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UND considers working with education conglomerate Pearson

Diane Newberry and Jacob Notermann
Dakota Student

As the semester comes to a close, faculty have begun to be notified about the potential for the University of North Dakota to enlist the help of Pearson Online Services in the infrastructure of online classes. This move would be in an effort to fulfill Goal Three of the university’s Strategic Plan, a prospective list of the school’s goals and priorities: “Deliver a prospective list of the school’s services meant to improve online learning experiences and student retention. Pearson could potentially provide instructional designers to help instructors design the interface of their online courses and organize content. They also offer ‘student success coaches’ that would communicate with students who have fallen behind in online classes.”

“We are in the middle of a dance and we have asked Pearson, how can you help us build online and provide better opportunities to students?” Holm said. Holm stresses that Pearson would not provide any academic content to the university. A large part of their role, for example, would be online marketing to students who have expressed interest in UND’s programs. College enrollment has been on a downward trend in the last few years, and a large part of Goal Three is attracting new students. “Not every opportunity the university provides has to make money – but some do,” Holm said. According to Holm, roughly one third of the people in North Dakota are known for and the prospect of losing more faculty and staff members due to outside contracting is worrisome. The Dakota Student will be continuing coverage on this story as it develops in the spring semester.

Jeffrey Holm, Goal Three Project Manager

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The American education system in 2000, working in partnership often controversially with state governments to provide standardized testing, online learning infrastructure, and in some cases, even curriculum. According to Forbes, between October of December and last year, Pearson saw a staggering 30 percent drop in revenues in their largest division, North American Education, leading to an overall slump of 18 percent for 2016. In response, Pearson announced they intended to accelerate (their) digital transition in higher education, to manage the print decline, and to reshape (their) portfolio.”

At this time, it does not appear that UND is looking for educational content from Pearson, but this is a service they are known for and the prospect of losing more faculty and staff is something the university is taking seriously. The Dakota Student will be continuing coverage on this story as it develops in the spring semester.

Diane Newberry, News editor

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The problem with modern education

America’s schooling system may be leaving some students behind.

Quinn Robinson-Duff, Dakota Student

The modern education system, designed to help kids create a future for themselves, is ultimately failing to do so. The system that we know today has changed very little since schooling became available to the masses during the 18th and 19th centuries. It was the rise of the industrial revolution and schools were designed to churn out kids like an assembly line; they even shared the same outline as factories.

Everybody becomes separated by class or age group. Facilities are all separate from each other and subdivide the students at a small scale. The modern schooling model is based on an industrial system to help produce factory workers during the 18th and 19th century. It was designed for kids to be obedient and to not question authority. Students have to follow instructions precisely and not talk or socialize with others. Each student was graded on their memo-

relaxed and not as stressed. On the contrary, the structure for the United States schooling system has not changed drastically for generations. Some learn best in a quiet, stable environment while others thrive in chaos. It seems incredibly unfair to judge a person’s intellect based on the environment they are taught in.

Nations around the world are starting to implement schooling based on what the future economy may look like. The issue here is predicting the economic future of next week is hard, and to envision it years ahead becomes an even greater task. Finland has consistently been an industrial nation for education over the past few years, surpassing Singapore, Switzerland and Belgium. Their system is designed with a strong emphasis on the arts and music and for kids to enjoy their youth. There is no homework and kids go to school for only 20 hours a week. Finland believes learning happens naturally when kids are out exploring and playing instead of being bombarded by subject after subject, day after day. They believe kids learn best when they are in school less because it becomes easier for them to retain information when the brain is more

“Why is there this presumption that the most important thing to a kid is how old they are, it’s like their date of manufacture?”

Sir Ken Robinson, Author

“Why is there this presumption that the most important thing to a kid is how old they are, it’s like their date of manufacture?” Sir Ken Robinson, a British author, speaker and advisor for education says. In terms of learning, age should not be of concern. As kids, everyone learns at different rates. Some learn best in a quiet, stable environment while others thrive in chaos. It seems incredibly unfair to judge a person’s intellect based on the environment they are taught in. In terms of learning, age should not be of concern. As kids, everyone learns at different rates. Some learn best in a quiet, stable environment while others thrive in chaos. It seems incredibly unfair to judge a person’s intellect based on the environment they are taught in.

