

# 2005 Legislative Review

*A Look At Higher Education In Week 6: Feb. 7 – Feb. 11, 2005*



## SB 2003

**The NDUS budget bill is under review by a subcommittee of Senate Appropriations. Subcommittee amendments will be acted upon by the full committee before the bill reaches the Senate floor by Thursday, Feb. 17.**

## SB 2032: Comprehensive Economic Development Bill Heard in Senate Appropriations

SB 2032, the comprehensive economic development bill that includes provisions for centers of excellence, was heard in Senate Appropriations Feb. 9.

Chancellor Potts testified in support of the bill, including amendments offered by the University System when the bill was considered by the Senate Industry Business and Labor Committee. Senate IBL adopted the NDUS amendments and added an amendment to make tribal colleges and baccalaureate-level private colleges eligible to receive funding from this initiative. The NDUS did not take a position on this additional IBL amendment.

A meeting of the Joint Committee on Economic Development was held Feb. 10. The joint committee agreed it would be useful to

add an amendment to the bill further clarifying and supporting the amendments previously submitted by the NDUS, stating that the focus of the centers need not be on “science and technology research” to qualify for funding. The joint committee also recommended that the bill should retain the goal of two dollars of matching funds for each dollar of state funds. The committee also supports providing the Centers of Excellence Commission with the discretion to reduce the two-to-one match requirement for applications from research institutions, as well as those from non-research institutions as the bill now states.

The University System has drafted these amendments to be forwarded to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration.

## Paulsen SBHE Appointment Confirmed by the Senate

The appointment of John Q. Paulsen to the State Board of Higher Education was confirmed by the Senate Feb. 8 by a vote of 47-0. Paulsen, a retired executive vice president of MeritCare Medical Group in Fargo, was appointed by Gov. John Hoeven and has served on the board since July 2004. Paulsen’s hearing before a subcommittee of the Senate took place Feb 3.

Senate confirmation hearings are held each legislative session and include all SBHE members appointed since the previous session with the exception of the student member. Upon appointment by the governor, two SBHE members selected to fill openings that will occur in July 2005 also must appear before the Senate subcommittee for confirmation hearings prior to the end of the 2005 Legislative Session.

## HB 1383 and SB 2067: NDUS Opposes Extended Bar Hours, Supports Prohibiting "Power Hour"

The University System will oppose legislation extending bar operating hours (HB 1383) and will support legislation eliminating "power hour," the hour between the time a person turns 21 and the bar closing (HB 1383 and SB 2067). The Student Affairs Council recommended that the cabinet take these positions based on concern for impact on student health and well-being.

## Senate Defeats SB 2206, the Equity Funding Bill

SB 2206, a bill to provide equity funding to NDSU, BSC and LRSC, was defeated in the Senate Feb. 8 on a vote of 22-25. Prior to floor action, the bill had been hoghoused in Senate Education and would have required the reallocation of funds proposed in the executive budget recommendation between NDUS campuses. Sen. Holmberg and others told the Senate the equity issue needs to be addressed, but not in the manner provided in this bill.

## **SB 2019: CTE Appropriations Bill Under Subcommittee Review**

SB 2019, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) appropriations bill that includes funding for workforce training, is currently being reviewed by a subcommittee of Senate Appropriations. The University System supported inclusion of an additional \$600,000 for workforce training in the CTE budget.

The subcommittee has informed Wayne Kutzer, CTE state director, they will recommend to the full Senate Appropriations Committee that an additional \$250,000 should be placed in the agency's grant line item for use in funding several functions, possibly including workforce training.

## **HB 1363: Credit-Hour Tuition Bill Defeated**

HB 1363, a bill to prohibit credit-hour tuition at four-year campuses, was defeated in the House Feb. 8 on a vote of 39-46. This bill was opposed by the SBHE.

## ***On the Week Seven Agenda***

- SB 2034 Mon., Feb. 14, 9 a.m., H-EDU:** Extends “flexibility with accountability” legislation
- SB 2035 Mon., Feb. 14, 9 a.m., H-EDU:** Extends “flexibility with accountability” legislation
- SB 2076 Mon., Feb. 14, 9 a.m., H-EDU:** Amends the definition of a resident student for tuition purposes to include all members of North Dakota National Guard units and dependents of all active duty personnel
- SB 2078 Tues., Feb. 15, 9 a.m., H-EDU:** Recommends changes in the Technology Occupations Student Loan Forgiveness Program and the Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness Program
- SB 2079 Tues., Feb. 15, 9 a.m., H-EDU:** Concerns tuition and fee waivers for dependents of disabled veterans, veterans killed in action and survivors of firefighters and peace officers
- HB 1038 Tues., Feb. 15, 10:15 a.m., S-EDU:** Establishes a No Child Left Behind advisory commission
- HB 1387 Wed., Feb 16, 10:15 a.m., S-EDU:** Removes the internship requirement from the Technology Occupations Student Loan Forgiveness Program