

Budget cuts worry higher ed proponents

By AMY DALRYMPLE
FORUM COMMUNICATIONS Co.

Proposed changes to North Dakota's higher education budget would be an "eviscerating cut," said North Dakota State University President Dean Bresciani.

A legislative subcommittee has approved changes to the university system funding bill that would raise tuition, remove \$15 million in equity and performance funding and eliminate a priority building project.

Bresciani said the proposal would have "dire consequences" for NDSU and the entire system if it moves forward.

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Dean Bresciani

president, North Dakota State University

making some very uncomfortable decisions about either what we would cut or what increases we'd have to pass along to students," Bresciani said.

The changes to House Bill 1003 were approved in a split vote by a subcommittee of House Appropriations that is chaired by Rep. Bob Skarphol, R-Tioga. The bill will now go to the full House Appropriations Committee.

The subcommittee did add more funding for an information technology facility that would be housed at the University of North Dakota and serve the whole system.

The proposed cuts include:

* Removing \$6.6 million intended to limit tuition increases, resulting in tuition increases of up to 4.1 percent. Gov. Jack Dalrymple proposed a tuition

freeze for two-year schools and a cap on tuition increases of 2.5 percent for universities.

* Removing \$10 million in equity funding. NDSU would have received the largest chunk of that funding at nearly \$4.7 million.

* Removing \$5 million that Dalrymple proposed for performance funding that would be allocated based on how campuses perform on certain measures, such as students graduating on time.

The subcommittee also removed \$8 million for the Valley City State University Rhoades Science Center, which the state Board of Higher Education made its No. 2 priority.

VCSU President Steve

Shirley said the proposal to upgrade a 40-year-old science facility addresses a work-force shortage that's critical to the state.

"That's certainly a setback if those funds are removed," Shirley said.

The subcommittee also cut \$8.8 million for a library at Dickinson State University that was included in Dalrymple's budget.

The subcommittee added \$10.5 million for a diesel technology building project at the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton.

Skarphol and Rep. Mark Dosch, R-Bismarck, two frequent higher education critics who supported the amendments, did not immediately respond to e-

mail messages seeking comment.

Rep. Kathy Hawken, R-Fargo, one of the subcommittee members who opposed the amendments, called the cuts "distressing" because of the economic benefit NDSU and other campuses bring the state.

"NDSU is not overspending. They are in a crisis mode almost," Hawken said. "And think of what they do for the community of Fargo and for the state of North Dakota. Why do we want to make that go away?"

Amy Dalrymple is a reporter at The Forum of Fargo/Moorhead, which is owned by Forum Communications Co.

Diederich confirmed to higher ed board

By AMY DALRYMPLE
FORUM COMMUNICATIONS Co.

The full North Dakota Senate confirmed the appointment of Kirsten Diederich to the state Board of Higher Education on Tuesday, going against a committee recommendation to reject her appointment.

Senators voted 36-10 to confirm Diederich of Fargo to the board.

A Senate review panel voted 3-1 on Monday to recommend that the Senate reject Diederich, who teaches biology at Concordia College.

Sen. Randy Christmann, R-Hazen, who led the review panel, said Diederich is qualified, but he couldn't support her nomination because she didn't indicate that she would push for changes on the board.

"We need someone to go in and really shake things up on that board," Christ-



"I don't plan to be a rubber stamp voter. This is all about the students and what do the students need and what does the state of North Dakota need."

Kirsten Diederich

confirmed higher education board appointee

mann said. "That's what I was looking for. I didn't see that shakeup mentality."

Diederich was appointed by Gov. John Hoeven and has served on the board since July.

Sen. Dave Nething, R-Jamestown, spoke in support of Diederich and encouraged legislators to use other ways to send higher education a message.

"The word I get is that she has demonstrated great potential for being an outstanding board member," Nething said.

Nething also pointed out that Diederich is the

only permanent member of the board who is a woman.

"I think that's important to have that perspective represented on the Board of Higher Education," Nething said.

