SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

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SUBJECT
   2023 Academic Degree Program Productivity Report

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY
   BOR Policy 2.3.4 – Academic Program Evaluation and Review Policy
   AAC Guideline 2.3.4.A(5) – Program Productivity Review Guideline

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION
   The Board of Regents approved BOR Policy 2.3.4 – Academic Program Evaluation and Review Policy at their March and May meetings in 2021. The program evaluation requires campuses to evaluate their portfolio of programs, and if a program is flagged, it must be evaluated and have an action plan developed.

   As outlined in BOR Policy 2.3.4, a program will be flagged if the program does not meet the degree conferral and both the student enrollment and financial formula evaluation.

1. Degree conferral will flag if the program does not meet one (1) of the following:
    a. Associate Degree – Five (5) graduates a year or twenty-five (25) during the five (5)-year reporting period.
    b. Bachelor's Degree – Seven (7) graduates a year or thirty-five (35) during the five (5)-year reporting period.
    c. Master's Degree – Four (4) graduates a year or twenty (20) during the five (5)-year reporting period.
    d. Professional, Terminal, and Doctoral Degree – One (1) graduate a year or five (5) during the five (5)-year reporting period.

2. Student enrollment will be flagged if the program does not meet one (1) of the following:
    a. Associate Degree – Three (3)-year average of a minimum of fifteen (15) enrollments.
    b. Bachelor's Degree – Three (3)-year average of a minimum of twenty-five (25) enrollments.

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DRAFT MOTION 20240626_6-K:
   I move to approve the recommendations as outlined in this item.

    c. <u>Master's Degree</u> – Three (3)-year average of a minimum of fifteen (15) enrollments.

    d. <u>Professional, Terminal, and Doctoral Degree</u> – Three (3)-year average of a minimum of seven (7) enrollments.

3. Financial Viability – This is an evaluation based on instructional revenue and expenses by the academic vice president.

The campuses had a total of 42 programs assigned to the normally scheduled three-year mid-cycle review. Among the 42 programs, 4 were flagged via BOR Policy 2.3.4 and evaluated by university academic leadership as required (See Attachment I, Appendix I – Board Policy Summary). Table 1 provides the recommendations from the evaluation.

Table 1: Program Productivity Evaluation

Northern State University

Classification of Instructional Program-CIP	Program Code and Description	Recommendation
231304	NBA.CST NSU Communication Studies (BA)	Invest/Augment
261301	NBS.ESC NSU Environmental Science (BS)	Invest/Augment

South Dakota State University

Classification of Instructional Program-CIP	Program Code and Description	Recommendation
190701	SAS.HDV SDSU Human Dev/Family Serv (AS)	Retain/Feeder

University of South Dakota

Classification of Instructional Program-CIP	Program Code and Description	Recommendation
520213	UBS.TCL USD Technical Leadership (BS)	Retain/Feeder

The outcome of the evaluation was as follows, two (2) programs will be augmented (with a two-year review window) and two (2) were requested to retain for further review (as a feeder). The feeders will be placed on a five-year period for review.

Table 2: Action Summary

Actions		
Collaborate	0	0%
Invest/Augment	2	50%
Retain/Review	2	50%
Terminate/Inactivate	0	0%
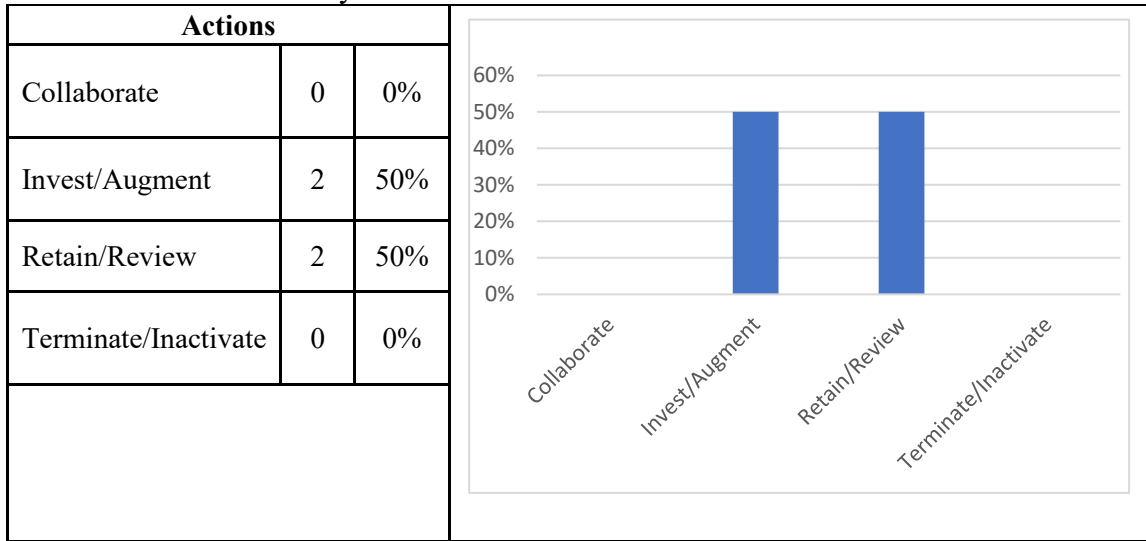
IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

