**International Student Focus Group**

**Friday, May 6, 2022 – 10:00-11:00 a.m.**

**Via Zoom and MU Room 139**

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| **Question** | **Discussion** |
| **1. Why did you choose to attend UND** | * The city is small, perfect place for researchers. Great lab facilities and faculty members’ experiences
* International office has great communication, the Visa process was smooth
* Faculty had a great way communicating and made me feel comfortable, and running of the International Office
* Specific program (Space Studies)
* Atmosphere, quiet, smaller student population
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| **2. How do you describe UND to your family, friends, and neighbors?** | * University housed in a community-themed location, low crime, family centered community, quiet, less distraction, personalized experiences
* Safe, beautiful seasons, people are so helpful
* Cold and trains
* Good variety of faculty
* Hockey team, aviation department, Petroleum Eng department
* Wellness Center
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| **3. Who does UND serve, and do you believe we are currently meeting these needs?** | * Student and state of ND generally, great meeting the needs of the students via the new infrastructures
* Intention behind decisions are good, but some are very diverted because of various reasons and pointing fingers (i.e., tuition fees (paying in one deadline instead of payment plan options)
* There used to be a payment plan (Higher One) that paid international student fees right away and the student then pays the company that paid the fees over time
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| **4. What has the university done to benefit you or your student organization most?** | * Housing (you can reserve a place before you come)
* Housing bein renovated, will the new housing be apartment style or dorm?
* Help acclimatize to the American culture
* Weekend in Winnipeg (hoping to get started again after pandemic)
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| **4a. What might the university do better to help you, or your student organization succeed?** | * Parking, especially in the winter, no close parking around Wilkerson
* Would like underground spaces or tunnels between buildings for winter
* Delta is the only airline flying out of GFK and the flights are expensive, since International students travel more
* Graduate school: financial support for publication (high quality conferences and journals) difficulties from advisor, faculty and the school
* Communication
* No orientation for the department
* Grad school funding is messy and underfunded, and University should prioritize graduate studies
* Grad students get accepted to conferences and it costs $1,000, but UND only provides $200
* If we say we are a research institution, then we need to prioritize research
* Lack of funding for graduate students
* International offices tie in with other offices to ensure processes are going a lot smoother
* Student represensative for all international students on Student Government
* Once international students are here is when they need assistance
* Transportation department for students who want driving lessons
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