After the hearing, Diederich said she was careful in her interview with the legislative panel to not promise something she couldn't deliver.

However, Diederich said that doesn't mean she won't push for change if she thinks it's necessary.

"I don't plan to be a rubber stamp voter," she said. "This is all about the students and what do the

students need and what does the state of North Dakota need."

The Senate also voted unanimously to confirm the appointment of Duaine Espesgard of Grand Forks to serve a second term.

Sen. David Hogue, R-Minot, said Espesgard's background as a bank executive, former legislator and North Dakota native make him an "ideal candidate" for the board.

Amy Dalrymple is a reporter at The Forum of Fargo/Moorhead, which is owned by Forum Communications Co.

Public Notice

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

Waiver of the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations Application

Case No. GS-10-585

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING AND

NOTICE OF INFORMAL HEARING

February 9, 2011

On September 14, 2010, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed an application for a waiver of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 192 section 285(c), adopted by reference under North Dakota Administrative Code section 69-09-03-02 relating to requalification requirements for a person making plastic pipe joints. On December 15, 2010 and January 7, 2011, MDU filed revisions to its request for waiver.

Under 49 CFR 192.285(c): A person must be requalified under an applicable procedure, if during any 12-month period that person (1) does not make any joints under that procedure; or (2) has 3 joints or 3 percent of the joints made, whichever is greater, under that procedure that are found unacceptable by testing under § 192.513.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposes that a person be requalified under an applicable procedure, at least once each calendar year at intervals not exceeding 15 months, if that person does not make any joints under that procedure in the preceding calendar year or has 1 joint that is found to be unacceptable by testing under 49 CFR 192.513. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. asserts that this proposal would enable them to employ the same testing schedule in all of its operating areas, thereby promoting administrative efficiency and a proper allocation of resources.

of Transportation's Guideline for States Participating in the Gas Pipeline Safety Program, the Commission may grant a waiver of a pipeline safety regulation subject to the concurrence of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. A waiver may be granted when it is not practical to comply with a regulation of general applicability. The issues to be considered in this matter are:

1. Whether it is practical for Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. to comply with 49 CFR 192.285(c).

2. Whether a waiver of 49 CFR 192.285(c) should be granted for Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

Those interested are invited to comment on the application in writing. Persons desiring a hearing must file a written request identifying their interest in the proceeding(s) and the reasons for requesting a hearing. Comments and requests for hearings must be received by March 25, 2011. If deemed appropriate, the Commission can determine this matter without a formal hearing.

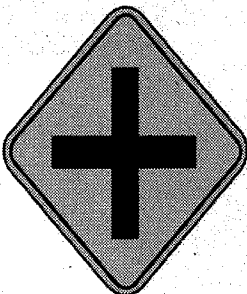
An informal hearing on this matter has been scheduled for March 23, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. CDT in the Commission Hearing Room on the 12th Floor of the State Capitol in Bismarck.

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission, at (701) 328-2400, or Relay North Dakota TTY: 1-800-366-6888 at least 24 hours in advance. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Kevin Cramer, Commissioner Tony Clark, Chairman Brian P. Kalk, Commissioner February 16, 2011

PUBLIC NOTICES

A public notice is information informing citizens of government activities that may affect the citizens' everyday lives. Public notices have been printed in local newspapers, the trusted sources for community information, for more than 200 years.

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A message from the U.S. Department of the Treasury



Notice of Annual Meeting
Farmers Union Co-op Oil Co.
Jamestown and Medina ND

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of Farmers Union Co-op Oil Company of Jamestown and Medina, North Dakota will be held Monday, February 21, 2011 at the KC Hall, Jamestown. Lunch will be served at 12 o'clock noon, with the annual meeting to follow.

- Election of three (3) directors
- TERMS OF TODD ZIEGELMAN, RICHARD HUEBNER AND BRENT KLEVEN EXPIRE
- Annual audit report will be presented by John Martin
- Any other business to properly come before the meeting
- Door Prizes

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Keith Hofmann, Secretary

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NOTICE

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