

USenate Feedback: 3/28-4/4

Fridays off and working from home

Comment: What's the impact if during the Summer months Fridays were eliminated 4/10's? Could provide moral boost as well as reduce Energy costs. Whats the impact to budgets if some admin staff worked from home could space be freed up to reduce operational costs and reducing costs for commuting for the employee(it would be like a raise for some).

Response: The SBRRRC is seeking information from the Vice President for Finance about how these types work schedule modifications might impact operating costs. The SBRRRC has learned that strategies that can reduce the number of buildings used, for example during summer session, can be a viable cost-saving measure. The SBRRRC has received related suggestions in which operating costs can be reduced by introducing a four-day work week (2/7 USenate Feedback), or creating an online-only winter semester (3/28 USenate Feedback).

The Provost indicated that people can already work off campus. These decisions are made at the unit level and are dependent on the needs of the unit and the job descriptions of individuals. The Provost is not aware of any concerted effort to encourage more remote work arrangements as a cost-saving measure.

Golf course and sports programs

Comment: I feel UND is spending too much money of Vice this Vice that Asst this Asst that and especially the "consultants" and way to much money on the logo signs and flags that no one wanted any way. But more importantly selling a piece of DONATED LAND - that was making money !for a will-be a traffic hazard on Demers is awful. Ray Richards was a business that worked many many UND Students as well as GFK residents went here. Also how about the sports teams (golf baseball softball) that have to travel for months and months and stay for a week to compete - when the womens hockey was just getting going - - several players played on the Olympic team. This is not just my opinion it is the majority of Grand Forks Alumni and the state - - - we just weren't asked.

Comment: What will happen to the golf course? I was told it self generated its own income so was not closed because of cuts. Is there another reason?

Comment: I am very disappointed that women's hockey was cut! Seriously...STOP cutting the sports programs!

Response: Ray Richards Golf Course closed November 1 2016. An attempt was made to find an outside contractor to run the facility but that search was discontinued. The current plan is to either sell or develop the property as a means of generating additional revenue for the university. The property, which was partly gifted and partly sold to UND in 1962 with the request that it be used as a golf course if possible. This arrangement, however, is not legally binding. Read about the closing in a 9/30/16 Grand Forks Herald

<http://www.grandforksherald.com/news/4126729-und-owned-ray-richards-golf-course-close->

[nov-1](#)) and a 9/30/16 University Letter story (<http://blogs.und.edu/uletter/2016/09/und-cancels-ray-richards-golf-course-rfp-process/>). As of March 7 2017 UND is still considering the possible sale or redevelopment of the property (http://und.edu/president/_files/docs/legislative-matters/und-adjustment-house.pdf).

The SBRRRC is aware of the difficult loss felt by those who participate in the athletic teams targeted for athletic department cuts. Many factors had to be considered in this decision. This includes Title IX compliance, Summit Conference sport and scholarship requirements, and the need to cut the athletic budget by the same 12% asked of each academic and support unit on the main campus. More about the athletic budget cuts can be found in a March 30 UND Today story (<http://blogs.und.edu/und-today/2017/03/painful-step/>) and in the Grand Forks Herald (<http://www.grandforksherald.com/sports/4242553-und-cuts-womens-hockey-mens-and-womens-swimming>).

Strategic plan disconnect

Comment: It would appear that much of what the Provost wants to do directly contradicts the strategic plan. Apparently the folks in Twanley Hall are not all on the same page!

Response: In his extensive interactions with the SBRRRC the Provost, routinely reminds the committee of the importance of aligning budget decisions with the emerging strategic plan. If the commenter provides a specific example that may indicate otherwise the SBRRRC will do its best to look into it.