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 Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Thomas DiLorenzo – Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Date: January 26th, 2014

Re: UND Concert Choir Tour Revised Funding

Whereas, UND Student Government is committed “to stimulat[ing] 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 its 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

Whereas, 48 students are currently attending the tour, and

Whereas, the Concert Choir has currently raised approximately $10,000, and

Whereas, this leaves a deficit of $65,000, and

Whereas, the tour has already been pushed back a year due to lack of funding, 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 $400 per student, or twice the funding tier of SOFA, be allocated to the UND Concert Choir from the Investments under 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 further moved that any unused funds be returned to the Investments under the Student Government General Account, and

Therefore, be it further moved that future funding from Student Senate be limited to double the SOFA funding tiers based on the discretion of the Senate when exceptional need is demonstrated with the possibility of removing the funding cap based on number of students attending in conjunction with need, and

Therefore, be it further moved that exceptional need must be presented in a Senate Bill requesting funding in order to suspend the funding tiers and caps of SOFA, and

Therefore, be it furthest moved that nothing in this Bill may be in conflict with the governing documents of UND Student Government.

Nick Creamer, Student Body President