NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Minutes of the

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday and Tuesday, May 6-7, 2002
Williston State College and Williston Research Extension Center
Williston, North Dakota
Dickinson State University and Dickinson Research Extension Center
Dickinson, North Dakota

Senator Dave Nething, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, May 6, 2002, at Stevens Hall, Williston State College, Williston.

Members present: Senators Dave Nething, Tim Flakoll, Ed Kringstad, Elroy N. Lindaas, Ken Solberg, Rich Wardner; Representatives Ole Aarsvold, Rachael Disrud, Nancy Johnson, Bob Martinson, Ralph Metcalf

Members absent: Senators Linda Christenson, Tony Grindberg, Ray Holmberg; Representatives Eliot Glassheim, Michael Grosz, Pam Gulleson, Roxanne Jensen, Myron Koppang, Bill Pietsch, Janet Wentz, Lonny Winrich

Others present: See attached appendix

Chairman Nething said without objection the minutes of the April 23-24, 2002, meeting were approved as distributed.

WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE

Chairman Nething welcomed Senator John M. Andrist, Crosby, a member of the Legislative Council, Representative Rex R. Byerly, Williston, and Representative Earl Rennerfeldt, Williston, to the meeting.

Dr. Joseph McCann, President, Williston State College, welcomed the committee to the campus of Williston State College and reviewed the committee's tour packet contents. A copy of the packet is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Ms. Brenda Wigness, Director for Administrative Affairs, Williston State College, provided information regarding the status of the 2001-03 biennium budget, including current enrollment information. Wigness said the college's fall 2001 headcount enrollment was 748, an increase of 61 from the fall 2000 headcount enrollment, and the college's fall 2001 fulltime equivalent enrollment was 601, an increase of 50 from the fall 2000 full-time equivalent enrollment. She said the college's estimated tuition revenue collections for the 2001-03 biennium are approximately \$150,000 behind estimates based on the college's "aggressive" full-time equivalent enrollment estimate of 652 students. The college will make internal budget reallocations to avoid any shortfall. She said the 2001 Legislative Assembly provided the college funding of \$67,439 for a technology initiative, and the college has used the funding for a technical position to assist faculty in developing distance education courses.

Dr. McCann provided information regarding capital improvements for the 2001-03 biennium and future capital improvement needs. He said the 1999 Legislative Assembly authorized the construction of a health science and sports complex. The college anticipates beginning construction of the facility by the end of May 2002 and completing construction by November 2003. He said the college's future capital improvement needs include:

- An addition to the Crighton Building (\$472,000).
- Deferred maintenance (\$584,000).
- An addition to Stevens Hall (\$2,948,400).

Dr. McCann and Ms. Helen Overbo, Dean for Academic Affairs, Williston State College, provided information regarding the college's plans for and accomplishments regarding the recommendations of the 1999-2000 interim Higher Education Committee report. The following are examples of actions taken by the college in relation to the recommendations:

Economic Development Connection

The college:

- Supports the Small Business Development Center office for the Williston area.
- Is offering an entrepreneurship program and is integrating entrepreneurial courses into other program curriculums.
- Is a member of the local area economic development council.

Educational Excellence

The college is:

- Determining the requirements and timeliness for accreditation of the massage therapy program and the certification of the diesel technology program.
- Exploring new programs, such as aerospace, on-line medical transcription, and medical billing/coding and administrative assistant certificate programs.

Collaborating with other higher education institutions to provide its nursing program in various locations across the state and to bring new programs to the college.

Flexible and Responsive System

The college:

- Partners with local school districts for various initiatives, including the offering of dual credit courses.
- Has established student focus groups to receive input from students.

Accessible System

The college:

- Is increasing its distance education offerings.
- Will be implementing a new tuition model beginning in the fall of 2002.

Funding and Rewards

The college:

- Has established a part-time grant writer position.
- Is increasing faculty and staff professional development opportunities.

Sustaining the Vision

The college:

- Has changed its strategic planning process to integrate technology, facilities, and new programs into the budget/legislative cycle.
- Has established a community advisory group to receive input from community members.

