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Major Information Technology Project Oversight Report

October 31, 2023

To: State Board of Higher Education
ND Legislative Information Technology Committee

Re: Concerns regarding the TargetX project

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the assigned Large Project Oversight (LPO) Analyst, it is my responsibility to inform you of any significant concerns regarding projects that are classified as major technology projects as defined by N.D.C.C §54-35-15.2.

At the end of the last quarter, the ESC supported the decision to close out the project as planned during the Q3 period, even though there were two pieces of functionality yet to be deployed. This decision was based on campus requests for some relief from the project process to settle into the base functionality and adapt to the new processes. It was deemed at the time that the project would still be seen as successful without those two final components. In addition, the primary vendor was not able to deliver a separate piece of functionality in the core project. That inability to deliver required the project to procure and contract a separate product with a separate third party to deliver that service. The project team delayed closing out the project until that element was completed.

Due to those delays, the project sponsor chose to keep the project open until the last two pieces of functionality are complete. This has put the project in a red status (from Green) and results in significant impact on reporting. The project is also out of compliance with NDUS Procedure 1202.2 because no ESC meeting was held during Q3.

The project is working on a document justifying a request to rebaseline the project in order to report status based on the requested revised baseline.

I am working closely with the Project Sponsor and Project Manager to address these issues as soon as possible and bring this project back under good project management control.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dirk Huggett".

Dirk Huggett

Large Project Oversight Analyst
Assistant CIO, Administration