

**BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
May 18-20, 2026**

The South Dakota Board of Regents met on May 18-20, 2026, at the State Game Lodge in Custer, South Dakota at 10:45 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 – PRESENT

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; David Overby, System Interim CIO; Katie Maley, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Board; Steve Elliott, BHSU President; Dr. John Ballard, incoming President of DSU; 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.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

Regent Partridge declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. MST.

1-B Approval of the Agenda

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

1-C Declaration of Conflicts

No conflicts were declared.

1-D Approval of the Minutes – April 1-2 , 2026

Regent Partridge requested that a notation on the initial roll call listed for Tim Rave that a notation be added that he joined the meeting after .

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Roberts, seconded by Regent Rave, to approve the minutes of the Board of Regents meeting on April 1-2, 2026, with the correction as discussed. Motion passed.

1-E Motion to Dissolve into Executive Session

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Beacom, seconded by Regent Rave, that the Board of Regents Dissolve into Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. on Monday, May 18th, 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 recess at the conclusion of the day and reconvene in Executive Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19th, to continue discussing the earlier referenced matters, and that it rise from Executive Session at 4:00 p.m. 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 Wednesday, May 20th.

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

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

4-A Report and Actions of Executive Session

The Board dissolved into Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. on Monday, May 18th, 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 recessing at the conclusion of the day.

The Board reconvened in Executive Session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19th, to continue discussing the earlier referenced matters before rising from Executive Session at 4:00 p.m. to resume the regular order of business.

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 Beacom, seconded by Regent Rave, 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.

4-B Reports from Individual Presidents

No reports.

4-C Reports on Individual Regent Activities

Regent Roberts reported that she enjoyed being the ceremonial representative at BHSU's spring commencement ceremony and President Elliott was a great host.

Regent Frederick attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Business and Health Innovation Center at NSU on April 30th. He thanked President LaFave and everyone else involved in that. He also was the co-ceremonial representative with Regent Beacom at DSU's spring commencement ceremony as they both had family members that were graduating; it was a great day. He also noted that he will be attending SDSBVI's spring commencement ceremony coming up and is looking forward to it.

Regent Petersen had the honor of being the ceremonial representative for USD's commencement ceremony, along with an appearance from Regent Partridge. He noted that it was a great experience for him.

Regent Lochner was the ceremonial representative at all three of SDSU's commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 9. He had a great time visiting with President Dunn and his staff while he was in attendance as well.

Regent Beacom noted he attended DSU's commencement with Regent Frederick, as previously mention. He also that he along with Nathan Lukkes had the opportunity to join Senator Rounds and the Secretary of Cyber Security in Sioux Falls and Madison as they toured the DARC facilities. They were impressed with the facilities, and he felt it was a good kick-off for great things for future development.

Regent Dittman reported that she had the pleasure of being the ceremonial representative at NSU's commencement ceremony, and Dr. LaFave's first in his new role as President at NSU.

Regent Rasmussen noted that he was the ceremonial representative at SDSMT's commencement ceremony, and that he had also attended SDSD's annual picnic. SDSD has some summer camps coming up that he is also planning to stop by to visit with staff and participants.

4-D Report of the Executive Director

Nathan Lukkes, Executive Director and CEO, thanked the staff at the State Game Lodge and Katie Maley with the BOR for the effort put into the logistics for this week's meeting. It's been a busy month and a half since the last BOR meeting in Madison. Since then, he and his senior staff have made visits to each campus, meeting with the Presidents and their senior cabinet members. He also then met separately with the Deans and Department Heads and the campus IT staff to talk about and answer questions related to the IT Review future direction of IT in the system. He felt everyone walked away with a better understanding of where we are heading and why. Consultants for the system IT Review from CampusWorks were also out at all of the campuses over the past month conducting site visits and initial back findings. Taking the information they learned and figuring out what the next steps are, are critically important especially in terms of ideas and one of the items that will be discussed later in the agenda regarding AI as inevitably the AI technology efforts and the IT Review will intersect as they are linked very closely together.

Regent Partridge thanked the efforts and hard work of Nathan as the Executive Director and his leadership of the central office team.

4-E Public Comment Period

No comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Roberts, seconded by Regent Dittman, to approve consent agenda items 5-A through 5-R as presented. Motion passed.

Academic and Student Affairs – Consent

5-A Graduation Lists

Approve the Spring 2026 degree awards for BHSU, DSU, NSU, SDSMT, SDSU, USD, and SDSBVI, contingent upon the students' completion of all degree requirements.

A copy of the Graduation Lists can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-B Academic Calendar – SDSBVI & SDSD

Approve the proposed academic calendars for the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the South Dakota Services for the Deaf, as presented.

A copy of the Academic Calendar – SDSBVI & SDSD can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

5-C SDSBVI High School Activities Association Membership

Approve the request of SDSBVI for continued membership in the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

A copy of the SDSBVI High School Activities Association Membership can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-D(1) New Program Request – NSU – BS in Health Education and Promotion

Authorize NSU to offer a BS in Health Education & Promotion, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – NSU – BS in Health Education and Promotion can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-D(2) New Program Request – SDSU – MS in Physics

Authorize SDSU to offer a MS in Physics, as presented.

