



Joint Committee on Appropriations
REPRESENTATIVE DAVID ANDERSON, CO-CHAIR
SENATOR LARRY TIDEMANN, CO-CHAIR

July 25, 2018

Executive Director
SD Board of Regents
306 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200
Pierre, SD 57501

Sheila Gestring, President
University of South Dakota
414 E. Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Law School Dean
University of South Dakota
414 E. Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Letter of Intent Regarding USD Law School Budget Approved in the 2018 Session

Dear Board of Regents Executive Director, USD President Sheila Gestring, and the Law School Dean:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations (JCA) in approving your appropriation in the 2018 legislative session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement the appropriation with specific policy guidance as approved on June 12, 2018.

While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as a basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

The 2018 Legislature approved \$300,000 in new general funds and transferred \$300,000 in general funds from the USD main campus to the USD Law School for fiscal year 2019 to improve the sustainability of the USD Law School. As part of this ongoing funding the JCA requests a report delivered no later than November 1 of each year, beginning November 1, 2019, addressing at a minimum the following items with each having an identified 2-year and 4-year goal.

- Median LSAT scores for most recent incoming class
- Class size for the most recent incoming class
- South Dakota bar passage rate for most recent graduating class
- Comparison of the South Dakota bar passage rate for USD Law School graduates and out of state law school graduates
- Internships
 - Number of students by class participating and location
- Offerings of specialized curriculum
 - Number of graduates, areas of focus, and location
- How has adding 3 FTE (Director of Admissions, Admissions Counselor, and Career Services) enhanced learning at the USD Law School?
- How has adding the expanded curriculum coursework and 2 FTE (Director of Sioux Falls Experiential Learning and Sioux Falls Adjuncts) enhanced learning at the USD Law School and meet the needs of law graduate employers?

