



HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday and Tuesday, June 20-21, 2022
Conference Center, Student Center, Minot State University
Minot, North Dakota

Representative Mark Sanford, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members present: Representatives Mark Sanford, Larry Bellew, Jay Fisher, LaurieBeth Hager, Karla Rose Hanson*, Zachary Ista, Dennis Johnson, Bob Martinson, Gary Paur, David Richter, Mike Schatz, Cynthia Schreiber-Beck; Senators JoNell A. Bakke, Robert Erbele, Karen K. Krebsbach

Members absent: Representative Brandy Pyle; Senators Dave Oehlke, Jim P. Roers

Others present: Senator Donald Schaible, Mott, member of the Legislative Management
See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

**Attended remotely*

It was moved by Representative Bellew, seconded by Representative Ista, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the May 2-3, 2022, meeting be approved as distributed.

Dr. Stephen Shirley, President, Minot State University, provided an overview ([Appendix B](#)) regarding Minot State University.

Dr. Holly Pedersen, Program Director, Department of Special Education, Minot State University, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding teacher education.

In response to a question from a committee member, Dr. Pedersen indicated the university received a grant from the Department of Public Instruction to assist paraprofessionals enrolling in a teacher education program.

Dr. Bryan Schmidt, Professor, Minot State University, presented information ([Appendix D](#)) regarding higher education research.

Mr. Brent Winiger, Vice President for Administration and Finance, Minot State University, presented information ([Appendix E](#)) regarding the institution's 5-year master plan. He noted deferred maintenance for student housing will need to be addressed by the university.

The committee toured the Minot State University campus, including Memorial Hall and the amphitheater.

Ms. Pamela Sagness, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Division, Department of Human Services, presented information ([Appendix F](#)) regarding behavioral health workforce needs. She noted it is important to have funding for providers available to establish a behavioral health infrastructure in the state.

Ms. Lisa Johnson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix G](#)) regarding enrollment and graduation trends in behavioral health programs.

Ms. Tamara Waters-Wheeler, Professor, Minot State University, commented regarding the addiction studies program at Minot State University.

Dr. Cindy Juntunen, Dean, University of North Dakota, commented regarding behavioral health education at the university.

Mr. Christopher Scott, President, North Dakota Student Association, commented regarding student mental health resources.

The committee recessed at 5:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:05 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

Dr. Jerry Migler, Dean, Dakota College at Bottineau, provided an overview ([Appendix H](#)) regarding Dakota College at Bottineau. He noted the college would need \$1.5 million of additional state funding to start new programs at the career and technical education center in Minot, including a dental hygienist program.

Mr. Wayde Sick, Director, Department of Career and Technical Education, presented information ([Appendix I](#)) regarding the career center initiative grant program. He noted \$68.3 million of funding from the federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund has not yet been provided to the state for the career center initiative grant program.

Dr. Mark R. Hagerott, Chancellor, North Dakota University System, commented regarding the impact of inflation on the university system.

Mr. David Krebsbach, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs and Chief Financial Officer, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix J](#)) regarding the higher education funding formula, including projected calculations for the 2023-25 biennium. He noted the North Dakota University System institutions would receive \$13.2 million less for the 2023-25 biennium under the current higher education funding formula than received for the 2021-23 biennium due to a reduction in adjusted student credit hours at certain institutions, including Bismarck State College, Lake Region State College, the North Dakota State College of Science, Minot State University, and North Dakota State University.

Ms. Jamie Wilke, Director of Finance, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix K](#)) regarding the higher education challenge grant program, including funding and allowable uses. She noted \$9.5 million of the \$11.15 million appropriated for the program was awarded as of June 24, 2022. She indicated the funding may be used for investments in research, scholarships, technology, endowed chairs, and educational infrastructure.

Ms. Brenda Zastoupil, Director of Financial Aid, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix L](#)) regarding proposed future legislation relating to financial aid programs. She noted statutory changes are needed for the dual-credit scholarship, Indian scholarship, North Dakota scholars, academic and career and technical education scholarship, and career builders programs.

