

**BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
April 1-2, 2026**

The South Dakota Board of Regents met on April 1-2, 2026, at Dakota State University campus in Madison, South Dakota at 9:30 a.m. Central Time with the following members present:

ROLL CALL:

Miles Beacom – PRESENT
Judy Dittman – PRESENT
James Lochner – PRESENT
Griffin Petersen – PRESENT
Randy Rasmussen – PRESENT
Pam Roberts – PRESENT
Randy Frederick, Secretary – PRESENT
Jeff Partridge, Vice President – PRESENT
Tim Rave, President – EXCUSED

Also present during all or part of the meeting were Nathan Lukkes, Board of Regents Executive Director and CEO; Liza Clark, Chief of Staff; Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning; Dr. Lisa Bonneau, System Associate Vice President for Academic Programming; Heather Forney, System Vice President of Finance and Administration; Kayla Bastian, Chief Human Resources Officer; Holly Farris, System General Counsel; Katie Maley, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Board; Steve Elliott, BHSU President; Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, DSU President; Dr. Alan LaFave, NSU President; Dr. Barry Dunn, SDSU President; Brian Tande, SDSMT President; Sheila Gestring, USD President; and other members of the Regental system and public and media.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

Regent Partridge declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. CST.

1-B Approval of the Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Beacom, seconded by Regent Petersen, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

1-C Declaration of Conflicts

No conflicts were declared.

1-D Approval of the Minutes – December 10-11, 2025; March 26, 2026

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Beacom, seconded by Regent Dittman, to approve the minutes of the Board of Regents meetings December 10-11, 2025, and March 26, 2026. Motion passed.

1-E Election of Officers

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Roberts, seconded by Regent Lochner, to nominate Jeff Partridge as President, Randy Frederick as Vice President, and Miles Beacom as Secretary to serve a one-year term for the Board. Motion passed.

1-F Motion to Dissolve into Executive Session

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Dittman, that the Board dissolve into Executive Session at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1st, to consult with legal counsel and discuss personnel matters, pending and prospective litigation, contractual matters, and marketing or pricing strategies by a board of a business owned by the State when public discussion may be harmful to the competitive position of the business.

That it rise from Executive Session at 4:00 p.m., and reconvene in public session, to resume the regular order of business, and that the Board report its deliberations while in executive session and take any action it deems prudent as a result thereof in public session on Thursday, April 2nd. Motion passed.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

The Board reconvened in public session at 9:00 a.m. CST.

3-A Report and Actions of Executive Session

The Board dissolved into Executive Session at 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1st, to consult with legal counsel and discuss personnel matters, pending and prospective litigation, contractual matters, and marketing or price strategies by a board of a business owned by the State when public discussion may be harmful to the competitive position of the business, before rising from executive session at 4:00 p.m.

While in Executive Session, the Board discussed the matters just described, which included certain recommended actions as set forth in the Secretary's Report and other matters permitted by law.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Roberts, that the Board approve the recommended actions as set forth in the secretary's report and publish said reports and official actions in the formal minutes of this meeting. Motion passed.

3-B Welcome Presentation by DSU President José-Marie Griffiths

President José-Marie Griffiths welcomed the Board of Regents to Dakote State University campus and played a video regarding the campus and it's future.

Regent Rave also recognized President Griffiths on behalf of the board and presented her with a resolution of recognition.

3-C 2025 Student Organization Awards

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning, stated that each year, noted that the Board approves the previous year's Student Organization Award winners. The nominations advanced to the Board are chosen by each institution in the categories of Academic Excellence, Community Service, and Organizational Leadership. Once approved, the Board presents these awards at its meetings throughout the year. The current list of student organizations represents the recommended award winners for 2025.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Frederick, seconded by Regent Petersen, to accept the recommendations offered by each institution for student organization awards and announce the names of the award winners. Motion passed.

A copy of the 2025 Student Organization Awards can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

3-D DSU Student Organization Awards

Amy Crissinger, DSU Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, presented the DSU student organization award winners for 2024 and 2025. TriBeta Biological Honor Society accepted the 2024 award for academic excellence. Pi Beta Kappa accepted the 2024 award for community service. CybHER Club accepted the 2024 award for organizational leadership. FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) accepted the 2025 award for academic excellence. CybHER Club accepted the 2025 award for community service. TriBeta Biological Honor Society accepted the 2025 award for organizational leadership.

A copy of the DSU Student Organization Awards can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

3-E DSU Faculty Recognition Awards

Rebecca Hoey, DSU Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, presented the recipients of Dakota State University's excellence awards. These awards highlight exceptional educators who inspire

learning, advisors who guide students with care and expertise, researchers who expand knowledge and innovation, and service-driven faculty who strengthen campus and community life. The recipients are: 1) The Merrill Hunter Award for Excellence in Research to Dr. Alex Dececchi; 2) The Earnest Teagarden Award for Excellence in Teaching to Dr. Viki Johnson; (3) The DeWayne Mork Award for Excellence in Service to Dr. Kevin Smith; and 4) The Alexander Davidson Award for Excellence in Advising and Mentorship to Dr. Kurt Kemper. Together, these awards celebrate the excellence that propels a university forward - elevating academic quality, enriching the student experience, and reinforcing the institution's reputation for leadership and impact.

