

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – B
DATE: December 13-14, 2023

SUBJECT

2022 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](#) meeting in 2021. The program evaluation requires campuses to evaluate their portfolio of programs and if the program is flagged, then that program must be evaluated, and 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 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 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.
 - c. Master’s Degree – Three (3)-year average of a minimum of fifteen (15) enrollments.
 - d. Professional, Terminal, and Doctoral Degree – 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 58 programs assigned to the normally scheduled three-year mid-cycle review with an additional 22 watchlist programs from previous program productivity cycles. Among the 80 programs, 21 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.

(Continued)

DRAFT MOTION 20231213_6-B:

I move to approve the recommendations as outlined in this item.

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Table 1: Program Productivity Evaluation

BHSU	Action Plan
BAS.THM BHSU Tour/Hospitality Mgmt. (AS)	Retain for further review. BHSU will evaluate two different plans to increase enrollments or to retool the credential.
BBA.SPN BHSU Spanish/BBSED.SPN BHSU Spanish (BA/BSED)	Review for System Collaborative Program.
BBS.ENC BHSU Communication/English (BS)	BHSU Inactivate Program.
BBSED.SCC BHSU Science Education (BSED)	Retain/Request Program Exemption - mission critical/workforce need.
BBSED.SSC BHSU Social Science (BSED)	Retain/Request Program Exemption - mission critical/workforce need.
DSU	Action Plan
DBS.PAC DSU Prof Accountancy (BS)	*Retain for further review and recommend to evaluate degree modification.
DBSED.BED DSU Business Education (BSED)	Retain/Request Program Exemption - mission critical/workforce need.
DBSED.CED DSU Computer Education (BSED)	Retain/Request Program Exemption - mission critical/workforce need.
NSU	Action Plan
NAS.DMD NSU Digital Media (AS)	Retain/Request Program Exemption - Feeder Program - limited financial cost.
NBA.GOV NSU Government (BA)	NSU Inactivate Program.
NBA.IBU NSU International Business (BA)	*Retain for further review and recommend to evaluate degree modification.
NBA.THR NSU Theatre (BA)	NSU Inactivate Program.
NBA.SPN/NBSED.SPN NSU Spanish Education (BSED)	Review for System Collaborative Program.
NBS.MIS NSU Management of Info Sys (BS)	Investment/Realignment/Augmentation - This program is already engaged in a program investment.
NMSED.IDE /NMSED.IDE.AP NSU Inst Dsgn ELearn Acc (MSED)	Investment/Realignment/Augmentation - This program is already engaged in a program investment.
SDSMT	Action Plan
MBS.AES SDSMT Atmos/Envir Sci (BS)	Investment/Realignment/Augmentation - This program is already engaged in a program investment.
MMS.AES SDSMT/MMS.AES.AP SDSMT Atmos/Envir Sci Acc (MS)	Investment/Realignment/Augmentation - This program is already engaged in a program investment.
MMS.PAL/MMS.PAL.AP SDSMT Paleontology Accel (MS)	Retain for further review. SD Mines will open this program to non-thesis students.
MPHD.AES SDSMT Atmos/Envir Sci (PhD)	SDSMT Inactivate Program.
SDSU	Action Plan
SBA.FRS SDSU French Studies/SBA.FRS-TC French Studies-Teach (BA)	Retain/Request Program Exemption - Only Regental program in state for this workforce. Limited financial costs.
USD	Action Plan
UMA.HST USD History (MA)	Retain for further review. USD will explore offering program to non-thesis students.

* BOR academic staff recommends a different response to the findings of the report.

The outcome of the evaluation was as follows, four programs will be placed on a moratorium with subsequent discontinuing, consolidating/collaborating two programs within the system, augmenting and incorporating four programs into an action plan, and retaining 11 programs for further review.

Among the 11 programs identified for further review, five will be retained and exempted for a five-year period from additional review due to the teacher education program/major and the workforce need for South Dakota. Additionally, four programs will undergo evaluation in accordance with campus action plans, while two are recommended for further evaluation and assessment with respect to their degree/major/specialization, as recommended by the board academic staff to campus academic leadership/unit/faculty.

Table 2: Action Summary

Actions		
Collaborate	2	10%
Invest/Augment	4	19%
Retain/Review	11	52%
Terminate/Inactivate	4	19%
Note: Retain/Review – 11 Program Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Teacher Education – Retain/Exempt • 4 Campus Recommendation to Retain/Further Review • 2 Board Staff Recommendation Review Degree/Major/Specialization 		

Action	Count	Percentage
Collaborate	2	10%
Invest/Augment	4	19%
Retain/Review	11	52%
Terminate/Inactivate	4	19%

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

The campuses have been working on the evaluation of these program reviews since March of 2023. Working with academic leadership and board academic staff has been an iterative process. Academic leadership worked directly with their campuses per internal institutional processes.

As policy and guidelines are new, the work developed during this initial cycle will help continue to enhance the procedures for the next cycle. Attachment I is the annual report that has been developed for the Regents which provides supportive documentation and history of the discontinued and approved programs since 2010.

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