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

5-D(3) New Program Request – SDSU – PhD in Physics

Authorize SDSU to offer a PhD in Physics, as presented.

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

5-D(4) New Program Request – USD – MDes in Human Computer UX & UI

Authorize USD to offer a MDes in Human Computer UX & UI, as presented.

A copy of the New Program Request – USD – MDes in Human Computer UX & UI can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-E(1) New Specialization Request – DSU – Fitness Management, Pre-Professional, and Strength & Conditioning Specializations – BS in Exercise Science

Authorize DSU to offer specializations in Fitness Management, Pre-Professional, and Strength & Conditioning within the BS in Exercise Science program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – DSU – Fitness Management, Pre-Professional, and Strength & Conditioning Specializations – BS in Exercise Science can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-E(2) New Specialization Request – SDSU – Power Systems Engineering Specialization – BS in Electrical Engineering

Authorize SDSU to offer a Power Systems Engineering specialization within the BS in Electrical Engineering program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – SDSU – Power Systems Engineering Specialization –

BS in Electrical Engineering can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-E(3) New Specialization Request – USD – Biomaterials, Biomechanics, and Medical Product Development Specializations – BS in Biomedical Engineering

Authorize USD to offer specializations in Biomaterials, Biomechanics, and Medical Product Development within the BS in Biomedical Engineering program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – USD – Biomaterials, Biomechanics, and Medical Product Development Specializations – BS in Biomedical Engineering can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-E(4) New Specialization Request – USD – Medical Physics Specialization – BS in Physics

Authorize USD to offer a Medical Physics specialization within the BS in Physics program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – USD – Medical Physics Specialization – BS in Physics can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-E(5) New Specialization Request – USD – Communication and Engagement, Landscape Conservation, Policy and Governance, and Sustainable Development Specializations – BA/BS in Sustainability

Authorize USD to offer specializations in Communication & Engagement, Landscape Conservation, Policy & Governance, and Sustainable Development within the BA/BS in Sustainability program, as presented.

A copy of the New Specialization Request – USD – Communication and Engagement, Landscape Conservation, Policy and Governance, and Sustainable Development Specializations – BA/BS in Sustainability can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-F(1) New Certificate Request – SDSU – Power Systems Engineering (Graduate)

Authorize SDSU to offer a graduate certificate in Power Systems Engineering, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – SDSU – Power Systems Engineering (Graduate) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-F(2) New Certificate Request – USD – Health Data Management (Undergraduate)

Authorize USD to offer an undergraduate certificate in Health Data Management, as presented.

A copy of the New Certificate Request – USD – Health Data Management (Undergraduate) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-G(1) New Site Request – DSU – BSEd in Business Education

Approve DSU's new site proposal to offer the BSEd in Business Education online, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – DSU – BSEd in Business Education can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-G(2) New Site Request – DSU – BSEd in Computer Education

Approve DSU’s new site proposal to offer the BSEd in Computer Education online, as presented.

A copy of the New Site Request – DSU – BSEd in Computer Education can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-H Substantive Program Modifications Requiring Board Approval – USD

Approve the substantive program modifications from USD, as presented.

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

5-I Articulation Agreements – DSU

Approve Dakota State University to finalize and execute the articulation agreements with New Mexico Military Institute and Alexandria Technical & Community College, in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachment I.

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

5-J(1) Agreements on Academic Cooperation – South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Approve the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology to finalize and execute the agreements on academic cooperation with Aalen University of Applied Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, and Branch of Pisa University in Tashkent, in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachments I-III.

A copy of the Agreements on Academic Cooperation – South Dakota School of Mines & Technology can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-J(2) Agreements on Academic Cooperation – University of South Dakota

Approve the University of South Dakota to finalize and execute the agreements on academic cooperation with Chiba University and the University of Western Australia, in substantially similar form to that set forth in Attachments I & II.

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

5-K 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-L Request to Seek Accreditation – DSU (CASCE)

Approve DSU's request to seek accreditation from the Council on Accreditation of Strength and Conditioning Education (CASCE) for their BS in Exercise Science.

A copy of the Request to Seek Accreditation – DSU (CASCE) can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

Budget and Finance

5-M FY27 M&R Fee Projects

Approve the FY27 Maintenance and Repair Fee projects as presented in Attachment I.

A copy of the FY27 M&R Fee Projects can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-N FY26 One-Time General Fund M&R Allocation and Projects

Approve the FY26 One-Time General Fund M&R projects as presented in Attachment I.

A copy of the FY26 One-Time General Fund M&R Allocation and Projects can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-O FY27 Revised HEFF M&R Projects

Approve the revised FY27 HEFF M&R projects as presented in Attachment I.

A copy of the FY27 Revised HEFF M&R Projects can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-P SDSU – Sigma Phi Epsilon Refinance Authorization

Approve the Consent Agreement in substantially similar form, included as Attachment I, and to authorize the Executive Director to execute said Consent Agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the same.