The campuses have been working on the evaluation of these program reviews since February 2024. Working with academic leadership and Board academic staff has been an iterative process. Academic leadership worked directly with their campuses per internal institutional processes.

Attachment I is the annual report that has been developed for the Regents which provides supporting documentation. It is recommended that the Board approve the action recommendations as presented in Tables 1 and 2.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Academic Degree Program Productivity Report

The Board of Regents System guidelines for monitoring low-producing programs were established by the SB55 Taskforce recommendation, academic leadership at each of the campuses, and approved by the Regents. The System's dedication to ensuring program quality and program viability is a central focus of Board policy and their fiduciary responsibility as the constitutional governing board.

Policy 2.3.4 – Academic Program Evaluation and Review Policy:
Requires an evaluation of academic program productivity every three years coupled tightly with the three-year mid-cycle review. Following an analysis of the data and consultations with chief academic officers, a report shall be presented for consideration by BOR Committee A.   Committee A evaluates and makes the final recommendation for the Full Board at the Board of Regents meeting.   Appendix I outlines a summary of the process.

Definitions:
Retrieved from BOR Policy 2.3.4 – Academic Program Evaluation and Review Policy

> Three-Year Mid-Cycle Analytics/Evaluation: University examination of program performance based on a set of common metrics: enrollment, student success, instructional activity, faculty, and revenue/expense.

> Program Productivity Review: Board of Regents program productivity review analyzing programs that fail to meet the established criteria thresholds.

> Watchlist: A program appearing on the Program Productivity report and allowed to remain active will be placed on an annual report created by BOR and provided to the University.

Program Assessment:
Using the criteria established by policy, data on academic programs were flagged due to low enrollments and lower program conferral numbers. The academic vice presidents further evaluated for program financial viability. EAB Edify standardized academic dashboards and other reporting tools were utilized by campuses to evaluate and make recommendations.

Mid-Cycle Review and Program Productivity Review Findings:
The campuses had a total of 42 programs assigned to the normally scheduled three-year mid-cycle. Among the 42 programs, 4 were flagged via BOR Policy 2.3.4 and evaluated by university academic leadership as required.

Summary from Calendar Year (CY) 2010 – 2023 Findings:
The enhancement of the program evaluation process as recommended by SB55 taskforce and approved by the Board of Regents, improves upon past practices. Appendix III – VI provides additional documentation. However, in this program productivity evaluation cycle, we see evidence pointing toward more collaborative requests.

