



Joint Committee on Appropriations
SENATOR DEB PETERS, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN CRONIN, CO-CHAIR

April 1, 2016

Dr. Michael Rush, Executive Director
SD Board of Regents
306 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200
Pierre, SD 57501

Dr. Heather Wilson, President
SD School of Mines and Technology
501 E. Saint Joseph Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2016 Session

Dear Board of Regents Executive Director Rush and SDSM&T President Wilson:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations related to the funding approved in SB92 (An Act to continue a math pilot project at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency). As such, it supplements the appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on March 29, 2016. While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

SB92 continues a Math Pilot program at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology for the 2016-2017 academic year. The Committee is interested in the documentation and understanding that the pilot program will have a positive impact on the success and completion of students by improving their math skills. The Committee requests that ten percent (\$25,000) of the allocated funds be used for program assessment and evaluation. Features of the evaluation would include but not be limited to:

- a) An initial analysis of the academic performance and success of the 2014 and 2015 first-time, full-time freshman cohorts with a preliminary report in August 2016. The analysis report would include success (A, B or C) rates in the first math class of the core math sequence (Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus I and Calculus II) by cohort. Other factors in the analysis should include relationships between incoming composite ACT, incoming math ACT, incoming zip code/state, incoming high school GPA, freshman course load, freshman grades in math, freshman grades overall and retention data.

- b) Analysis of specific skill deficiencies and offer methods to overcome those deficiencies.
- c) Relationship between participation rates in the summer math pilot project and student success in math.
- d) A review that will provide an interim analysis of the 2014, 2015, and 2016 first-time, full-time freshmen math success data, through the entering fall semesters due to the Committee not later than January 15, 2017.
- e) Final report on the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology math pilot, suitable for publication and/or conference presentation in the summer of 2017.

Thank you for your cooperation.

/S/ Senator Deb Peters

/S/ Representative Justin Cronin

Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

Representative Justin Cronin
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management