



State of  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
Governor

May 2, 2017

The Honorable Brent Sanford  
President of the Senate  
North Dakota Senate Chambers  
North Dakota State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear President Sanford,

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have signed Senate Bill 2003, but vetoed items in Sections 18, 24, 32, 39 and all of Section 6. SB 2003 is the North Dakota University System appropriations bill.

Section 6.

Article VIII, § 6 of the North Dakota Constitution gives the State Board of Higher Education “full authority to organize or reorganize within constitutional and statutory limitations, the work of each institution under its control.” and “control of the expenditure of the funds belonging to, and allocated to such institutions and also those appropriated by the legislature, for the institutions of higher education in this state.” ND Const. art. VIII, § 6(b)(e). The restrictions in Section 6 intrude upon the operations of the Board and violate the separation of governmental powers established by the North Dakota Constitution.

Section 18.

That portion of paragraph 3, Section 18 that reads “any portion of” is vetoed. The ambiguity of the vetoed language will cause unintended confusion and uncertainty. The remaining language in paragraph 3 achieves the intent of the legislative assembly.

Section 24.

Paragraph 3 (c) of Section 24 is vetoed. This paragraph requiring Dickinson State University to certify that “a North Dakota architect was used to design the presidential library” is hereby vetoed. For example, this condition would preclude the hiring of one of the many North Dakota State University architecture graduates who work at firms across the United States.

Section 32.

The second sentence under Section 32 is vetoed. We have instructed the President of Bismarck State College to work collaboratively with the parks and recreation department director, the state historical society and other stakeholders to develop a plan for the optimum use or sale of the Dakota Institute property as identified in Section 32.

Section 39.

The portion of paragraph 39 that reads “and for credit hours completed at the school” is hereby vetoed. Reducing general fund appropriations based upon credit hours is contrary to the legislatively approved higher education funding formula.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum  
Governor