Appendix:
Appendix I – **Evaluation Policy Summary (2.3.4)**
Appendix II – Current Cycle (Program Productivity Evaluation)
Appendix III – Active Programs by Campus and Degree Type
Appendix IV – Discontinued Programming by Campus and Degree Type CY 2010-2022
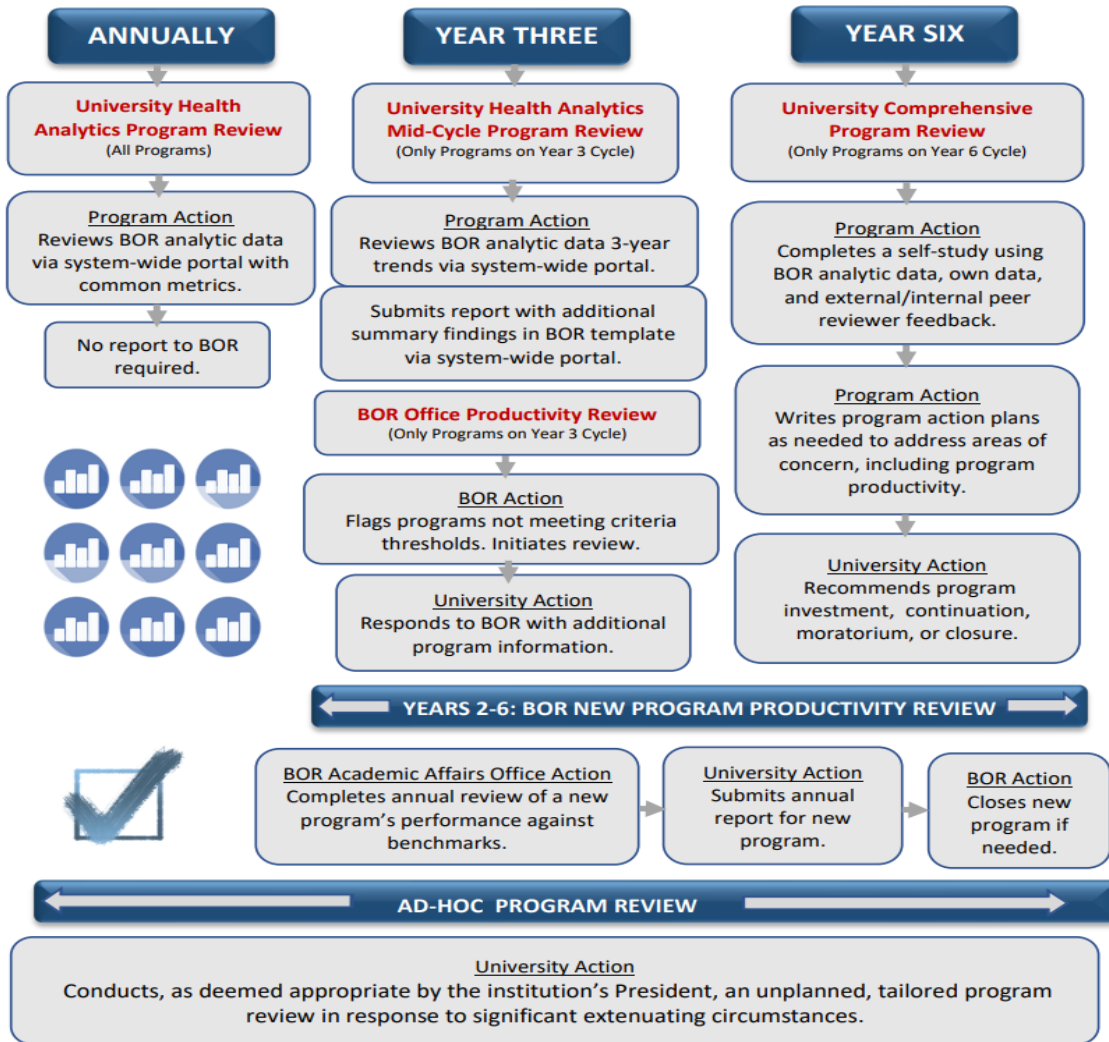**Appendix V – Approved Programming by Campus and Degree Type CY 2010-2022**
Appendix VI – System Summary Comparison CY 2010-2022

Appendix I
South Dakota Board of Regents – Policy Summary

In March of 2022, the Board of Regents approved the recommended policy from the SB55 taskforce. The graphic below describes the evaluation process.

Graph 1: Review of Academic Program Evaluation Cycle

The following process shall allow the BOR to examine the extent to which established associate, bachelor, master, and doctoral academic programs are meeting their intended priorities and to determine the viability of new program requests. *Programs with specialized professional accreditation shall follow their program accreditation cycles and submit those reports to the BOR in lieu of the 6-year cycle.*

ANNUALLY

University Health Analytics Program Review
(All Programs)

Program Action
Reviews BOR analytic data via system-wide portal with common metrics.

No report to BOR required.

YEAR THREE

University Health Analytics Mid-Cycle Program Review
(Only Programs on Year 3 Cycle)

Program Action
Reviews BOR analytic data 3-year trends via system-wide portal.