A copy of the SDSU – Sigma Phi Epsilon Refinance Authorization can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-Q(1) Laptop Program Authorizations: Laptop Program Financing Vendor Authorization Extension

Qualify the use of US Bank, University Lease, Bank of America, and JP Morgan for capital lease financing through FY27, and authorize DSU and SDSMT to execute financing leases with any of these vendors.

A copy of the Laptop Program Authorizations: Laptop Program Financing Vendor Authorization Extension can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

5-Q(2) Laptop Program Authorizations: DSU Laptop Lease Finance Vendor Reimbursement Resolution

Approve the Reimbursement Resolution in substantially similar form as set forth in Attachment I.

A copy of the Laptop Program Authorizations: DSU Laptop Lease Finance Vendor Reimbursement Resolution can be found on pages ___ to ___ of the official minutes.

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

Approve the requested maintenance and repair projects as described in this item.

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

Routine Informational Items – No Board Action Necessary

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-V Audit Committee Report

A copy of the Audit Committee Report 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-T Capital Projects List

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

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

6-A SDSBVI Comprehensive Plan for Special Education

Dr. Jessica Vogel, SDSBVI Superintendent, stated that each local school district and accredited school is required to annually submit a Comprehensive Plan for Special Education to the South Dakota Department of Education that details how the school will implement federal and state laws and special education regulations. In addition to this document, much of the information in the Comprehensive Plan is documented in the SDSBVI school policy handbooks.

Each year the Board of Regents is asked to approve the Comprehensive Plan developed by SDSBVI staff. Local school boards across the state are required to approve similar plans, and since the SDBOR serves in this capacity for SDSBVI, formal Board approval is required prior to submission.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Dittman, seconded by Regent Rave, to approve the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired's Comprehensive Plan for Special Education as presented for signature by the BOR President. Motion passed.

A copy of the SDSBVI Comprehensive Plan for Special Education can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

6-B SDSBVI School Accreditation and Improvement Plan

Dr. Jessica Vogel, SDSBVI Superintendent, stated that the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SDSBVI) is accredited through the South Dakota Department of Education. This is a key component of all planning that occurs strategically and annually for the SDSBVI. The SDSBVI approved their last Strategic Plan in August of 2024 and annually review the plan and strategies for improving the SDSBVI.

This is an informational item for the Board as to the accreditation and strategic planning evaluation that was conducted.

A copy of the SDSBVI School Accreditation and Improvement Plan can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

6-C SDSBVI Bullying Policy (First and Final Reading)

Dr. Jessica Vogel, SDSBVI Superintendent, stated that per the South Dakota Codified Laws, school districts are required to develop policies on bullying. The South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SDSBVI) reports to the Board of Regents. Therefore, the Board of Regents must approve the attached policy developed and reviewed by SDSBVI staff.

This policy is necessary to ensure compliance with state accreditation requirements and to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and employees. By clearly defining bullying, outlining expected student and employee behavior, and establishing consistent consequences, the policy promotes accountability and sets clear expectations across the program.

The draft bullying policy is outlined in Attachment I. The need to allow for a first and final is to ensure policy is approved prior to the start of the academic year. Committee A has reviewed the draft and recommends BOR approval.

Dr. Vogel noted that SDSBVI has always had a procedure for bullying; however, with new SDCL, this policy has been tightened up and brought before the Board for official approval.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Dittman, seconded by Regent Rave, to (1) waive the Board's two-reading requirement, and (2) approve the first and final reading of SDSBVI's Bullying Policy, as presented. Motion passed.

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

6-D SDSBVI Restraint and Seclusion Policy (First and Final Reading)

Dr. Jessica Vogel, SDSBVI Superintendent, stated that per the South Dakota Codified Laws, school districts are required to develop policies on the use of restraint and seclusion.

The South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SDSBVI) reports to the Board of Regents. Therefore, the Board of Regents must approve the attached policy, which was developed locally and reviewed by SDSBVI staff.

This policy is necessary to ensure compliance with South Dakota's state requirements that all schools adopt clear guidelines governing the use of restraint and seclusion. This policy ensures the safety, dignity, and rights of students while providing employees with consistent direction in high-risk situations.

The draft restraint and seclusion policy is outlined in Attachment I. The need to allow for a first and final is to ensure policy is approved prior to the start of the academic year. Committee A has reviewed the draft and recommends BOR approval.

Dr. Vogel noted that again, similar to the previously discussed bullying policy, this policy has always been a procedure but is moving into a formal policy as now required by SDCL.

Regent Partridge asked if this is similar policy that K12 has throughout the state. Dr. Vogel confirmed yes, SDSBVI follows the same pattern/procedures as K12, though she couldn't find any dated documentation that showed formal BOR approval, thus her bringing it before the Board now for formal approval to comply with SDCL.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Dittman, seconded by Regent Rave, to (1) waive the Board's two-reading requirement, and (2) approve the first and final reading of SDSBVI's Restraint and Seclusion Policy, as presented. Motion passed.