A copy of the DSU Faculty Recognition Awards can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

3-F Reports from Individual Presidents

Dr. Alan LaFave, NSU President, recognized Veronica Paulson on her upcoming retirement and years of dedicated service at Northern State University.

Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, DSU President, also recognized Dean Doreen Bennet on her upcoming retirement as well.

3-G Reports on Individual Regent Activities

Regent Partridge noted that the system and Regents have been spending a lot of time reviewing the IT structure in the system, not only understanding the technology that is there, but also looking towards the future and how to best serve the needs of all six universities.

Regent Frederick stated that his biggest event recently has been his involvement in the search for the new President for DSU. He thanked everyone involved and feels they had a very successful search.

Regent Roberts noted that she has been involved heavily in the BOR Legislative Committee during the recent legislative session, noting that the committee met weekly all through session. She also thanked and was impressed with the Board staff's handling of the session and bills that came up. Staff were able to go out and get ahead of bills that we opposed to either get them amended in our favor which is not easy to do.

Regent Rave also noted that legislative session is always tough. This year we had a great legislative session in light of some financial challenges at the state level and a lot of policy dust in the air. Regent Rave acknowledged each of the six university Presidents and others on campus that put their noses to the grindstone every day which put the Regental system in a really good light with legislators; so much so that many of them have noted this year how great our staff and campuses handle themselves and operate.

Regent Petersen noted that he had the opportunity to attend Students in Higher Education Day (SHED) during session with student leadership from across all of our campuses.

Regent Rave also commented that he attended and had a chance to speak with students while they were in Pierre for SHED.

3-H Report of the Executive Director

Nathan Lukkes, Executive Director and CEO, thanked DSU for the warm welcome this week hosting the Board meeting and all the added time he has spent on campus recently during the presidential search. He is very excited for Dr. Ballard coming to campus and looks forward to that transition. He thanked the entire search committee for their work during the search process as well as Miranda Morris and her team at DSU along with Kayla Bastian and Katie Maley in the BOR office for their leadership in coordinating all of the logistics during the on-campus interviews for the presidential candidates last week.

3-I Report from the Student Federation

Samuel Brumfield, Student Federation Executive Director, joined by Jacob Vostad (Vice President) provided an update on recent activities within the Student Federation. Jacob noted that this year their SHED experience was exemplary with the added activities/events. They ended up hosting the first annual Governor's Gala in the capitol building. The next morning, they hosted a breakfast with legislators and attended hearings. They look forward to the next Student Federation leadership continuing those experiences during SHED.

3-J Report from the USD Student Government Association

Tyler Sprik, DSU Student Senate Vice President, provided an update on recent activities within the DSU Student Senate.

4 Public Comment Period

No comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Partridge asked Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy & Planning, if the School of Mines already has an MS in Engineering. Dr. Minder was joined by SDSMT President Brian Tande who then explained the rationale behind the request currently on the consent agenda.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Dittman, seconded by Regent Robertts, to approve consent agenda items 5-A(1) through 5-O as presented. Motion passed.

Academic and Student Affairs – Consent

5-A(1) New Program Request – NSU – BS in Analytics

Authorize NSU to offer a BS in Analytics, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – NSU – BS in Analytics can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-A(2) New Program Request – DSU – EdS in Education and Technology

Authorize DSU to offer a EdS in Education and Technology, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – DSU – EdS in Education and Technology can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-A(3) New Program Request – SDSU – MS in Biochemistry

Authorize SDSU to offer an MS in Biochemistry, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – SDSU – MS in Biochemistry can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-A(4) New Program Request – SDSU – AS in Dairy Technology

Authorize SDSU to offer an AS in Dairy Technology, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – SDSU – AS in Dairy Technology can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-A(5) New Program Request – SDSU – Minor in Health Coaching

Authorize SDSU to offer a minor in Health Coaching, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – SDSU – Minor in Health Coaching can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-A(6) New Program Request – USD – Minor in Child and Adult Advocacy Studies (CAAST)

Authorize USD to offer a minor in Child and Adult Advocacy Studies (CAAST), as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – USD – Minor in Child and Adult Advocacy Studies (CAAST) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-B(1) New Certificate Request – BHSU, DSU, NSU, SDSMT, SDSU & USD – Gateway to Essential Workforce Skills (Undergraduate)

Authorize BHSU, DSU NSU, SDSMT, SDSU, and USD to offer an undergraduate certificate in Gateway to Essential Workforce Skills, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – BHSU, DSU, NSU, SDSMT, SDSU & USD – Gateway to Essential Workforce Skills (Undergraduate) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-B(2) New Certificate Request – SDSU – Bioethics (Undergraduate)

