

Legislative Review

NORTH DAKOTA
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
The Vital Link to a Brighter Future

A Look at Higher Education in Week 2: Jan. 8–12, 2007

NDUS Budget Bill Presented to House Appropriations Committee



“Our 11 wonderful institutions are more than brick and mortar; they are people working for the betterment of the students who entrust us with their education.”

John Q. Paulsen,
SBHE president

“North Dakota’s future rests on its ability to attract and develop human capital.”

Eddie Dunn, NDUS
chancellor

Representatives of the North Dakota University System and private sector members of the Roundtable on Higher Education provided highlights of a shared legislative agenda during an overview of HB 1003, the NDUS budget bill, for the House Appropriations Committee Jan. 8, 2007.

In his opening comments, John Q. Paulsen, State Board of Higher Education president, said the board is very pleased with the 2007–09 budget proposed by Gov. Hoeven, but encouraged committee members to move a number of items included as one-time expenditures in the governor’s budget plan to permanent base funding to address critical needs. Paulsen’s comments touched upon several current NDUS success stories, such as Economic Development Centers of Excellence, workforce training and the system’s 2006 estimated total economic impact of \$3.1 billion, which includes student spending.

Paulsen thanked the Legislative Assembly and the Roundtable on Higher Education for their support of the NDUS. He also praised the contributions of NDUS employees.

“I’d like to publicly thank the more than 10,000 men and women who have dedicated their careers to the North Dakota University System,” Paulsen said. “Our 11 wonderful institutions are more than brick and mortar; they are people working for the betterment of the students who entrust us with their education. I know I speak for my colleagues on the board when I say how proud I am of them. The presidents set the tone for the institutions, and through their leadership, the

University System is responding to the needs of the state by providing high-quality education and contributing to our expanding economy.”

A key theme threaded throughout the testimony was the role of the University System in development of the state’s “human capital” talent, energy and innovation.

“North Dakota’s future rests on its ability to attract and develop human capital,” said Eddie Dunn, NDUS chancellor. “The University System is the primary vehicle for making that happen and is positioned to do so in all regions of the state.”

Speaking on behalf of private sector roundtable members, Roger Reiersen reiterated the need to provide more funding to the NDUS.

“Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the message could not be any clearer,” Reiersen said. “The NDUS is critical to the economic growth of North Dakota, but they cannot continue their impressive role, to date, without additional funding.”

Private sector roundtable member Dennis Hill also voiced support for the NDUS budget.

“The North Dakota University System was receiving 21 percent of the state’s general fund spending in 2001 when the roundtable initiative went into effect,” Hill said. “It’s vitally important that we move back to at least that level of support from the state’s general fund budget.”

Gaylon Baker, Stark Development Corporation executive vice president, provided comments underscoring the connectivity between the NDUS, the state's workforce and economic development.

Robert Haskins, North Dakota Student Association president, voiced concerns about *ConnectND* and the increasing cost of education. "We are living in a time that the wallets of students have become the crutches of higher education," he said.

Haskins also voiced support for the NDUS budget submitted by the SBHE.

"I believe the University System is the gateway to the future in North Dakota," he said. "They have proven to be an economic engine in the state and are constantly providing the human capital that drives this state. I am standing here today in unity with the University System and the State Board of Higher Education."

Thomas Barnhardt, Council of College Faculties president, and John Pederson, SBHE faculty advisor, told committee members that NDUS faculty member salaries rank 50th in the nation. Barnhardt and Pederson talked about the impact of these salaries on the institutions' ability to hire and retain high-quality faculty members.

Laura Glatt, NDUS vice chancellor for administrative affairs, told committee members that improving faculty and staff salaries is one of the top 2007–09 funding priorities of the 11 NDUS colleges and universities. Glatt also provided a comprehensive overview of the 2007–09 budget request.

Glatt and Michel Hillman, NDUS vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, provided highlights of the *2006 Accountability Measures Report*. "In addition to being useful for campus management purposes, this report is considered one of the best higher education accountability reports in the country," he said.

Representatives of the 11 colleges and universities and the NDUS Office provided budget overviews to the House Appropriations Committee, Education and Environmental Division, Jan. 9–12.

Bills Introduced at the Request of the SBHE

SB 2028: A bill to amend and reenact section 4-19-01.2 of NDCC related to the state forester reserve account

HB 1067: A bill to amend and reenact subsection 3 of section 18-02-07 of NDCC related to the cooperation of the state forester and other agencies on fire and forest protection

HB 1087: A bill to amend and reenact section 39-01-01 of NDCC related to authorized emergency vehicles to include the state forester

HB 1099: A bill to amend and reenact section 44-04-18.4 of the NDCC related to confidentiality of trade secret, proprietary, commercial and financial information

HB 1065: A bill to amend and reenact section 54-53-02 of NDCC to add representatives of two additional groups to the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Advisory Council

HB 1125: A bill to create and enact Chapter 43-13.1 and Chapter 43-29.1 of the NDCC related to loan repayment programs for optometrists and veterinarians

On the Week Three Agenda

HB 1027 Mon., Jan. 15, 8 a.m., H-IBL: Economic Development Committee bill

HB 1020 Mon., Jan. 15, 8:30 a.m., H-APPEE: NDSU Extension and Research appropriation bill

HB 1099 Mon., Jan. 15, 1:30 p.m., H-IBL: Confidentiality of trade secret, proprietary, commercial and financial information

HB 1030 Tues., Jan. 16, 9 a.m., H-APPEE: Higher education institutions special revenue funds

HB 1031 Tues., Jan. 16, 10 a.m., H-APPEE: Budget requests and block grant appropriations for the ND university system

HB 1032 Tues., Jan. 16, 11 a.m. H-APPEE: Cancellation of unexpended appropriations for the ND university system

HB 1249 Wed., Jan. 17, 9 a.m., H-EDU: Loan forgiveness for teachers