A copy of the SDSBVI Restraint and Seclusion Policy (First and Final Reading) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

6-E SDDS Update

Kami Van Sickle, SDDS Director, provided an update on SDDS. She believes that between our strong K12 system and the passionate and educated staff at SDDS, we can meet the students where they are in our state and raise the bar for our South Dakota kids who are deaf and hard of hearing. SDDS has an audiology department that consists of two clinics: one in Rapid City and one in Sioux Falls. They have two audiologists in Sioux Falls along with two audiology assistants, and in Rapid City they have one audiologist with two audiology assistants. They also have a mobile audiology clinic called MAC (mobile audiology van), which Regent Rasmussen is familiar with and taken a tour of. With that van they are able to travel statewide providing audiology tests to kids that maybe are in the more rural areas or kids that don't have access to pediatric audiologists or even those that don't have the means for transportation to get into an appointment.

They are out in the public helping to assess young kids in the communities to help identify students who may have slipped through the cracks and are in need of hearing aids and other hearing assistance. Last year alone they did full hearing evaluations on 745 kids across the state, and while this sounds like a pretty decent number, she does anticipate that number to grow because last year they were down an audiologist. They also did 28,000 hearing screenings across the state. That consists of their audiology assistants going into schools and daycares and providing screenings. SDSD is averaging about a 3 to 4% referral rate from those screenings; that doesn't mean that all those kids have hearing loss, but it just means that these kids may be needed to have follow-up ear infections, fluid, etc., but some of these kids do in fact have permanent hearing loss. As an added note, Kami affirmed that all of their audiology services are offered at no cost for any South Dakota kid age birth through high school graduation.

SDSD's outreach department is made up of 14 deaf educators and SLPs that travel the state of South Dakota and provide consultative services to homes, schools, and daycares that have kids who have any degree of hearing loss. Last year they finished the year with just over 700 kids on their case load. This year they're finishing the year at about 760, so it just continues to grow every year. Kami thinks that once they hit right around a thousand, they will have most of South Dakota's kids that have permanent hearing loss on their case load, which is an estimate based on statistics.

One of the special services they provide is their multidisciplinary evaluations, in partnership with school districts, where they provide comprehensive evaluations with students and then meet with the schools leadership afterwards to discuss their findings. Another special service is their Hands in Motion summer program, which Regent Rasmussen has participated in, is a chance for kids to get together and meet/visit with others that are hard of hearing just like them.

Regent Rasmussen commented on how amazing the Hands in Motion camp and SDSD's staff is during this camp experience for the kids.

Regent Partridge noted that 28,000 screenings that SDSD did is an amazing accomplishment.

Kami stated that one goal of SDSD's is to educate as many professionals as possible in the community. The DOE paid for 15 modules that provided credit for educators that participated in that. This year they are upping the ante to increase that opportunity for educators. Kami affirmed that she feels South Dakota is on the right track and the future is bright for the deaf and hard of hearing kids in the state.

Regent Roberts inquired that she knows in the past SDSD has had problems filling their 14 staff positions and wondered if that was still an ongoing issue? Kami noted that up until recently it hasn't been and they've been fully staffed; however, they did have one individual resign recently that created an opening.

A copy of the SDSD Update can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

6-F Artificial Intelligence (AI), Agentic AI, and Emergent Technologies

Dr. Janice Minder, System Vice President for Academic Policy & Planning, stated that artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly important in higher education as institutions adapt to changing student needs, workforce demands, and technological advancement. To remain meaningful and responsive to both student expectations and evolving workforce demands, the

Regental system must intentionally engage with artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies to prepare the system and its students for success in the decade(s) ahead.

This requires a coordinated and ethical approach across five core components:

- 1) governance and infrastructure needs,
- 2) curricular and programmatic impacts,
- 3) optimization and utilization of agentic AI,
- 4) research, and
- 5) development of AI literacy and fluency among students, faculty, and staff.

To ensure the Regents' System remains competitive, the Board of Regents has established strategic objectives that are outlined in the agenda item presented.

Regent Partridge stated we as the Regental System and the Board are keeping in mind this overarching ethical approach to how we respond to the emerging presence that is AI. It is important that we do it right. It is an area that is moving very quickly, and the Board wants to do it right and be engaged to be a leader in the AI space, having our students be being career ready and technologically prepared in a number of ways.

Regent Roberts appreciated the time and effort that was done in identifying the five core areas in this. It is very well written and really outlines how quickly we're implementing and what's going to be happening in the coming days. Any member of the public could look at this document and know what we're doing as a system. Regent Dittman echoed Regent Roberts sentiments, noting that there will certainly be a lot more to come regarding this.

Regent Frederick remarked to the current students and future students, that rest assured that if you come to a South Dakota region school, you will be prepared to embrace artificial intelligence in the workplace by the time you get out of it out of our schools, and that we are here to prepare you for the real workplace, the world outside.

Regent Peterson echoed a lot of the sentiments that have already been said by the other Regents. He thinks students will really appreciate this in the short term, both in the classroom and with other other academic planning materials. In the long term he feels that AI can sometimes be a source of of apprehension to some students but he believes that comes more out of a desire to learn more about its capabilities. He feels the plan being discussed today really helps that approach and moves that along in a very smart, ethical and long-term vision plan.