Authorize SDSU to offer an undergraduate certificate in Bioethics, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – SDSU – Bioethics (Undergraduate) can be found on pages

__ to __ of the official minutes.

5-B(3) New Certificate Request – SDSU – Chemistry Education (Graduate)

Authorize SDSU to offer a graduate certificate in Chemistry Education, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – SDSU – Chemistry Education (Graduate) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-B(4) New Certificate Request – SDSU – Palliative Care (Undergraduate)

Authorize SDSU to offer an undergraduate certificate in Palliative Care, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – SDSU – Palliative Care (Undergraduate) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-B(5) New Certificate Request – SDSU – Post-Graduate Midwifery (Graduate)

Authorize SDSU to offer a graduate certificate in Post-Graduate Midwifery, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – SDSU – Post-Graduate Midwifery (Graduate) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-B(6) New Certificate Request – USD – Music Composition (Undergraduate)

Authorize USD to offer an undergraduate certificate in Music Composition, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – USD – Music Composition (Undergraduate) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-B(7) New Certificate Request – USD – Strategic Behavioral Practices for Educators (Graduate)

Authorize USD to offer a graduate certificate in Strategic Behavioral Practices for Educators, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – USD – Strategic Behavioral Practices for Educators (Graduate) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-B(8) New Certificate Request – USD – Sustainability (Graduate)

Authorize USD to offer a graduate certificate in Sustainability, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – USD – Sustainability (Graduate) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-C(1) New Specialization Request – BHSU – Business Analytics – BS in Business Administration

Authorize BHSU to offer a Business Analytics specialization within the BS in Business Administration program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – BHSU – Business Analytics – BS in Business Administration can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-C(2) New Specialization Request – NSU – Art Education, Digital Media, and Studio Art – Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Authorize NSU to offer specializations in Art Education, Digital Media, and Studio Art within the BFA in Art program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – NSU – Art Education, Digital Media, and Studio Art – Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-C(3) New Specialization Request – SDSMT – Systems Engineering – Master of Engineering (M.Eng.)

Authorize SDSMT to offer a Systems Engineering specialization within the Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – SDSMT – Systems Engineering – Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-C(4) New Specialization Request – SDSU – Business Analytics & Supply Chain Management – MS in Operations Management

Authorize SDSU to offer specializations in Business Analytics and Supply Chain Management within the MS in Operations Management program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – SDSU – Business Analytics & Supply Chain Management – MS in Operations Management can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-C(5) New Specialization Request – SDSU – Career and Technical Education – M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction

Authorize SDSU to offer a Career and Technical Education specialization within the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – SDSU – Career and Technical Education – M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-C(6) New Specialization Request – SDSU – Environment & Rural Development and Rural Well-Being Specializations – PhD in Social Science

Authorize SDSU to offer specializations in Environment & Rural Development and Rural Well-Being within the PhD in Social Science program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – SDSU – Environment & Rural Development and Rural Well-Being Specializations – PhD in Social Science can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-C(7) New Specialization Request – SDSU – Midwifery Specialization – MS in Nursing

Authorize SDSU to offer a Midwifery specialization within the MS programs in Nursing, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – SDSU – Midwifery Specialization – MS in Nursing can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-C(8) New Specialization Request – SDSU – Marketing & Industry and Research and Industry Specializations – BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences

Authorize SDSU to offer specializations in Marketing & Industry and Research & Industry within the BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – SDSU – Marketing & Industry and Research and Industry Specializations – BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-D(1) New Site Request – USD – MBA in Business Administration – Economics Specialization (USD – Sioux Falls)

Approve USD's new site proposals to offer the graduate and undergraduate certificates in Professional Sales at USD – Sioux Falls, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – USD – MBA in Business Administration – Economics Specialization (USD – Sioux Falls) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-D(2) New Site Request – USD – Minor in Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Online)

Approve USD's new site proposal to offer the Minor in Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship online, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – USD – Minor in Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Online) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-D(3) New Site Request – USD – Undergraduate & Graduate Certificate in Professional Sales (USD – Sioux Falls)

Approve USD's new site proposals to offer the graduate and undergraduate certificates in Professional

Sales at USD – Sioux Falls, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – USD – Undergraduate & Graduate Certificate in Professional Sales (USD – Sioux Falls) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-D(4) New Site Request – USD – MS in Sustainability (Online)

Approve USD's new site proposal to offer the MS in Sustainability online, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – USD – MS in Sustainability (Online) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-E Substantive Program Modifications Requiring Board Approval – DSU & USD

Approve the substantive program modifications from DSU & USD, as presented.

A copy of the Substantive Program Modifications Requiring Board Approval – DSU & USD can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-F(1) Articulation Agreements – Dakota State University

Approve Dakota State University to finalize and execute the articulation agreement with Rochester Community and Technical College, in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachment I.