Submits report with additional summary findings in BOR template via system-wide portal.

BOR Office Productivity Review
(Only Programs on Year 3 Cycle)

BOR Action
Flags programs not meeting criteria thresholds. Initiates review.

University Action
Responds to BOR with additional program information.

YEAR SIX

University Comprehensive Program Review
(Only Programs on Year 6 Cycle)

Program Action
Completes a self-study using BOR analytic data, own data, and external/internal peer reviewer feedback.

Program Action
Writes program action plans as needed to address areas of concern, including program productivity.

University Action
Recommends program investment, continuation, moratorium, or closure.

YEARS 2-6: BOR NEW PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY REVIEW

BOR Academic Affairs Office Action
Completes annual review of a new program's performance against benchmarks.

University Action
Submits annual report for new program.

BOR Action
Closes new program if needed.

AD-HOC PROGRAM REVIEW

University Action
Conducts, as deemed appropriate by the institution's President, an unplanned, tailored program review in response to significant extenuating circumstances.

Each year, as programs are scheduled for the year-three mid-cycle, they will also be evaluated for program productivity measures. If they are flagged, they are reviewed by the academic units at the campus/institution and a recommendation is forwarded to the Board office. Working with the academic vice president or designee, the Board office will evaluate the assessments and recommendations. Board academic staff may request the Board of Regents to approve full recommendations as submitted or approve additional/modified board academic staff recommendations. Any modified recommendation will be shared with the academic vice president so the dialogue can begin at the campus.

Appendix II
South Dakota Board of Regents Current Cycle – Program Productivity Evaluation

In the 2023 Mid-Cycle review, 42 programs were flagged for evaluation. Among the 42 programs, four (4) were flagged via BOR Policy 2.3.4 and evaluated by university academic leadership as required.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of those that were either noted for evaluation based on the mid-cycle or the watchlist. The 21 programs that moved forward in accordance with policy to a program productivity evaluation shall be reviewed and one of the following options must be selected by the campus.

1. Program Closure
2. Program Moratorium
3. Retain with Further Review (limit to two-year review/used only once)
4. Investment/Augmentation (Includes Collaboration)

Table 1: Assessment Findings

University	Flagged for Mid-Cycle Evaluation	Watchlist (Programs Flagged Past Cycle)	Forwarded to the Program Productivity Evaluation
BHSU	0	0	0
DSU	0	0	0
NSU	2	0	2
SDSMT	0	0	0
SDSU	1	0	1
USD	1	0	1

Table 2 denotes the recommended actions as outlined in the Board of Regents cover item. All but two (2) of the campus recommendations were adopted and forwarded to the Regents for consideration. Two (2) programs were partially supported with a recommendation for further research on the degree, major components.

Table 2: Recommended Actions

Actions		
Collaborate	0	0%
Invest/Augment	2	50%
Retain/Review	2	50%
Terminate/Inactivate	0	0%
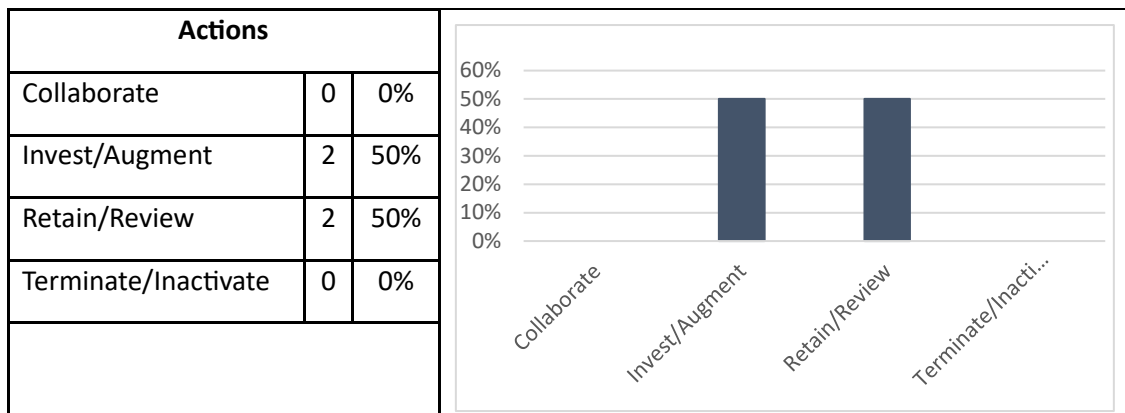
As noted in Table 2, two (2) programs are being evaluated for system collaboration. This process includes development of the agreement for the system and will take time for full agreement; an update will be provided to the Regents as this plan moves forward.