Executive Director Lukkes affirmed that taking on this area is a daunting task, but we need to get comfortable moving towards a moving target because that's the reality of technology and the rate of change in today's world. He feels we are heading in the right direction.

A copy of the Artificial Intelligence (AI), Agentic AI, and Emergent Technologies can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

7-A FY27 On-Campus Tuition and Mandatory Fees

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, stated that it is recommended that undergraduate tuition be increased by 2.4% at all campuses except SD Mines, which requests a 5.0% increase. It is also recommended that graduate tuition be increased by 2.4% at all campuses except USD Sanford School of Medicine and USD School of Law, which request a 5% increase, and DSU, which requests an 8% increase for on-campus and online PhD programs. Mandatory fees will be increased in accordance with the attached schedule. The need to increase tuition is very closely tied to salary policy and M&R. We are also seeing a significant increase in technology costs.

SD Mines is requesting approval of a 5% tuition increase for FY27 for on- and off-campus courses and is also requesting an executive-style flat tuition rate for the Master of Engineering program. The proposed total program cost is \$25,000, which equates to \$833.33 per credit hour based on the 30 credit hours required for completion.

Mandatory fees will be increased in accordance with the schedule presented in the item.

Regent Petersen noted that going into these conversations it's always hard as a student to face increases like this, but after listening to the discussion and sharing some of his thoughts and hearing from each of the university presidents, he believes what this represents and what we have in front of us here are pretty modest increases with clearly demonstrated need. As we navigate some of the changes that were just discussed with AI and incorporating that into our curriculums and with the delivery of educational content increasingly reliant on technology, he feels this increase truly is meant to better serve our students. That's always his priority and always his intent as a member of this board, to ensure that we're continuing to deliver a level of quality that prepares our students for the workforce and for their lives beyond school. This discussion has really given rise to more ways that we can take a closer look at our programs and restructure our schedule in ways to better reflect the return on investment in some of our programming costs. There are interesting and exciting conversations ahead and he is in support of the increase.

Regent Rave noted that in an ideal world we would do a 0% increase or maybe even decrease tuition, but we're not in a perfect world and the inflationary challenges that we all face, we all see it day to day. The reality is we have to do something to keep up our facilities. Regent Rave commended Regent Roberts who when he first joined this board has been a champion of keeping tuition down, and we have done that the past five years that he has been on this board, and it has shown in our rates compared to our neighbor neighboring states; you see some of the rates coming out of their inflationary increases and they're double or triple of what we're even talking about here in South Dakota today. Regent Rave stated he feels the reality we face are terrible inflationary challenges and he thinks this is a thoughtful approach to addressing the concerns that we know we're going to face in paying bills and still provide a quality education at a very competitive price. Therefore, he is supportive of the increase as well.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Dittman, to approve the FY27 On-Campus Tuition and Mandatory Fees as presented in Attachment I. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY27 On-Campus Tuition and Mandatory Fees can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-B FY27 Off-Campus Tuition Rates

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, stated that all courses delivered off campus - including those offered through electronic or remote modalities - are assessed the Board-approved off-campus tuition rates. In addition, remedial courses, while physically delivered on campus, are also charged at the off-campus tuition rate due to their instructional structure and funding considerations.

The off-campus tuition rate includes a Higher Education Facilities Fund (HEFF) component of 11.5% and is assessed on a per-credit hour basis. Any increase to the off-campus tuition rate for FY27 is aligned with the corresponding increase to on-campus tuition rates, ensuring consistency in tuition adjustments across instructional delivery formats.

For a comprehensive listing of approved off-campus tuition rates for FY27, please refer to Attachment I within the item presented.

Off-campus tuition rates will increase by 2.4% across all institutions, with two exceptions. SD Mines will experience a 5.0% increase, and Dakota State University will implement an 8.0% increase for PhD programs. These adjustments are aligned with on-campus tuition increases and are designed to support a 1.4% salary policy as well as Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Roberts, to approve the FY27 Off-Campus Tuition Rates as presented in Attachment I. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY27 Off-Campus Tuition Rates can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-C FY27 System, Discipline, Delivery, and Vehicle Registration Fees

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, noted that in addition to tuition and mandatory fees, students may be assessed specific fees for services and, in some cases, additional fees for higher-cost academic disciplines. Service fees may include charges for application processing, credit evaluation or testing, assessments, late fees, parking, or similar services. Discipline fees are assessed to help support high-cost programs, particularly related to salary and operating expenses.

The Legislature authorized a 1.4% salary increase for state employees for FY27, and operating cost assumptions reflect a 2.8% CPI increase. System, Special Discipline, and Delivery fees are proposed to increase by varying amounts based on program-specific needs, while vehicle registration fees will increase by 2.8% overall, consistent with CPI.