A copy of the Articulation Agreements – Dakota State University can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-F(2) Articulation Agreements – Northern State University

Approve Northern State University to finalize and execute the articulation agreement with Lake Area Technical College, in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachment I.

A copy of the Articulation Agreements – Northern State University can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-F(3) Articulation Agreements – South Dakota State University

Approve South Dakota State University to finalize and execute the articulation agreements with Black Hills State University, Chadron State College, Dakota State University, Lake Area Technical College, and Southeast Technical College, in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachment I.

A copy of the Articulation Agreements – South Dakota State University can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-F(4) Articulation Agreements – University of South Dakota

Approve the University of South Dakota to finalize and execute the articulation agreements with Southeast Technical College, in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachment I.

A copy of the Articulation Agreements – University of South Dakota can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-G Agreement on Academic Cooperation – University of South Dakota

Approve the University of South Dakota to finalize and execute the agreement on academic cooperation between USD and the University Studies Abroad Consortium in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachment I.

A copy of the Agreement on Academic Cooperation – University of South Dakota can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-H Program Reactivation Request – SDSMT

Approve SDSMT's request to reactivate the Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree program, as presented.

A copy of the Program Reactivation Request – SDSMT can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-I Inactive Status and Program Termination Requests – SDSU & USD

Approve the program inactivation and termination requests from SDSU & USD, as presented.

A copy of the Inactive Status and Program Termination Requests – SDSU & USD can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-J Site Termination Requests – USD

Approve USD's request to terminate the delivery site on campus at USD for the specified programs, as presented.

A copy of the Site Termination Requests – USD can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-K Revisions to Terminal Degree Table – SDSU & USD

Approve the proposed revisions to AAC Guideline 2.7.1.B(1) – Terminal Degrees Table, as provided in Attachment I.

A copy of the Revisions to Terminal Degree Table – SDSU & USD can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-L General Education Course Approvals

Approve the revisions to system General Education course options from NSU, as presented.

A copy of the General Education Course Approvals can be found on pages __ to __ of the official

minutes.

Budget and Finance

5-M Revisions to BOR Policy 3.7.1 (Second Reading)

Approve the second and final reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 3.7.1 – Housing & Meal Plan Requirements as shown in Attachment I.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policy 3.7.1 (Second Reading) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-N New BOR Policy 7.8 (Second Reading)

Approve the second and final reading of the proposed new BOR Policy 7.8 – Data Classification as shown in Attachment I.

A copy of the New BOR Policy 7.8 (Second Reading) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-O Revisions to BOR Policies 4.3.1 and 4.4.8 (Second Reading)

Approve the second and final reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 4.3.1 (Non-Faculty Exempt Employment Provisions) and BOR Policy 4.4.8 (Faculty Remediation), as show in Attachments I and II.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policies 4.3.1 and 4.4.8 (Second Reading) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

Routine Informational Items – No Board Action Necessary

5-P Intent to Plan Requests

A copy of the Intent to Plan Requests can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-Q Residence Hall Occupancy Report for Fall 2025/Spring 2026

A copy of the Residence Hall Occupancy Report for Fall 2025/Spring 2026 can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-R 2025-2026 Regional Tuition and Fees Survey

A copy of the 2025-2026 Regional Tuition and Fees Survey can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-S Interim Actions of the Executive Director

A copy of the Interim Actions of the Executive Director can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-T Capital Projects List

A copy of the Capital Projects List can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-U Building Committee Report

A copy of the Building Committee Report can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-V Audit Committee Report

A copy of the Audit Committee Report can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-W FY25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Audit Update

A copy of the FY25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Audit Update can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

6-A Revisions to BOR Policies 2.9.2, 3.4.1, and 3.8.1; and Proposed New BOR Policy 3.5.3 (Second Reading)

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy & Planning, stated that BOR Policy 3.4.1 (Student Code of Conduct) was last subject to major revision in 2018. Since then, there have been piecemeal revisions to the Student Code of Conduct Policy in response to State and Federal updates. This current review was not predicated by any State or Federal updates but rather prompted by the student conduct officers at the campuses to ensure that all policies cross-referenced in the Student Code of Conduct created a cohesive set of rules that were clear and concise.

