Senate Bill

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota
Authors: Justin Wright – President, UND Concert Choir
Sponsors: Brett Johnson – Residence Hall Senator
CC: Nick Creamer - Student Body President, Lexi Hanson - Student Body Vice President, Abi Nadeau – Student Body Treasurer, Cassie Gerhart - Student Government Advisor, Thomas DiLorenzo – Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Date: 17 November, 2013
Re: UND Concert Choir Tour Funding

Whereas, UND Student Government is committed “to stimulating an awareness of the rights and responsibilities of students in relation to the community and world” and “to improve[ing] student cultural…welfare” as stated in the Preamble of the Student Government Constitution, and

Whereas, the UND Concert Choir will be participating in an international performing tour to Cuba in May of 2014, and

Whereas, the Choir will have the privilege to sing with the National Choir of Cuba and Coro Xaudi, a professional ensemble, while on tour, and

Whereas, the Choir will participate in a clinic with at least one of the above ensembles and its respective conductor, to gain valuable musical insight, and

Whereas, students will visit and collaborate with students of the Havana Conservatory, many of whom represent the highest achieving artists in the country, and

Whereas, the tour will provide students with an immersive experience into a culture that is seldom experienced in person, and

Whereas, this is a rare and incredible opportunity for any American collegiate group to participate in, and

Whereas, the 50 singers in the Concert Choir will be acting as unofficial ambassadors to Cuba on behalf of UND, North Dakota, and the United States, and

Whereas, students will develop a greater understanding of not only music, but also global citizenship, and

Whereas, students will not only experience the culture and musical richness of Cuba, but the Cuban people will also experience American music and culture, and

Whereas, the Choir will perform in a variety of public venues for the general public, and

Whereas, the Choir will increase its global presence as a superior performing ensemble, and
Whereas, this experience for each student involved will be eye-opening and thought-provoking, and will challenge each students’ worldview, and foster and embrace of diversity, and

Whereas, students will expand their knowledge of music and be witness to it cooperative properties, and ability to bring cultures together, and

Whereas, the experiences of this tour will be brought back to enrich the entire UND campus, and

Whereas, this project can serve to be a draw for prospective students, that they may also be able to participate in future projects such as this, and

Whereas, this performing tour is an important component of a robust music department, and

Whereas, this experience will last long into each students’ careers and life, and will promote a cultural understanding and embrace of diversity in each other, and

Whereas, this project will grow the UND brand into international arenas, and foster the continuation of excellence in the Department of Music and the College of Arts & Sciences, and

Therefore, be it moved that UND Student Government supports the UND Concert Choir tour to Cuba as a cultural and diplomatic project, and

Therefore, be it further moved that up to $20,000 be allocated to the UND Concert Choir from the Student Government General Account, and

Therefore, be it further moved that all receipts be turned in for the above allocation to the Student Body Treasurer no later than July 31, 2014, and

Therefore, be it furthest moved that any unused funds be returned to the Student Government General Account.

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Nick Creamer, Student Body President
To the Student Senate,

Over the past month, the Senate has spent many hours critically analyzing the proposed budget for next year, and as a result, the Senate engaged in an incredibly thoughtful discussion on the most appropriate use of Student Fee dollars allocated to Student Government. This discussion may have illustrated some of the differences in opinion some of us may have regarding the most effective use of student fee dollars, but perhaps more importantly, it reminded us of the great responsibility we all have when deciding how to allocate these dollars in a way that is in the best interest of all of the students attending the University of North Dakota.

Consequently, I am returning to the Student Senate, SB1314-14 titled “UND Choir Concert Funding”, without my signature, because the amount of money this bill would allocate greatly exceeds that which would be available to any of the other 272 recognized student organizations on our campus. This decision is not indicative of any opposition to allocating funds to help defray the costs of this trip, but instead I think that it would be most appropriate if there were to be a more clearly defined correlation between the amount authorized by this bill and the amount that is eligible to all other student groups.

I would like to reiterate that I think allocating monies for this trip is a worthy endeavor for this body to take on. However, I firmly believe that there were more appropriate methods that could and should have been utilized in order to come to a reasonable and justifiable amount of Student Fee dollars to be allocated for this purpose. With that in mind, my recommendation would be to look to the Student Organization Funding Agency’s model for the funding of student organizations. The SOFA’s maximum allocation amount is set at $8,000, as many of you know. I fully support the Senate having the ability to exceed this amount when appropriate so long as this body determines the event to be warranted of such exceptions, or in the event this amount may not be enough to defray the cost to students in a significant manner, as is the case with the Concert Choir’s trip to Cuba. I do believe, though, that any funding allocated to an organization, or other any other group of students on campus coming before this body should only be allocated up to twice the amount that the SOFA could provide. This will make establish a clear precedent for the rest of this session of the Senate, while serving as a guideline for any organization, registered or not, as to the maximum amount of funds to request from the UND Student Senate. In the spirit of compromise, I would hope that this body will consider these suggestions, and use them to make the appropriate adjustments to the current bill, so we can come together with a bill that provides funding to the Concert Choir to defray the total cost to the students going on this trip.

Because the bill currently allocates a presumably arbitrary amount with little justification given for why this amount of funding was determined the most appropriate amount to be allocated to the Concert Choir, I cannot give my signature of approval to the bill.

Student Body President, Nick Creamer
VETO MESSAGE ON SB1314-14

A MESSAGE FROM THE Student Body President

Transmitting

Notification of the veto of SB 1314-14, "UND Choir Concert Tour Funding"

The following action has been taken, under the constitutional authority invested to the Office of the Student Body President under Article II Section B, subsection 1.c.i of the University of North Dakota Student Government Constitution