In response to a question from Senator Nething regarding the college's efforts in the area of educational excellence, Ms. Overbo said the college's entrepreneurship program was approved by the State Board of Higher Education in 2001.

In response to a question from Senator Nething regarding the college's potential aerospace program, Ms. Overbo said the college has an opportunity to become a flight training center for the University of North Dakota. She said the college estimates enrollment for an aerospace program could be 25 to 50 students for the first two years of the program with enrollment of approximately 100 to 200 students in the years following.

In response to a question from Representative Aarsvold regarding the college's dual credit program, Ms. Overbo said the college has approximately 100 high school students enrolled in its dual credit program. She said a majority of the students attend classes on campus; however, the college also offers dual credit courses over the Interactive Video Network and contracts with faculty in three area school districts to teach dual credit courses.

Dr. McCann provided information regarding the college's new tuition model and planned uses for the tuition waiver option. He said beginning in the fall

2002 semester, the college will implement a per credit tuition model in which students will be charged per credit hour for all credits, except the 14, 15, and 16 credit hours. He said the new tuition model will be more fair to part-time students and will shift a larger portion of the tuition burden to students who take 17 or more credit hours. He said the new tuition model also provides that Canadian and contiguous state students except for students from Minnesota will be charged the resident tuition rate. He said the college intends to use tuition waivers primarily for diversity.

In response to a question from Senator Flakoll, Dr. McCann said students will be charged for the number of credit hours registered for at the beginning of the semester. He said students may be eligible for a tuition reimbursement for credit hours dropped depending on the date of the registration change.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Dr. McCann said the college estimates that the tuition revenue generated for the 2002-03 academic year will be similar to the amount that would have been generated under the old tuition model.

In response to a question from Representative Disrud regarding tuition waivers for diversity, Ms. Wigness said the college uses the definition of diversity contained in the State Board of Higher Education's policy on tuition waivers.

Mr. Hugh Long, Associate Dean for Student Services, Williston State College, provided information regarding the college's long-term enrollment plans. Mr. Long said the college will be implementing the Noel-Levitz retention management system to assist the college with increasing retention rates. He said the college will also be focusing marketing and recruiting on specific student groups.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Dr. McCann said the college has not considered entering into articulation agreements with four-year campuses relating to transfer students.

In response to a question from Senator Andrist regarding the transferability of classes within the University System, Mr. Larry Isaak, Chancellor, North Dakota University System, said a majority of general education classes are transferable due to the progress made under the North Dakota University System common course numbering initiative.

Ms. Wigness provided information regarding the North Dakota University System long-term financing plan and the resource allocation model. She said the long-term financing plan provides funding to reflect changes in enrollment. She said the recommended funding share for the college is 75 percent from state appropriations and 25 percent from tuition revenue. The peer comparator institutions selected for the college as part of the long-term financing plan are:

- Clarendon College, Texas.
- Coahoma Community College, Mississippi.

- Feather River Community College District, California.
- Lurleen B. Wallace Junior College, Alabama.
- Miles Community College, Montana.
- Northwest Community College, Wyoming.
- Petit Jean College, Arkansas.
- Sampson Community College, North Carolina.
- Western Texas College, Texas.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Dr. McCann said overall he is pleased with the long-term financing plan and the resource allocation model

In response to a question from Senator Nething regarding nonmonetary requests of the 2003 Legislative Assembly, Dr. McCann said the college's request would be for continued flexibility, support for the long-term financing plan and the resource allocation model, and support for vocational education initiatives with kindergarten through grade 12 schools.

Ms. Deanette Piesik, Director of Workforce Training, Williston State College, provided information regarding the college's implementation of the workforce training system. Ms. Piesik said the mission of the northwest workforce training region is to become the premier provider of training and retraining for business and industry in the northwest quadrant of the state. She said the types of workforce training offered computer skills. emplovee enhancement, management skills, technical training, and general training. She said the workforce training activities can be delivered on campus, onsite at business locations, and at local schools and technology centers.