Two (2) of the programs are already in the process of augmenting and investing for the intended outcome of more enrollments. Two (2) of the programs are recommended to be retained with adoption to place as a Feeder with reevaluation in five (5) years.

The following table series provides more information by campus.

Table 3: Campus Summary

Northern State University

Classification of Instructional Program-CIP	Program Code and Description	Recommendation
231304	NBA.CST NSU Communication Studies (BA)	Invest/Augment
261301	NBS.ESC NSU Environmental Science (BS)	Invest/Augment

South Dakota State University

Classification of Instructional Program-CIP	Program Code and Description	Recommendation
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University of South Dakota

Classification of Instructional Program-CIP	Program Code and Description	Recommendation
520213	UBS.TCL USD Technical Leadership (BS)	Retain/Feeder

To help gain an understanding of current programming levels, Appendix III outlines all currently approved programs. To present a clear historical understanding of program evaluation, Appendix IV – VI shares the outcomes of both the campus-initiated program and Board policy-initiated program evaluation.

Appendix III
South Dakota Board of Regents Active Programming

The Board of Regents offers the following degree types:

1. A **certificate** is a sequence, pattern, or group of academic credit courses that focus upon an area of specialized knowledge or information and develop a specific skill set. This is not considered a degree; however, it is a credential that is transcribed and can be stackable into the degree programs.
2. An **associate degree** is a two-year degree requiring 60 credit hours.
3. A **bachelor degree** is a four-year degree typically requiring 120 credit hours.
4. A **master's degree** is a program of advanced, specialized study in a particular field. The degree normally requires one to two years of full-time study (or equivalent) and the completion of a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit, depending on the plan of study.
5. An **education specialist** is a post-master's award recognizing completion of an organized program of study beyond the master's degree that does not meet the requirements for a doctoral degree.
6. A **first professional degree** is a professional doctoral degree requiring two or more years of professional study past the baccalaureate degree. Examples of first professional degrees include M.D., Pharm. D., J.D., etc.
7. A **doctoral degree** is a program to prepare a student to become a scholar; that is, to discover, integrate, and apply knowledge, as well as communicate and disseminate it. Examples would be PhD, DNAP, DNP, DME, EdD, etc.

Table 4 outlines the total credentialed programs that are approved by the Board of Regents and loaded into the student information system. In total, there are 1097 credentialed student information system programs. For the purposes of this report, the focus will be on those programs where degrees are conferred (associate, bachelor, masters, doctoral/first professional, education specialist). That total represents 867 undergraduate and graduate degrees. These programs are detailed in our student information system by degree type, major program of study with and without a specialization (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a Specialization in Data Science).

Table 4: Total Approved Active Student Information System Programs

University	Mission Critical	Certificate	Associate	Bachelor	Masters	Education Specialist, First Professional, Doctoral
BHSU	Regional Comprehensive	30	5	50	12	NA
DSU	Special Focus	36	9	40	16	6
NSU	Regional Comprehensive	32	7	47	18	NA
SDSMT	Special Focus	13	1	30	37	13
SDSU	Research	54	9	136	82	35
USD	Research	65	3	138	120	53
			34	441	285	107
Totals	Total Active Certificates 230		**Total Active Degrees 867**			

Retrieved from Student Information System, SOACURR. Includes active degree programs by major, by major-specialization, by major (accelerated) as they are uniquely transcribed. Data as of June 14, 2024.

Appendix IV
South Dakota Board of Regents Programming History – Discontinued Programming
CY 2010-2023

The Board of Regents policy allows for a multi-faceted approach to evaluate programs and their viability. Campuses can and will evaluate workforce needs, student demand, mission-critical, and various other college and departmental criteria. Table 5 provides the total number of programs (at the Associate or higher level) that have been inactivated/terminated and discontinued by the campus process. In total, 145 academic degrees have been discontinued.