Since these policies were initially presented to the Board of Regents at their July 2025 meeting, additional vetting has been conducted by the following stakeholders: Student Affairs Council, Academic Affairs Council, Legal Counsel (BOR, SDSU, and USD), and additional discussions have been held with the artificial intelligence workgroup around the acceptable use of generative artificial intelligence.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Dittman, seconded by Regent Petersen, to approve the second and final reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policies 2.9.2 (Academic Misconduct), 3.4.1 (Student Code of Conduct), and 3.8.1 (Recognition and Funding of Student Organizations), and proposed new BOR Policy 3.5.3 (Alcohol Amnesty), as presented. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policies 2.9.2, 3.4.1, and 3.8.1; and Proposed New BOR Policy 3.5.3 (Second Reading) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

6-B Revisions to BOR Policy 2.3.2 (First Reading)

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy & Planning, stated that in December, the Provosts and Chief Financial Officers of the six institutions, Board staff, and representatives from Committees A and B discussed the ability to create new academic programming that would enable students to meet the workforce needs of South Dakota. Institutional leadership described the new program approval process emphasizing the time it takes to go through the initial Request to Initiate, the Intent to Plan (which is sent to the board for approval), and the Full Program approval process, articulating that the length of the process can inhibit the ability of institutions to be nimble when proposing a new program. Timelines could potentially take over a year to get a program approved. As a result of that discussion, board staff are recommending the new program policy be modified to remove the Intent to Plan phase, shortening the timeline to allow for institutions to respond more quickly to meet market needs.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Dittman, seconded by Regent Frederick, to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 2.3.2 – New Programs, Program Modifications, and Inactivation/Termination, as presented. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policy 2.3.2 (First Reading) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

6-C Revisions to BOR Policies 4.4.5 and 4.3.1 (First Reading)

Julie Kriech, USD Vice President for Finance & Administration, and Dr. Kurt Hackemer, USD Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, joined by Kayla Bastian, System Chief HR Officer, summarized that as a part of the broader statewide academic policy projects, the Supplemental Duties and Instructional Cost Assessment Advisory Committee began meeting in the fall 2025 term as a part of the Board of Regents' strategic initiative to align institutional compensation practices with higher education market standards and evolving best practices, a focused review of supplemental compensation has been identified as a critical area for evaluation. Supplemental compensation—such as instructional overload pay, administrative stipends, summer teaching contracts, additional duty pay and so forth, can significantly impact equity, transparency, fiscal responsibility, and market competitiveness across the system.

The committee's goal is to evaluate BOR Policy 4.4.5 Faculty Compensation, BOR Policy 4.3.1 NFE Compensation Provisions, and BOR Policy 4.6.3 Employee Compensation and recommend changes specific to overload compensation, summer session pay, adjunct rates, instructional compensation for staff, and other faculty supplemental compensation to align with market best practices and rates.

To date, the primary focus has been on evaluation of adjunct/temporary faculty compensation, and revisions to BOR Policy 4.4.5 (Faculty Compensation) and BOR Policy 4.3.1 (Non-Faculty Exempt Employment Provisions). The committee was tasked with applying market-driven best practices for instructional overload, supplemental pay and adjunct/temporary faculty pay structures across the system, while also supporting the needs of individual institutions and the varying market drivers based on institution type and faculty discipline.

The committee made recommended policy revisions and the changes were vetted with various stakeholders across campus and Board office leadership met with faculty senate leadership from

each institution. In addition, the board and university administration and committee members have been communicating the recommended policy changes to impacted stakeholders, including faculty senates, discipline councils, deans, department heads, and other appropriate groups across the system.

Regent Lochner commented that he served on the committee that worked on these policy revisions and he really appreciated the involvement, but he wanted to thank all those that put in the time and effort to get these policies where they are today.

Regent Dittman noted that she was on another committee working on other policy revisions, so she too knows how much work goes into these and wanted to express her gratitude as well for all those that worked on these.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Dittman, seconded by Regent Beacom, to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policies 4.3.1 (Non-Faculty Exempt Employment Provisions) and 4.4.5 (Faculty Compensation), as shown in Attachments I and II. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policies 4.4.5 and 4.3.1 (First Reading) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

7-A FY27 General Bill Summary

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, stated that the Board of Regents received \$1,150,109 (0.37%) in additional base general funds. The \$1.15M does not include the 1.4% salary policy that was approved for generally funded employees, as those funds are appropriated to a statewide pool that is allocated by the Bureau of Finance and Management (BFM) after session concludes.

The FY27 budget also had significant adjustments made to other and federal authority, as the Legislature sought to right size budgets and FTE allocations across all agencies. In response to this directive, the Board of Regents implemented reductions totaling \$36,700,000 in federal and other fund authority and a reduction of 62 FTE.

In addition, the Legislature approved \$13,002,000 and 19 FTE in requested increases to other fund authority to support higher sales and service activities, growth in enrollment and retention, expanded programming, and inflationary operational costs.

A copy of the FY27 General Bill Summary can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-B FY26 General Bill Amendments

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, stated that is where she feels are the real successes for the Regental system and would thank the Legislature and the Governor's office for their support.

The Board of Regents received \$16.69 million in one-time maintenance and repair (M&R) funding, restoring FY26 M&R support to 2% of replacement value for the first time ever, for which the Regental system is incredibly grateful for. She again expressed gratitude towards the Legislature and Governor for that. The BOR also secured \$2.75 million in one-time funding for cybersecurity technology – an ongoing priority and long-standing request.

