Force continues.
- ❑ Efforts are underway on many fronts, including:
  - ✓ University centers in Rapid City and Sioux Falls,
  - ✓ Tuition and fees,
  - ✓ Human resources assessment,
  - ✓ Academic policies.