

# 2005 Legislative Review

*A Look At Higher Education In Week 11: March 14 – 18, 2005*



## Coming to a Close:

**Bills and resolutions must be reported out of committee in the second house by Friday, March 25.**

## SB2003: House Appropriations Division Adds, Then Cuts \$6.5 Million

The House Appropriation Education and Environment Division unanimously voted March 15 to add \$6.5 million in state general funds to SB 2003, the NDUS appropriation bill. However, the division reconsidered its vote March 17 and removed the funding on a split vote of 4 to 2.

The additional \$6.5 million would have brought the NDUS appropriation for the 2005-07 biennium to 21 percent of the state's recurring revenues, based on the updated March 2005 revenue forecast. This 21 percent position is consistent with Gov. Hoeven's recommendation and also supports the roundtable position that the NDUS appropriation should grow at the same rate as the state's economy.

According to the original amendment that added \$6.5 million, funding in the amount

of \$4.6 million would have been allocated to all 11 campuses to assist with the current cost of operations (parity); to BSC, LRSC, and NDSU to address equity based on comparisons to their peer benchmarks; and \$500,000 to the SBHE initiative fund in potential support of a systemwide international student recruitment and retention program. The remaining balance of the funds was not specifically allocated.

Members of the Education and Environment Division are: Rep. Bob Martinson, chair; Rep. Thomas Brusegaard, vice chair; and Reps. Earl Rennerfelt, Francis Wald, Ole Aarsvold and Pam Gulleison. The bill will continue to be worked on in the Education and Environment Division before moving on to the full House Appropriations for consideration.

### SB 2032: House IBL Hears SBHE Study Bill

SB 2032, the comprehensive economic development bill, was heard March 14 in House Industry, Business and Labor. The bill mandates the SBHE to conduct a technology commercialization study and a transportation infrastructure study. Vice Chancellor Eddie Dunn testified that the University System would not be able to conduct the \$50,000 technology commercialization study unless funding is provided. He said the same was true for the transportation study, which the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute would be directed to conduct at an estimated cost of \$484,000. The committee has not yet taken action on the bill.

### HB 1271: Senate Appropriations Hears Tuition Waiver Bill

HB 1271, a bill that relates to tuition waivers for dependents of veterans, was heard March 16 in Senate Appropriations. The bill adds stepchildren to the definition of dependents and makes stepchildren, as well as natural and adopted children of disabled veterans, veterans killed on duty and POWs, eligible for full waiver of tuition and fees at NDUS campuses. The Senate Appropriations Committee voted 13-0 to send the bill to the Senate floor with a "do pass" recommendation.

**HB 1414: Medical Transcription  
Bill Heard in Senate Education**

HB 1414, a bill that exempts medical transcription programs from Career and Technical Education approval, was heard in Senate Education March 16. The NDUS office, WSC and NDSCS joined the State Board for Career and Technical Education in opposition to the bill, based on SBHE opposition. The committee took no action at the hearing.

***On the Week 12 Agenda***

**SB 2032 Mon., March 21, 2 p.m., H-APPGPD:** Mandates an SBHE technology commercialization study and an UGPTI transportation study