In addition, \$668,661 was provided to address higher utility costs and consumption, and the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship was reduced by \$62,284 based on projected FY26 utilization.

The System also received a total of \$3.8M in one-time federal and \$18.5M in one-time other fund authority, to ensure the requesting institutions had sufficient expenditure authority available through the remainder of FY26.

Regent Lochner commented regarding the M&R that the attention to detail and facility upkeep doesn't happen by itself; he believes the facilities and assets are well maintained and that the 2% will help keep our campuses' facilities top notch.

Regent Partridge commented regarding cyber security. After years of individual requests and ad hoc type of approach to the legislature, he thinks the unified approach that we have is something extremely worthy related to us going in together. That is how we as a system got \$2.75M. It was a lot of hard work, conversations, and firm but constant pressure. Regent Roberts noted that she feels the last few years the Regental system has become much more successful when we approach as a team. She believes it has helped us create a core with the Presidents and the rest of the system and it's working well. She personally thanked everyone, especially Regent Partridge, as she knows he has been talking with the appropriations chairs quite often regarding the \$2.75M; we would not have gotten that without all of that hard work. Regent Rave echoed those same feelings. He also expressed his gratitude to everyone especially the Legislature and Governor's office for all of their hard work this session.

A copy of the FY26 General Bill Amendments can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

7-C FY26 Special Appropriations

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, noted that the Board of Regents received support for four special appropriation bills during the 2026 legislative session: the South Dakota State University (SDSU) swine wean-to-finish barn, the University of South Dakota (USD) athletic (fieldhouse) facility, the Dakota State University (DSU) indoor athletics facility, and the SDSU soccer venue.

No general funds were requested for these projects, and all four appropriations will be funded by other fund sources. The \$60,090,000 in other fund authority is detailed in the table below and the authority expires on June 30, 2030.

A copy of the FY26 Special Appropriations can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

7-D Revisions to BOR Policy 7.4 (First and Final Reading)

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, who was joined by Chris Kolsrud, System Network and Chief Information Security Officer, and David Overby, Interim System Chief Information Officer, summarized that revisions to BOR Policy 7.4 (Security of Information Technology Systems) are presented for first and final reading to update roles, terminology, and expectations related to cybersecurity across the system. The policy aligns key definitions with the recently adopted BOR Policy 7.8 – Data Classification, including updated references to Internal and Restricted Data. These changes ensure consistent terminology and strengthen the link between data classification and security responsibilities.

The revisions also clarify roles and responsibilities around reporting requirements, incident response, and system oversight. While the policy's intent remains unchanged, the updates improve clarity, streamline definitions, and better align the security framework with current practices and regulatory expectations.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Roberts, to (1) waive the Board's two-reading requirement, and (2) approve the first and final reading of the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 7.4 as shown in Attachment I. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revisions to BOR Policy 7.4 (First and Final Reading) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-E USD Gassen Family Fieldhouse Facility Program Plan (FPP)

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, joined by Julie Kriech, USD Vice President for Finance & Administration, who stated that the University of South Dakota (USD) requests approval of their Facility Program Plan for the construction of a new 105,000 square foot, state-of-the-art indoor facility at an estimated cost of \$40,000,000. The Preliminary Facility Statement (PFS) for this project was approved at the December 2025 BOR meeting and the Building Committee approved the Facility Program Plan on March 16, 2026. The project was also legislatively authorized during the 2026 session through HB1137.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Petersen, to approve USD's Facility Program Plan for the construction of the Gassen Family Fieldhouse at an estimated cost of \$40,000,000, which will be funded through a combination of private donor contributions and university funds. Motion passed.

A copy of the Revisions to USD Gassen Family Fieldhouse Facility Program Plan (FPP) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-F SDSU Briggs Library Renovation Preliminary Facility Statement (PFS)

Barry Meilke, SDSU Associate Vice President of Facilities & Services, joined by Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, stated that South Dakota State University requests approval of this Preliminary Facility Statement for planning renovations to the Briggs Library on the main campus of SDSU. Briggs Library, constructed in 1974, requires modernization to support the university's growing academic and research needs and to align with contemporary operational models. South Dakota State University completed a comprehensive campus master plan in spring

2025, building on an earlier facility plan for the library developed in 2017. Both planning efforts identified Briggs Library as a critical asset for strengthening SDSU's academic foundation, highlighting the need for renewal to accommodate program growth, innovation, and evolving campus priorities. The total project cost is estimated to be approximately \$33,500,000 funded with private donations, university funds, bonds, and higher education facility funds.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Petersen, to approve SDSU's Preliminary Facility Statement for the planning of renovations to the Briggs library, which will be funded through a combination of private donor contributions, university funds, bonds, and higher education facility funds. A building committee representative should be appointed to oversee this project. Motion passed.