Mr. Krebsbach presented information ([Appendix M](#)) regarding proposed future legislation. He suggested the Legislative Assembly restore the minimum amount payable provision in the higher education funding formula and reduce matching requirements for the capital building fund program.

Dr. Hagerott presented information ([Appendix N](#)) regarding proposed future legislation. He suggested the Legislative Assembly consider ongoing research funding, 5 percent annual salary increases, and funding to limit tuition increases.

Mr. Alex Cronquist, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, presented a memorandum entitled [Student Financial Aid](#) summarizing state financial aid programs. He noted Indiana has a "You Can Go Back" program to encourage adults who have earned college credits but no degree to re-enroll and complete their credential; and a "Next Level Jobs" program to provide adults with tuition-free job training toward certificates in high-demand areas.

Chairman Sanford distributed a list ([Appendix O](#)) of items for the committee to consider for potential legislation or recommendation to the Legislative Management.

It was moved by Senator Krebsbach, seconded by Representative Hager, and carried on a roll call vote that the committee recommend the 2023 Legislative Assembly reinstate the minimum amount payable portion of the higher education funding. Representatives Sanford, Bellew, Fisher, Hager, Hanson, Ista, Johnson, Martinson, Richter, and Schreiber-Beck and Senators Bakke, Erbele, and Krebsbach voted "aye." Representatives Paur and Schatz voted "nay."

Chairman Sanford suggested the committee consider recommending the Legislative Assembly appropriate a portion of legacy fund earnings to higher education research.

Representative Martinson expressed concern with the use of legacy fund earnings for research.

Chairman Sanford commented regarding the teacher shortage loan forgiveness program and the potential need to reinstate the program.

Senator Schaible noted it is difficult for schools to participate in the teacher shortage loan forgiveness program. He indicated the Education Funding Committee is not working on this issue but individual legislators are.

Senator Bakke suggested the committee receive more information regarding the number of teachers with outstanding student loans and the average loan amount. Chairman Sanford asked the Legislative Council staff to provide the information to the committee.

Chairman Sanford commented regarding the career builders program and questioned whether the public was aware of the available funding.

Senator Schaible suggested the career builders program be allowed to continue to work and grow without significant legislative changes.

Chairman Sanford commented regarding a potential "You Can Go Back" program to assist adults who have earned college credits but no degree to re-enroll and complete their credential.

Representative Schreiber-Beck suggested a residency and work requirement be included if the program is established.

Chairman Sanford asked the Legislative Council staff to draft a bill establishing a "You Can Go Back" program.

Chairman Sanford commented regarding a potential "Next Level Jobs" program to provide adults with tuition-free job training toward certificates in high-demand areas. He asked the Legislative Council staff to draft a bill to establish the program.

Chairman Sanford commented regarding the professional student exchange program, including the potential to reinstate a return requirement for recipients of funding through the program. He noted the percentage of students involved in the program who return to North Dakota is less than in other states that have a similar program with a return requirement.

Senator Erbele commented on the need to receive additional information regarding the professional student exchange program and the potential impact of a return requirement.

Chairman Sanford asked the Legislative Council staff to provide additional information regarding the professional student exchange program. He noted money paid back under the return requirement could be used to encourage other nonresidents to establish a veterinary, dentistry, or optometry practice in the state.

Chairman Sanford commented on the potential of increased funding for the needs-based student financial assistance grants.

Senator Bakke suggested the Legislative Council staff be asked to provide additional information to the committee regarding needs-based financial aid programs in other states.

Representative Schreiber-Beck suggested the challenge grant program be expanded to allow the funding to be used for program development and program maintenance.

Chairman Sanford asked the Legislative Council staff to work with Representative Schreiber-Beck to draft a bill to expand the challenge grant program's allowable uses.

Chairman Sanford said the next meeting will be held September 7th and 8th at Mayville State University and the University of North Dakota.

No further business appearing, Chairman Sanford adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Alex J. Cronquist
Senior Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:15