Service-related fees are summarized below in four categories: (1) System Fees, (2) Discipline Fees, (3) Delivery Fees, and (4) Vehicle Registration Fees. Justification is provided within the item for any new fee, or any fee increase exceeding inflation.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Beacom, to approve the FY27 System, Discipline, Delivery, and Vehicle Registration Fees, as presented in Attachment I. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY27 System, Discipline, Delivery, and Vehicle Registration Fees can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-D FY27 Housing and Food Service Rates

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, summarized as presented in the item that the proposed housing rates for FY27 allow the universities to address the inflationary increase on operating expenses, the 2% maintenance and repair requirement, and funding adjustments to salary policy.

The meal plan rates reflect negotiated pricing and program offerings with Sodexo, the System's contracted food service provider, along with applicable institutional administrative costs.

When including the tuition and mandatory fee rates, the total weighted average cost increase is \$540.73 or 3.0%. The impact on students within the system will range from an increase of \$439.50 to \$724.50 per year. Additional detail are provided within the item.

Heather stated that she really wanted to give credit to the SDSU team for taking an opportunity to really address some student feedback that was given through a survey and really applying that student perspective to this.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Dittman, to approve the FY27 Housing and Food Service Plan rates as presented in Attachments I & II. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY27 Housing and Food Service Rates can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-E FY27 Graduate Assistant Stipends

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, noted that the Board of Regents sets a minimum stipend for graduate assistants each year. To receive full compensation for a semester, graduate assistants must work the entire semester. Similarly, to receive full compensation for the four-week summer session, they must work the entire session. If a graduate assistant does not complete the full semester or summer session, the stipend may be prorated accordingly.

DSU, SD Mines, and SDSU currently waive tuition for their graduate assistants and fellows as compensation for their work; therefore, the salary minimum does not apply to those three institutions.

The Board has traditionally adjusted the minimum stipend for graduate assistants in line with the rate of increase in resident graduate tuition, rounded to the nearest dollar. For FY27, tuition increased by 2.4%, so the stipend amount will be increased by the same percentage.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Roberts, to approve the BHSU and NSU FY27 minimum graduate assistant stipends in the amount of \$4,095 per semester and \$1,024

per four-week session; and USD FY27 minimum graduate assistant stipends in the amount of \$4,248 per semester and \$1,061 per four-week session. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY27 Graduate Assistant Stipends can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-F FY27 Special Schools Nonresident Tuition

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, stated the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SDSBVI) annually reviews its instructional and residential costs to determine an appropriate tuition rate for nonresident students who may attend the school. SDSBVI does not currently have any nonresident students in attendance.

The current tuition rate at SDSBVI is \$41,861 for instructional costs and \$16,920 for residential care. An inflationary increase is applied to cover salary policy, CPI on operating expenses, and adjustments to health benefit cost per benefit-eligible employee. The Bureau of Finance and Management (BFM) calculated the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the last fiscal year at 2.8%. Staff recommend that the inflationary increase be applied to the FY26 rates to set the FY27 rates.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Rave, to approve the FY27 nonresident instructional tuition rate to be \$43,033 and the residence cost to be set at \$17,394 for the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Motion passed.

A copy of the FY27 Special Schools Nonresident Tuition can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-G SDSU Soccer Complex Facility Design Plan (FDP)

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, stated that South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests approval of the Facility Design Plan (FDP) to proceed with construction of the new Soccer Competition Venue at the SDSU Main Campus in Brookings, SD. The Board approved the Preliminary Facility Statement (PFS) in December 2023, and the Facility Program Plan (FPP) in December 2025.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Roberts, to approve the Facility Design Plan for SDSU's Soccer Competition Venue, with an estimated construction cost of \$4,696,800, funded through private donations. Motion passed.

A copy of the SDSU Soccer Complex Facility Design Plan (FDP) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-H USD Dakota Hall Renovation Preliminary Facility Statement (PFS)

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, stated that the University of South Dakota (USD) requests approval of this Preliminary Facility Statement to begin planning for the renovation of Dakota Hall on the main campus in Vermillion.

Dakota Hall, a 43,595-square-foot building originally constructed in 1917 and last renovated in 1965, houses several core academic departments and supports multiple undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as general education coursework across the university. The building requires comprehensive upgrades to plumbing, HVAC, electrical systems, interior finishes, ADA accessibility, and fire protection, along with improvements to energy efficiency.

USD is proposing a renovation that will modernize classrooms, labs, offices, and common areas, address safety and compliance needs, and improve overall building performance for students, faculty, and visitors.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Rave, to approve USD's Preliminary Facility Statement for the Dakota Hall renovations, which will be funded through a combination of General Fund M&R, HEFF M&R, and local funds. A building committee representative should be appointed to oversee this project. Motion passed.

A copy of the USD Dakota Hall Renovation Preliminary Facility Statement (PFS) can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

7-I FY27 General Fund M&R Allocation and Projects

Heather Forney, System VP for Finance and Administration, stated that for FY27, the universities will receive a base General Fund allocation of \$13,781,925 for maintenance and repair (M&R). Table 1 shows how this funding is distributed across the campuses. The University of South Dakota–Sioux Falls and Black Hills State University–Rapid City are not included in this allocation because they do not receive General Fund support. The Sanford School of Medicine (SSOM) allocation is incorporated into the University of South Dakota (USD) amount shown.