Table 5: Academic Degrees Discontinued (2010-2023) by Internal Campus Evaluation

University	Mission Critical	Associate	Bachelor	Masters	Education Specialist, First Professional, Doctoral
BHSU	Regional Comprehensive	2	19	1	NA
DSU	Special Focus	1	2	1	0
NSU	Regional Comprehensive	6	12	1	NA
SDSMT	Special Focus	0	2	4	0
SDSU	Research	1	32	12	7
USD	Research	5	11	17	9
Total Degrees	145	15	78	36	16

Retrieved from Student Information System, SOACURR – may include site terminations. Directed by Campus evaluation prior to any program productivity evaluation. Table reflects data as of June 14, 2024 as of Summer of 2023 (202350).

The Board of Regents also deploys a program productivity evaluation that allows a campus to determine an action plan to retain or they can recommend inactivation/termination. In this review process, the total number of academic degrees that have been inactivated/terminated equals 44 as presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Academic Degrees Discontinued (2010-2023) by Program Productivity Process

University	Mission Critical	Associate	Bachelor	Masters	Education Specialist, First Professional, Doctoral
BHSU	Regional Comprehensive	1	13	0	NA
DSU	Special Focus	1	2	0	0
NSU	Regional Comprehensive	0	3	1	NA
SDSMT	Special Focus	1	0	0	1
SDSU	Research	0	14	1	0
USD	Research	0	6	0	0
Total Degrees	44	3	38	2	1

Retrieved from Student Information System, SOACURR as of Summer of 2023 (202350). Directed through Program Productivity Evaluation. Table reflects data as of June 14, 2024.

With the multiple evaluation processes, campuses have discontinued a total of 189 academic degrees over the last 13 years (Table 7).

Table 7: Total Academic Degrees Discontinued (Campus Initiated/Program Productivity)

Total Degrees	Associate	Bachelor	Masters	Education Specialist, First Professional, Doctoral
189	18	116	38	17

Retrieved from Student Information System, SOACURR as of Summer of 2023 (202350). Table reflects data as of June 14, 2024.

Appendix V
South Dakota Board of Regents Programming History – Approved Programming
CY 2010-2023

In addition to the evaluation of programs for inactivation/termination, campuses have a process to request new programs to meet student demands, workforce demands, mission-critical demands, and other college and departmental requests. Table 8 displays that in the past 13 years, 171 program requests have been approved by the Board of Regents.

Table 8: Total New Established Programs (2010-2023) Student Information System

University	Mission Critical	Associate	Bachelor	Masters	Education Specialist, First Professional, Doctoral
BHSU	Regional Comprehensive	3	9	6	NA
DSU	Special Focus	2	4	5	5
NSU	Regional Comprehensive	3	15	5	NA
SDSMT	Special Focus	0	9	5	4
SDSU	Research	6	25	18	7
USD	Research	3	16	12	9
Total Degrees	171	17	78	51	25*

Retrieved from Student Information System, SOACURR as of Summer of 2023 (202350). *Value corrected from 2022 Reporting.

Appendix VI
South Dakota Board of Regents Programming by Comparison Approved/Discontinued
CY 2010-2023

The number of discontinued programs outnumber the total number of new approved programs by the Board of Regents. The total approved over the twelve-year history was 171 as compared to 189 discontinued programs. The discontinued programs exceed the approved programs (Table 9).

Table 9: Comparison Tables 5 and 6

Degree Type	Approved	Discontinued
Associates	17	18
Bachelor's	78	116
Master's	51	88
Doctoral, First Professional, Specialist	25	17
Total Degrees	171	189

To ensure that new programs seek out disciplines with high demand and that student demand is considered, the Regents supported a study to evaluate the workforce needs in South Dakota. The EMSI Workforce Needs Analysis study is utilized by the universities and board academic staff. In addition to workforce demand, student demand is also measured with new programming requests.   All these considerations are coupled with the mission of the university. For example, the special focus universities support South Dakota and the entirety of the United States in emerging fields such as cyber security and engineering. The research universities promote economic drivers to further the impact of the state through their research programming and graduate students. The regional comprehensive focus on the regional workforce needs within South Dakota.

BOR Policy 2.3.2 – New Programs, Program Modifications, and Inactivation/Termination, also supported by SB55 and approved by the Board of Regents, provide specific requirements for new program requests. BOR Policy 2.3.4 follows the new programs with a six-year new program evaluation process. Together, the two (2) policies promote dynamic new programs with the management of those programs including discontinuation.