A copy of the SDSU Briggs Library Renovation Preliminary Facility Statement (PFS) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-G USD Auxiliary System Property Acquisition

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, joined by Julie Kriech, USD Vice President for Finance & Administration, who stated that the University of South Dakota requests the Board of Regents' authorization to acquire five properties from the USD Foundation, using housing and auxiliary facilities system ("Revenue System") funds. The properties are adjacent to the campus just north of their law school and are outlined in the item.

Regent Locher noted that this was an agenda item that was tabled at the last BOR meeting in December because at the time he and Regent Rasmussen had further questions, which have been addressed and resolved since then.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Beacom, to authorize the University of South Dakota to acquire the property described in this item from the USD Foundation, utilizing housing and auxiliary facility funds for the purchase. Motion passed.

A copy of the USD Auxiliary System Property Acquisition can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-H USD – Sanford School of Medicine (SSOM) Relocation

Holly Farris, System General Counsel, joined by Sheila Gestring, USD President, and Julie Kriech, USD Vice President for Finance & Administration, summarized that the item before the Board has been updated to include a proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between USD and Sanford Health, which outlines the anticipated actions pertaining to the Sanford School of Medicine (SSOM) relocation.

President Gestring further noted and emphasized the importance of this not just for their campus, but the substantial impact for the state and Medicine in South Dakota.

USD and Sanford Health continue to engage in discussions about the planned move of the remaining 18 months of education (referred to as Pillar I) of the Sanford School of Medicine from Vermillion to Sioux Falls. In order to facilitate meaningful dialogue and development coordination, the parties wish to enter into a memorandum of agreement outlining the intended

order of operations for said move. The proposed MOA addresses both facilities management aspects (including projected renovations and/or construction) and the provision of academic and student services, as well as collaborative efforts such as academic and research needs and communication. As the MOA trajectory proceeds, the parties will memorialize additional objectives with subsequent or supplemental agreements specific to the contemplated fiscal or legal needs.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Roberts, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the University of South Dakota and Sanford Health in substantially similar form as that set forth in Attachment I, and authorize USD to proceed as stated therein. Motion passed.

A copy of the USD – Sanford School of Medicine (SSOM) Relocation can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-I(1) Capital Asset Purchase Greater than \$500k – SDSU Data Storage Systems --AND--
7-I(2) Capital Asset Purchase Greater than \$500k – RIS Data Storage Systems

NOTE: Items 7-I(1) and 7-I(2) were presented together; each with their own separate motion.

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, was joined by Chris Kolsrud, System Network and Chief Information Security Officer, and David Overby, SDSU Vice President for Information and the Interim System Chief Information Officer, noting that this item and the subsequent one in 7-I(2) would normally be on the consent portion of the agenda, but were moved this time to provide a little bit more detail for the general public. These capital asset purchases greater than \$500k are required by BOR policy to have the Board authorize those purchases.

David stated that in August 2021, the Board approved SDSU's purchase of a NetApp data-storage solution. SDSU now seeks authority to acquire additional enterprise storage from the same manufacturer to replace aging systems and expand capacity for its enterprise and research (non-HPC) environments. This purchase is being coordinated with a similar RIS storage acquisition to leverage improved volume-pricing discounts.

The upgrade will extend the useful life of SDSU's storage environment by up to five years and is necessary to maintain a reliable, secure, and efficient data infrastructure supporting academic, research, administrative, and disaster-recovery functions. Consistent with the RIS acquisition, SDSU worked with Xigent and NetApp to secure favorable pricing in a rapidly escalating technology-cost environment. Industry-wide increases in components, manufacturing, and supply-chain costs have raised prices for storage controllers and capacity. NetApp has indicated that comparable systems are expected to increase by roughly 25–30% after April 2, 2026. Delaying this purchase would raise the estimated cost to \$2,904,438. Advancing the acquisition now aligns SDSU with RIS's timing and pricing advantages and represents a significant cost-avoidance opportunity. The cost for the NetApp storage solution for SDSU is \$1,989,250.

Regarding the RIS Data Storage Systems request, Chris Kolsrud noted before getting into the details of the request that there is a clerical error on the agenda item. The dollar amount in the motion should read \$561,628; not \$531,628 as it currently reads. The dollar amount presented in Attachment II of the item has the correct amount of \$561,628 and that is the amount that was discussed with Committee B members prior to the Board meeting; however, the clerical error in

the dollar amount when it was carried over onto the cover page was not caught until after the item was posted.

The Board's Regents Information Systems (RIS) is seeking authority to purchase enterprise data storage to replace its existing storage systems with updated equipment from the same manufacturer. This acquisition is being coordinated with a similar SDSU storage purchase to leverage improved volume pricing discounts. While certain components have been refreshed over time, the core disk infrastructure has not been replaced and is scheduled to reach end of life during calendar year 2026. Replacement is necessary to maintain vendor support, ensure system reliability, and reduce operational risk.