The General Fund M&R distribution is calculated using a formula based on 50% building replacement value and 50% gross square footage for academic facilities. Board Policy 6.6 allows up to 5% of each institution's M&R allocation to be used for planning and design activities to support development of appropriate project scopes.

Regent Lochner commented that that as he tours campuses he has paid particular attention looking at the maintenance and repair opportunities, and he's always walking away very pleased that he sees the attention to detail. Maintaining facilities is critical for the student experience and for their safety and for the efficiency of running the institution. He knows a lot of people would think that maybe you can not do or save money on maintenance and repair, but it will come back and cost you more in the end. So, he does appreciate that detail.

Regent Partridge also added that it reflects the respect and appreciation to the donors who gave money for the buildings. The fact that we take care of them is very important to the state and honors them with their gift.

IT WAS MOVED by Regent Lochner, seconded by Regent Beacom, to the FY27 General Fund M&R projects as presented in Attachment I. Motion passed.

A copy of the General Fund M&R Allocation and Projects can be found on pages __ to __ of the official minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. MST.

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 Monday, May 18th, 2026, in accordance with SDCL § 1-25-2 to discuss matters authorized therein. Following executive session, on May 20th 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-B. Approve FY27 contract renewals as discussed and authorize Board staff to effectuate the necessary contract terms.*
- 2-C. Authorize the Executive Director to carry out and implement the Board's directives, including executing and administering any related documents, communications, and operational steps necessary to effectuate the Board's decision, consistent with applicable law and Board policy.*
- 2-E. Authorize the Executive Director to carry out and implement the Board's directives, including executing and administering any related documents, communications, and operational steps necessary to effectuate the Board's decision, consistent with applicable law and Board policy.*
- 3-F. Authorize the Executive Director to issue a determination on SDSMT Faculty Appeal No. 2026-01, consistent with the Board's direction.*
- 3-G. Authorize the General Counsel to proceed with the legal matter(s) within the parameters discussed.*
- 3-H(1). Approve the evaluation letters for Presidents Tande and Dunn, as presented.*
- 3-H(2). Accept the System Scholarship Committee's recommended recipients and alternates for the 2026-27 Fowler, Bjugstad, and Scarborough scholarships, as presented.*

2026-27 Annis Irene Fowler/Kaden Scholarship

Recipient 1: Meleah Saucerman

Recipient 2: Samantha Troxell

Alternate 1: Katelyn Schut

Alternate 2: Brooke Endorf

2026-27 Ardell Bjugstad Scholarship

Recipient 1: Shia Peterson

Recipient 2: Hayden Thompson

2026-27 Marlin R. Scarborough Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Kateryna Matviichuk

Alternate 1: Tanmoy Das

Alternate 2: Brenna Martin

Alternate 3: Tyler Tran

- 3-H(3). *Approve the leave requests as presented for Yun Seok Choi (BHSU), Nathan Deichert (BHSU), Eric Pulis (NSU), Pamela Monaghan-Geernaert (NSU), Haley Armstrong (SDSMT), Venkataramana Gadhamshetty (SDSMT), Sarah Keenan (SDSMT), Lisa Rebenitsch (SDSMT), Evren Celik Wiltse (SDSU), Dale Potts (SDSU), Semhar Michael (SDSU), Etienne Gnimpieba (USD), Grigoriy Sereda (USD), Jeff Wesner (USD), Bridget Diamond-Welch (USD), Amber Hansen (USD), Sean Kramer (USD), Soonhee Roth (USD), Joseph Tinguely (USD), Wade Nilson (USD), and Robert Turner III (USD).*
- 3-H(4). *Approve the promotion and tenure requests as presented in Attachment I.*
- 3-H(5). *Approve the request to grant tenure at the rank of full professor to the Dean of the College of Business and Information Systems, Dr. Darrel Sandall (DSU), and Department Head of Industrial Engineering, Adam Piper (SDSMT).*
- 3-H(6). *Award three (3) years of prior service credit toward promotion and tenure for Dr. Abeer Akjhwaldi (DSU); one (1) year of prior service credit toward promotion and tenure for Dr. Kristen Brown (NSU); one (1) year of prior service credit toward tenure for Dr. Bryce Tellmann (SDSMT); seven (7) year of prior service credit toward tenure for Dr. Edward Bagu (USD); twelve (12) years of prior service credit toward tenure for Dr. Daniel Bird (USD); and nine (9) years of prior service credit toward tenure for Dr. Bruce Cuevas (USD).*
- 3-H(7). *Approve the addendum to the employment contract for Aaaron Johnston as Head Women's Basketball Coach for SDSU.*
- 3-H(8). *Approve the employment contract for Damion Hahn as Head Men's Wrestling Coach for SDSU.*
- 3-H(9). *Approve the appointment of Dr. Lorelle Davies as VP for Finance and Administration at NSU, Dr. Erin Fouberg as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at NSU, Nicholle Gilbertson as Associate Vice President of Executive Operations at USD, and Dr. Jim Stone as Provost and VP for Academic Affairs at SDSMT as discussed, and approve the employment actions as presented in Attachment II.*
- 3-I. *Authorize Board staff to take such actions as are necessary and appropriate to carry out the Board's guidance, including preparing and advancing any related materials or documents for public-session consideration, consistent with applicable law and Board policy.*

**APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TENURE AND/OR PROMOTION REQUESTS FOR
THE FOLLOWING FACULTY MEMBERS:**

BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY (1 Promotion only, 1 Promotion and Tenure)

Promotion: Weyant, Thomas
Mount, Brianna

Tenure: Weyant, Thomas

DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY (4 Promotion only, 5 Promotion and Tenure, 1 Tenure only)

Promotion: Britton, Peter
Flaagan, Tyler
Guo, Peng
Ingram, Matthew
Lightner, Konrad
Cronin, Kyle
Kaabi, Jihene
Al-Hammouri, Ahmed
Simmerman, Wendy

Tenure: Britton, Peter
Flaagan, Tyler
Guo, Peng
Ingram, Matthew
Mehmood, Adid
Al-Hammouri, Ahmed

NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY (2 Promotion only, 4 Promotion and Tenure)

Promotion: Foote, Justin
Momeni, Eman
Shannahan, Daniel
Villegas, Sal
Fogderud, Marla
Miller, Audrey

Tenure: Foote, Justin
Momeni, Eman
Shannahan, Daniel
Villegas, Sal

SOUTH DAKOTA MINES (9 Promotion only, 7 Promotion and Tenure)

Promotion: Hoffmann, Jeffrey
Karlsson, Christer
Lande, Micah
Leberknight, Jennifer
Leonard, William (Matt)
Lipatov, Alexey
Mitra, Rudrajit
Paudel, Tula
Shchepin, Roman
Strieder, Frank
Switzer, Jeffrey
Trimble, Jill
Walker (Donovan), Katrina
Walker, Travis
Wang, Jingbo
Zhao, Long

Tenure: Lande, Micah
Lipatov, Alexey
Mitra, Rudrajit
Paudel, Tula
Shchepin, Roman
Wang, Jingbo
Zhao, Long

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY (6 Promotion only, 7 Promotion and Tenure)

Promotion: Wang, Tong
Koromyslova, Ekaterina
Michael, Semhar
Letcher, Todd
Caffe, Melanie
Leffler, Alan
Brennan, Jameson
Coulter, Alison
Osterloh, Kristopher
Sharaf El Din, Tamer
Stevens, Mark
Miller, Erin
Karki, Bishnu

Tenure: Brennan, Jameson
Coulter, Alison
Osterloh, Kristopher
Sharaf El Din, Tamer
Stevens, Mark
Miller, Erin
Karki, Bishnu

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA (29 Promotion only, 6 Promotion and Tenure)

Promotion: Costello, Lori
Gerrish, Ed
Gnimpieba, Etienne
Hagen, Benjamin
Robertson, Lisa Ann
Rozum, Molly
Mourlam, Daniel
Ritz, Tracie
Strouse, Gabrielle
Yang, Hyung Suk
Shonk, Victor
Brazeal, Gregory
Rose, Laura
Simonson, Anna
Cassanova, Tallie
Cerny, Shana
Drake, Miranda
Gauer, Alexa
Hebert, Karen
Hodge, Chabli
Hulse, Betty
Mockler, Wynette
Potter, Kari
Varenhorst, Lisa
Vargas, Minga
Singh, Arun
Soderling, Taylor
Kurtz, Eric
Dsouza, Shalome
Grev, Jacquelyn
Lim, Peter Paul
Reed, Jennifer
Tao, Jianning
Warnhoff, Kurt
White, Jessica

Tenure: Costello, Lori
Yang, Hyung Suk
Brazeal, Gregory
Rose, Laura
Hebert, Karen
Singh, Arun

Institution	Name	Title	Current Grade	New Grade	Current Salary	Midpoint of New Grade	New Salary	% Increase
SDSMT	Aaron Grimm	Budget Director	NFE 10S	NFE 12S	\$73,656	\$106,000	\$93,580	27%

Institution	Name	Title	Current Grade	New Grade	Current Salary	Midpoint of Grade	New Salary	% Increase
DSU	Alaina Harkins	Assistant Volleyball Coach	RC 2S	No Change	\$32,536	\$47,799	\$40,000	22.94%
DSU	Jacob Strand	Assistant Women's Basketball Coach	RC 2S	No Change	\$32,536	\$47,799	\$40,000	22.94%
DSU	Tom Clarey	Assistant Football Coach	RC 2S	No Change	\$33,500	\$47,799	\$41,500	23.88%
DSU	Matthew Vargas	Assistant Men's Basketball Coach	RC 2S	No Change	\$36,540	\$47,799	\$44,000	20.42%
DSU	Sarah Wilensky	Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach	RC 2S	No Change	\$33,500	\$47,799	\$40,820	21.85%
DSU	Shandon Reitzell	Assistant Track Coach	RC 2S	No Change	\$32,536	\$47,799	\$40,000	22.94%