Ms. Piesik said the region provided training to 1,765 employees and 88 businesses in fiscal year 2001 and 1,384 employees and 139 businesses for the first nine months of fiscal year 2002. She said the region received revenue of \$328,608 and had expenditures of \$352,857 for fiscal year 2001. She said the region's future initiatives include plans to create a more visible public relations effort to promote workforce training; develop strategic partnerships with businesses, industries, and agencies; and promote workforce training at regional and state events.

In response to a question from Senator Andrist, Ms. Piesik said the region notifies area businesses of scheduled training classes through mailings.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Ms. Piesik said the directors from each of the workforce training regions meet every two months to discuss relevant topics.

Ms. Rita Wilhelmi, chairman of the local workforce training board, provided information regarding the northwest workforce training region. Ms. Wilhelmi said the local workforce training board is concerned with its ability to raise donated funds to support the workforce training region.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Ms. Piesik said the northwest workforce training

region received revenue of \$328,608 for fiscal year 2001, of which 60 percent was from direct training fees; 9 percent was from business, industry, and communities; 10 percent was from Williston State College; and 21 percent was from the general fund.

Mr. Steve Braden, Amerada Hess employee, provided information regarding workforce training provided by the northwest workforce training region. Mr. Braden said Amerada Hess receives computer training and safety training through the workforce training region.

Mr. Warren Larson, Superintendent, Williston Public School District, provided information regarding workforce training provided by the northwest workforce training region. Mr. Larson said both faculty and administrative staff of the Williston Public School District receive training through the workforce training region.

WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE BUDGET TOUR

The committee toured Williston State College facilities, including Stevens Hall and the Crighton Building.

In response to a question regarding the proposed addition to the Crighton Building for the diesel technology program, Mr. Richard Lund, Williston State College faculty, said the proposed project includes a 19,200-square-foot addition to the present diesel technology lab and a 12,000-square-foot cold storage facility. He said the project is important to provide a sufficient and safe area for students to learn on the equipment and to meet program certification standards.

In response to a question regarding the health science and sports complex, Dr. McCann said the new health science and sports complex will house the college's nursing, physical therapy, and massage therapy programs.

The committee recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

WILLISTON RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

The committee reconvened at 1:35 p.m. at the Williston Research Extension Center, Williston. Mr. Jerry Bergman, Director, Williston Research Extension Center, welcomed the committee to the center and reviewed the committee's tour packet contents. A copy of the packet is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Bergman said the center appreciates the support received from the Legislative Assembly. He said the 2001 Legislative Assembly provided a special funds appropriation of \$85,000, of which \$61,000 was from the Attorney General refund fund and \$24,000 was from estimated income, for the purchase of land in the Nesson Valley in Williams County. The center has made the land purchase with available operating funds and has received approximately 61 percent of the funding from the Attorney

General refund fund. The Attorney General's office anticipates the remaining funding to be available by summer 2003. He said the increasing costs associated with motor pool vehicles and video conferencing are budget concerns.

In response to a question from Representative Johnson, Mr. Bergman said the land purchased by the center in the Nesson Valley is located approximately 30 miles east of Williston.

Mr. Neil Riveland, Superintendent and Research Agronomist, Williston Research Extension Center, provided information on the center's programs--seed increase program, crop research program, and extension. Mr. Riveland said in regard to the center's seed increase program, the center is responsible for providing foundation seed to growers in western North Dakota and eastern Montana. In regard to the crop research program, the center's goal is to provide information on varieties and crop management practices that will allow the producer to earn additional income. He said in regard to extension, the center is responsible for extending information to area farmers through meetings, printed materials, and personal visitations.

Mr. James Staricka, Soil Scientist, Williston Research Extension Center, provided information regarding soil research at the center. Mr. Staricka said the center's soil research includes an annual legume study, a Mon-Dak potato project, and a variable rate fertilizer project.

Mr. Chet Hill, Extension Specialist, Williston Research Extension Center, provided information regarding value-added agriculture projects. Mr. Hill said the center is involved in value-added agriculture projects associated with potatoes, onions, vegetables, alfalfa cubing, and malt barley.