Regent Partridge noted that due to the error, he thought that the request should possibly go back to Committee B for further discussion and brought back to the Board at a later date.

Heather Forney provided additional clarification that the increase on these products was actually intended to go into effect on April 1st, and staff were able to negotiate with the vendor to have them extend the authorization of the rates seen in the item through this Board meeting, and she does not know if they will be able to the vendor to agree to the \$561,628 for the RIS purchase if we would delay it until the May BOR meeting. So it would cost us roughly another \$100,000 for the delay. Again, she noted by looking at the quote provided in Attachment II the correct amount is listed and it truly was just a typo on the coversheet and the motion.

Regent Lochner noted and confirmed that he was made aware of the error on the cover page and motion this morning, but when they reviewed the request prior to the meeting in Committee B it as the correct dollar amount in the quote provided in the attachment that was discussed.

Regent Partridge noted that he understands that it was a clerical error, but is not happy about it, regarding the RIS Data Storage Systems request due to the confusion caused regarding the amount presented.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Roberts, to approve SDSU's request to purchase enterprise data storage systems using \$1,989,250 in tuition, fees, and recovered facilities and administration (F&A) funds. Motion passed.

A copy of the Capital Asset Purchase Greater than \$500k – SDSU Data Storage Systems can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Roberts, to approve RIS's request to purchase enterprise data storage systems using \$561,628 of RIS Capital Funds. Motion passed.

A copy of the Capital Asset Purchase Greater than \$500k – RIS Data Storage Systems can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

7-J Maintenance & Repair (M&R) Projects (Greater than \$250,000)

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, was joined by Barry Meilke, SDSU Associate Vice President of Facilities & Services, and Julie Kriech, USD Vice President for Finance & Administration, noted that according to BOR Policy 6.6 – Maintenance and Repair, projects not on an approved list estimated to cost more than \$250,000 must be submitted for Board

approval. Any changes, other than funding realignments and transfers of over \$250,000 to an approved project must be submitted for BOR approval.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Roberts, to approve the requested maintenance and repair projects as described in this item. Motion passed.

A copy of the Maintenance & Repair (M&R) Projects (Greater than \$250,000) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-K DSU-DSU Foundation Lease – 220 NE 9th Street, Madison, SD

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Roberts, to table item 7-K. Motion passed.

A copy of the DSU-DSU Foundation Lease – 220 NE 9th Street, Madison, SD can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Rave, seconded by Regent Petersen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. CST.

Secretary's Executive Session Report

The Board convened in Executive Session pursuant to the vote of the majority of the Board present and voting at its public meeting on Wednesday, April 1st, in accordance with SDCL § 1-25-2 to discuss matters authorized therein. Following executive session, on April 2nd, the Board will meet in open session to discuss and take official action on the matters set forth below, all other matters discussed were consistent with the requirements of SDCL § 1-25-2, but no official action on them is being proposed at this time.

Recommended Actions:

- 2-F. Authorize the General Counsel to proceed with the legal matter(s) within the parameters discussed.*
- 2-G(1). Approve the evaluation letters for President Elliott, as presented.*
- 2-G(2). Approve the employment actions as presented.*
- 2-G(3)(a). Approve the employment contract for BHSU men's basketball, Ryan Thompson.*
- 2-G(3)(b). Approve the employment contract for Matthew Vitzthum as Head Football Coach at the University of South Dakota.*
- 2-G(3)(c). Approve the employment contract for Jon Schemmel as University of South Dakota Athletic Director.*
- 2-G(3)(d). Approve the employment contract for Carrie Eighmey as Head Women's Basketball coach at the University of South Dakota.*
- 2-G(5). Award two (2) years of prior service credit toward promotion and tenure for Dr. Justin Shroeder (DSU); one (1) year of prior service credit toward promotion and tenure for Dr. Kevin Kessler (SDSU); one (1) year of prior service credit toward promotion and tenure for Dr. Sunil Mor (SDSU); four (4) years of prior service credit toward tenure for Dr. Uzma Zaidi (SDSU); and one (1) year of prior service credit toward tenure for Dr. Brianna Byllesby (USD).*
- 2-G(6). Approve the request to grant tenure as a Professor to Dr. Alexis Stamatikos (SDSU).*
- 2-G(7). Award an honorary Doctor of Public Service to Regent Jim Thares (NSU), Mr. Steve Vanderboom (SDSMT), and Governor Dennis Daugaard (SDSU); an honorary Doctor of Human Letters to Ms. Faith Spotted Eagle (SDSU); and an honorary Doctor of Science to Mr. Mike Headley (SDSU).*
- 2-G(8). Award an honorary posthumous Master of Arts degree in English (M.A) to Sameul Minlah.*

- 2-I. *Approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the University of South Dakota and Sanford Health as presented and authorize USD to proceed with the relocation as stated therein.*

DRAFT