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The third annual Holly Dazzle Festival of Lights kicked off Sunday afternoon in downtown Grand Forks. Held in Grand Forks’ Town Square, guests were treated to classic holiday music performed by students at the Bel Canto Studio. Roaring fire pits were available for people to roast marshmallows over and to warm their frozen fingers. Parked along South 3rd St., the New Flavors Food Truck offered freshly handmade breakfast burritos by American Owl. Children and adults alike took part in horse-drawn sleigh rides along the edge of the Red River in East Grand Forks. Downtown businesses were alight with activity for all ages, particularly at Freedom Church and The Ember. After dusk, the Holly Dazzle parade began with bright, festive floats from community businesses and organizations as they processed east on Demers Avenue. The evening’s festivities were capped off with a dazzling fireworks show near the banks of the Red.
Basketball looking for a bounce back

John Gregg
Dakota Student

The candidates for the coveted Hobey Baker were recently announced and Fighting Hawks fans were collectively scratching their heads in confusion. The list lacked any University of North Dakota representation with the Hoke Baker committee themselves. The account also showed the response they received from the Hoke Baker committee was informing them that there were no players submitted by the University of North Dakota Athletics Department. The blame was quickly pointed to that of former Athletic Director Brian Faison from comments. This however, isn’t the case. There is an explanation for this and it is less sinister than the fans on Facebook are suggesting. After an email exchange with UND Athletic Director Jayson Hajdu, the rumor that it was the Athletics Department at UND that didn’t nominate any of the players was quickly debunked. “Candidates are indeed selected by the head coach (and then submitted by the media relations/sports information department),” Hajdu said. Some fans were so willing to accept a negative outcome from the UND Athletics Department that they even made remarks of outrage on the Athletics Department’s social media posts. UND has remarkable players this season and there is no doubt about that. Cam Johnson is one of the top goal-tenders in the NCHC this year and as of recent, he has put up a successful and impressive rookie season. It certainly is a testament to the hockey culture around Grand Forks to see how quickly people were willing to be come upset with the lack of representation in this year’s Hoke Baker race. Fear not hockey fans. “It was determined that this year’s team, even more so than in recent years, is about the team itself and there isn’t a standout candidate to put forward at this time,” Hajdu said. This is something that UND hockey fans should look to and admire about this year’s competitive environment surrounding the team. It’s the team itself and there isn’t a standout player from being named a finalist by the committee.”

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Mark Pryor, UND Volleyball head coach

The team has had some really impressive efforts so far and is hoping to continue that this year’s competitive environment. All hope is lost. We may still see some UND players with the race for the Hoke Baker later on this year. “Not being selected for the fan vote process does not preclude a player from being named a finalist by the committee,”

There were a total of 74 nominees for this year’s fan voting portion of the Hobey Baker. Michael Bitzer of Bemidji State was one of the nominations. UND just finished a split home and away series with Bemidji State and as of late, the Beavers have been strong. It isn’t a single player with the exception of North Dakota anything can be learned from this. It’s that the message Berry is sending is that UND has a team mentality for this season and there isn’t a single player that takes the crown.

Nick Nelson / Dakota Student

From the Red River bottoms to the top of the college hockey world, the Fighting Hawks are playing the best hockey of the season and have won 12 of their last 14 games. The biggest win on the year was a 5-1 victory over the University of Minnesota at the NCHC in Grand Forks.

At 12-6-6 this season, the Hawks are one of the top teams in the conference and are a close contender to take the title. This year the team has a lot of depth at each position and has been very successful on both ends of the ice. The Fighting Hawks have scored 147 goals this season, good enough for 12th in the nation.

The team is currently 5-10-6 in the NCHC and 5-10-6 overall. The Fighting Hawks have a record 6-0-0 in the 2019-20 season. The Fighting Hawks are currently sitting at 5th place in the NCHC and 10th in the nation.

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