Mr. Tom Rolfstad, Williston Economic Development Partnership, distributed a copy of a publication regarding the Mon-Dak agriculture region. A copy of the publication is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Due to weather conditions, Chairman Nething canceled the outdoor facility tour of the Williston Research Extension Center and the onsite visit of the Dickinson Research Extension Center near Manning. Chairman Nething said he invited representatives of the Dickinson Research Extension Center to provide information regarding the center's programs, status of the 2001-03 biennium budget, and major needs for the 2003-05 biennium to the committee on Tuesday, May 7, 2002.

The committee recessed at 3:00 p.m.

DICKINSON RESEARCH EXTENSION CENTER

The committee reconvened at 9:00 a.m. (MDT) on Tuesday, May 7, 2002, at the Student Center, Dickinson State University, Dickinson. Chairman Nething welcomed Senator Aaron Krauter, Regent,

Senate Minority Leader and Legislative Council member, and Representative Francis J. Wald, Dickinson, to the meeting.

Dr. Kris Ringwall, Director, Dickinson Research Extension Center, provided information regarding the center's programs, status of the 2001-03 biennium budget, and major needs for the 2003-05 biennium. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office. Dr. Ringwall said the center's key issues are to:

- Sustain profitability in agriculture.
- Lead environmental stewardship.
- Ensure communication of research data.
- Display cooperation within the North Dakota University System.
- Develop a futuristic approach to aid industry.

Dr. Ringwall said the center's initiatives for the 2003-05 biennium include research to increase net returns to cow-calf enterprises, research to develop western North Dakota malt barleys, and construction of a new office and multipurpose building. The construction of the new building would occur in two phases with the first phase being completed in the 2003-05 biennium for an estimated cost of \$1.4 million and the second phase being completed in the 2005-07 biennium for an estimated cost of \$800,000. He said the construction of the new building would be funded with local funds.

DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Lee Vickers, President, Dickinson State University, welcomed the committee to the campus of Dickinson State University and reviewed the contents of the committee's tour booklet. A copy of the booklet is on file in the Legislative Council office.

Mr. Alvin Binstock, Vice President for Business Affairs, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding the status of the 2001-03 budget, including enrollment information, capital improvements for the 2001-03 biennium, and future capital improvement needs. The information is included in the committee's tour booklet. Mr. Binstock said the university's 2001-03 biennium budget has been increased to properly account for an allocation received from the North Dakota University System's equity and special needs pool, tuition rate increases beyond budgeted amounts, and tuition revenue realized from increased enrollments. He said the university's fall 2001 headcount and full-time equivalent enrollment was 2,101 and 1,637, respectively.

Mr. Binstock said in regard to capital improvements for the 2001-03 biennium, the university plans to use \$156,402 of utility savings from the 1999-2001 biennium, \$393,962 of funding from the general fund, and \$108,000 of auxiliary reserves for capital improvements, including a campus lighting upgrade, building tuckpointing, plumbing upgrades, and window replacement. He said the university's future capital improvement needs include the renovation and

construction of an addition to Murphy Hall (\$8,794,637) and the renovation and construction of an addition to Whitney Stadium (\$5,000,000). The renovation and construction of an addition to Murphy Hall would be completed in two phases with the first phase being completed in the 2003-05 biennium for an estimated cost of \$5,101,943 and the second phase being completed in the 2005-07 biennium for an estimated cost of \$3,692,694. He said the 2001 Legislative Assembly provided the university a \$4 million special funds appropriation for the renovation and construction of an addition to Whitney Stadium. However, due to changes in the project, the university will seek reauthorization for the Whitney Stadium project at an estimated cost of \$5 million.

Mr. Binstock said the university invites the Dickinson Research Extension Center to consider constructing its proposed new office and multipurpose building on the campus of Dickinson State University in close proximity to the existing agriculture classroom building and arena. In response, Dr. Ringwall said the Dickinson Research Extension Center will explore the opportunity with the university.

