

2005 Legislative Review

A Look At Higher Education In Week 10: March 7 – 11, 2005



To Date:

Of the 529 bills introduced by the House, 104 have been passed by both the House and Senate.

Of the 411 bills introduced by the Senate, 104 have been passed by both houses.

SCR 4002: House Defeats Resolution to Study Accountability Measures

SCR 4002, a resolution requiring the SBHE to study accountability measures, failed in the House March 9 on a voice vote. The NDUS recommended a vote of “do not pass” because a review of the measures already has been completed.

With the approval of, and in cooperation with, Sen. Holmberg, chair of the roundtable and the

interim committee, review of the measures began in 2004 following the June 15, 2004, roundtable meeting.

The list of proposed changes has been adopted by the SBHE and also has been reviewed by the private sector members of the roundtable as called for in the study resolution.

Kostelecky and Smith Confirmed by the Senate

The appointment of Pam Kostelecky and Richard Smith to the State Board of Higher Education was confirmed by the Senate March 9. Both confirmation votes were unanimous.

Kostelecky is the owner and president of Sax Motor Company in Dickinson and Bowman. She has served on the board since October 2002 and now has been re-appointed to a second term. Kostelecky currently is board vice president and chairs its Budget and Finance Committee.

Smith is an attorney with Smith, Strege and Fredericksen in Wahpeton. He serves as president of the Richland County Bar Association and is a member of the North Dakota State Bar Association, the U.S. Supreme Court Bar and the Federal District Court Bar.

At the March 10 SBHE meeting, Kostelecky was elected 2005–06 SBHE president, and John Q. Paulsen of Fargo was elected vice president. More information will be provided in the March 2005 *SBHE Update*.

SB 2077: State Grant Program Bill Passed by the House

Introduced by the SBHE, SB 2077 was heard by House Education March 7 and received a 13-0 “do pass” recommendation by the committee followed by a unanimous “do pass” vote March 8 on the House floor.

This bill increases the maximum State Grant Program amount from \$600 to \$1,000. The NDUS testified in support of the bill. The purpose of this needs-based grant is to assist students with the cost of attending eligible North Dakota colleges and universities. The bill provides the SBHE the flexibility to award amounts within the \$600 to \$1,000 range.

SB 2037: House Subcommittee Hears NDUS Technology Bill

SB 2037, a bill that grants the SBHE authority over NDUS technology planning, standards and project oversight, was heard in House Appropriations, Government Performance Division, March 8 and 11.

Grant Crawford, NDUS CIO, provided testimony in support of the bill that would provide increased responsibility to the SBHE. Crawford responded to questions he believed demonstrated true interest in ensuring that appropriate oversight would continue and that the NDUS would continue to work closely with ITD on common issues.

SB 2023: House Subcommittee Hears Major Capital Bonding Bill

SB 2023, the major state-funded capital bonding bill, was heard in House Appropriations, Government Performance Division, March 8. Campus representatives from UND, NDSU, NDSCS, DSU and MiSU-BC presented testimony in support of the higher education projects included in the bill.

These projects are:

- NDSU hazardous material handling and storage facility
- NDSU main research greenhouse
- NDSU Central Grasslands headquarters office addition
- NDSU North Central Agronomy lab and greenhouse
- DSU Murphy Hall renovation
- NDSCS electrical distribution
- UND energy conservation projects
- MiSU-BC Thatcher Hall addition

HB 1364: Senate Education Hears English Language Pronunciation Bill

HB 1364, a bill amended to now require SBHE and campus policies regarding English language pronunciation skills by NDUS faculty and a report by the board to the Legislative Council by July 1, 2006, was heard in Senate Education March 9.

The system presented testimony in opposition to the bill. Board and campus policies addressing this concern are already in place, and it is not necessary to pass a law to require a report to the legislature on this issue.

SB 2372: House Human Services Hears Responsible Choice Commission Bill

SB 2372, a bill that creates a responsible choice commission to address impaired driving and alcohol and drug abuse, was heard in House Human Services March 9. Testimony in support of the bill was provided by the system Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Consortium.

SCR 4013: House Committee Passes Research Corridor Resolution

SCR 4013, a resolution recognizing the value of the Red River Valley Research Corridor, was passed out of House Industry, Business and Labor with a “do pass” vote of 12-0 on March 9, but was re-referred to the committee March 10.

Chancellor Potts testified in support of the resolution and expressed appreciation for the private and public sector partners contributing to the success of the corridor. He said the corridor is an excellent example of unleashing the research and development capacity of the University System to create economic growth in our state.

On the Week 11 Agenda

SB 2032 Mon., March 14, 8 a.m., H-IBL: Mandates an SBHE technology commercialization study and an UGPTI transportation study

HB 1271 Wed., March 16, 8:30 a.m., S-APPR: Relates to tuition waivers for dependents of veterans

HB 1414 Wed., March 16, 9 a.m., S-EDU: Exempts medical transcription programs from Career and Technical Education approval