Dr. Vickers provided information regarding the university's plans for and accomplishments regarding the recommendations of the 1999-2000 interim Higher Education Committee report. The information is included in the committee's tour booklet. He said the university has established a President's Regional Advisory Committee to provide recommendations regarding the role of the university in the region. The committee's recommendations were to:

- 1. Foster change and new approaches to problem solving.
- Find a niche.
- 3. Enhance and promote economic development.
- 4. Provide high-quality agriculture programs.
- 5. Focus on excellent academic advising.
- 6. Promote entrepreneurial ideas.
- 7. Emphasize communication skills of graduates.
- 8. Promote excellence in fine arts and athletics.
- 9. Support kindergarten through grade 12 staffing and training.
- Maximize technology access.
- 11. Expand cultural and recreational programming.
- 12. Address depopulation issues.

Dr. Douglas LaPlante, Dean of College of Education, Business, and Applied Science, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding the university's plans for and accomplishments regarding the recommendations of the 1999-2000 interim Higher Education Committee report in the areas of economic development connection and flexible and responsive system. The information is included in the committee's tour booklet. Dr. LaPlante said the university is considering implementing an information technology

competency certificate proposal. Under the proposal, all students would complete 13 to 15 credits of coursework that incorporates information technology competencies and would demonstrate the information technology competencies in their senior capstone course. He said the university is increasing global awareness by promoting study abroad programs, student and faculty exchange programs, and developing a center for multicultural affairs. He said in response to a need expressed by the Dickinson Manufacturer's Roundtable for employees with business administration degrees and manufacturing technology expertise, the university established a new manufacturing technology concentration. He said the university has hosted the Great Plains Population Symposium, an entrepreneurship seminar, and a youth summit.

Ms. Marty Odermann-Gardner, Director of the Office of Extended Campus, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding the university's plans for and accomplishments regarding the recommendations of the 1999-2000 interim Higher Education Committee report in the area of accessible system. The information is included in the committee's tour booklet. Ms. Odermann-Gardner said the university offers accelerated degree programs in Dickinson, Bismarck, Williston, and other communities through the Yellowstone Trail Consortium. She said the university is a member of the Southwest Pipeline of Information for Communities in Education (SPICE) consortium whose primary goal is to provide distance learning and staff development to member entities. She said the university partners with 13 area schools to provide dual credit courses, and the university also collaborates with Bismarck State College to house a workforce training manager at the university's office of extended campus.

Mr. Jeff Swank, Vice President, TMI Systems Design Corporation, and President, Information Technology Council of North Dakota, provided information regarding the university's accelerated degree program. A copy of the information is on file in the Legislative Council office. He said the university's accelerated degree program has provided the opportunity for employees of TMI Systems Design Corporation to complete degrees. At the present time, the corporation has 21 employees enrolled in the accelerated degree program.

In response to a question from Representative Aarsvold, Mr. Swank said there are salary implications for employees who complete their degrees with the accelerated degree program.

Ms. Louise Murphy and Ms. Carissa Richter, students, provided comments regarding the university's accelerated degree program. Ms. Murphy said the knowledge and leadership skills she has acquired through the accelerated degree program have been excellent. Ms. Richter said the university's accelerated degree program is very flexible as it has allowed

her to keep her position with the Greater North Dakota Association and to obtain a bachelor's degree.

Mr. Mike Heilman, Principal, Dickinson High School, and Mr. John Campbell, Superintendent, Hettinger High School, provided information regarding the university's relationship with area high schools. Mr. Heilman said Dickinson High School works collaboratively with the university in the SPICE consortium, the West River Teacher Center, and the dual credit program. Mr. Campbell said the university's dual credit program and consortiums such as the SPICE consortium allow schools to enhance curriculum.

OTHER INFORMATION

The committee recessed at 11:50 a.m. (MDT) to attend an Interactive Video Network presentation by Dr. Sharon Hart, President, State College of Science, regarding the North Dakota University System long-term financing plan and the resource allocation model. Dr. Hart said she is satisfied with the peer institutions selected for the college as part of the long-term financing plan. She said the long-term financing plan and the resource allocation model reward enrollment growth, and it is the college's goal to grow enrollment by approximately 5 percent in the next few years.

Mr. Mike Renk, Vice President for Administrative Affairs, State College of Science, provided comments regarding the North Dakota University System long-term financing plan and the resource allocation model. Mr. Renk said he is pleased with the plan and the budgetary flexibility associated with the plan.

In response to a question from Senator Nething, Dr. Hart said the recommended funding share for the college is 75 percent from state appropriations and 25 percent from tuition revenue. She said she would like the percentage from state appropriations to be higher, but she said the percentages appear to be reasonable.

In response to a question from Senator Nething regarding nonmonetary requests of the 2003 Legislative Assembly, Dr. Hart said her request would be for continued support. Mr. Renk said his request would be for continued support and flexibility.

The committee recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. (MDT) and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. (MDT).

DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Richard Brauhn, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dickinson State University, provided information regarding the university's plans for and accomplishments regarding the recommendations of the 1999-2000 interim Higher Education Committee report in the area of educational excellence. The information is included in the committee's tour booklet. Dr. Brauhn said the university uses the Noel-Levitz college student inventory to revise the student advising system in order to increase retention. He

said the university has defined six specific student learning outcome goals. The university has emphasized student and faculty collaborative research and has established a Theodore Roosevelt honors/leadership program.

Dr. Andrew McGarva, faculty, and Mr. Jess Reis, student, Dickinson State University, provided comments regarding a student and faculty collaborative research project. Dr. McGarva and Mr. Reis said they were awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Dickinson State University Foundation for a research project on driver aggression.

Ms. Krissy Sparks and Mr. Joshua Steffan, students, Dickinson State University, provided comments regarding the university's Theodore Roosevelt honors/leadership program.

Dr. Vickers provided information regarding the university's plans for and accomplishments regarding the recommendations of the 1999-2000 interim Higher Education Committee report in the area of educational excellence. The information is included in the committee's tour booklet. He said the university emphasizes student retention by requiring freshmen to attend a freshmen seminar, developing learning communities, providing free peer tutoring, and providing residential living programming.

Mr. Binstock provided information regarding the North Dakota University System long-term financing plan and the resource allocation model. The information is included in the committee's tour packet. He said the plan provides that the funding of higher education institutions should reflect a shared responsibility among the various stockholders. He said the plan provides equity funding based upon peer comparator institutions, and the peer comparator institutions selected for the university are:

- Dakota State University, South Dakota.
- Glenville State College, West Virginia.
- Indiana University East, Indiana.
- Lewis-Clark State College, Idaho.
- Shawnee State University Ohio.
- University of Arkansas at Monticello, Arkansas.
- University of Maine at Farmington, Maine.
- University of South Carolina at Aiken, South Carolina.
- West Liberty State College, West Virginia.

Mr. Binstock said based on the objectives of the long-term financing plan to continue to provide base funding that is adjusted each biennium to address inflation and to fund all institutions at 85 percent of their peer comparator institutions in six years, the university would need to receive an inflationary adjustment of \$1,042,342 and an equity adjustment of \$1,037,817 for a total general fund increase of \$2,080,159 for the 2003-05 biennium.

In response to a question from Senator Nething regarding nonmonetary requests of the 2003 Legislative Assembly, Dr. Vickers said the university's

request would be for continued and additional flexibility.

DICKINSON STATE UNIVERSITY BUDGET TOUR

The committee toured the university's Murphy Hall. Representatives of Dickinson State University pointed out asbestos issues, inadequacy of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, and inadequacy of fume hoods.

In response to a question from Senator Solberg regarding the cost estimate for the renovation and addition to Murphy Hall, Mr. Binstock said he is comfortable with the estimate received from the architect.

In response to a question regarding the proposed addition to Murphy Hall, Mr. Binstock said the proposed addition would be constructed on the north and east sides of the existing facility.

OTHER INFORMATION

Representative Aarsvold requested the Legislative Council staff to provide the committee information regarding the State Board of Higher Education's core curriculum standard for admission, individual higher education institutions' admission standards, and steps taken if a student does not meet the admission requirements.

Chairman Nething said the committee's next scheduled meeting will be a meeting of the Higher Education Roundtable at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck on Wednesday, June 12, 2002.

The committee adjourned subject to the call of the chair at 4:05 p.m. (MDT).

Roxanne Woeste Fiscal Analyst

Jim W. Smith Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor

ATTACH:1