VETO MESSAGE ON SB1314-30

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Transmitting

Notification of the veto of SB 1314-30, "UNDIA Annual Wacipi (Powwow) Community Buffalo Feed"

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
To the Student Senate,

I am returning herewith without my approval SB1314-30 which would allocate $2,000 for the Wacipi Buffalo feed. The funding for the pow-wow has been a recurring subject that Student Government has addressed multiple times throughout the year, with much passionate and emotional debate from both sides. Earlier this year this body passed a budget for the next fiscal year, which I signed. This budget which included funding for UNDIA at the amount of a $20,000 line-item which, at the time, I understood to be sufficient. The amount of $20,000 is much more substantial than the funding that is normally allowed to other organizations at this University.

Additionally, there are two specific reasons why I am not signing the recent $2,000 allocation for the Buffalo feed. First of all, the current $20,000 line item was agreed upon last April as an amount that was sufficient to help support the Pow-Wow and it would allow for UNDIA to be certain of the amount of and would make any more requests for funding unnecessary. In fact, discussion from the minutes of the Senate meeting pertaining to the budget for fiscal year 2014 indicates that the $20,000 was originally allocated with the intent that UNDIA seek additional funding sources for the event, so that Senate would not have to allocate as much from the budget every year. Clearly, the well-meaning intentions of that body were not realized, as UNDIA has returned asking for not only the same large amount of funding, but at a level that is increased from the previous year. This organization was given ample time to seek alternative sources of funding, as was requested by the previous Senate, and failed to do so while still expecting that their revenue stream from Student Government would not be cut. The $20,000 level of funding was the amount that was originally requested by UNDIA this year, and if more money was necessary, then that should have been presented as an option to the Senate at that time.

This amount of money that UNDIA received in their line-item allocation which was included in the two previous budgets is a far greater amount than what would be available to any other student organization if they were to make a request to SOFA. In fact, if the SOFA funding model is used to determine the funding for the buffalo feed to scale, it indicates that the $20,000 request that is provided in the budget to compensate performers would only amount to $8,000. Furthermore, had UNDIA utilized SOFA, the bylaws of the student senate would prevent this body from allocating additional funds towards the event in question (Article III, Section 2.4). Considering that SOFA was created by the Student Senate for the specific purpose of dealing with these types of requests, and that this request exceeds the cap amount that SOFA can provide to any organization, I remain strong in my conviction that this section of the SOFA bylaws should be applied to UNDIA the same way that it is applied to every single organization on this campus. For the stated reasons, I must veto this bill.

Student Body President, Nick Creamer
Senate Bill

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: RJ Morin – UNDIA Vice President/Wacipi Coordinator

Sponsors: Dashell Thunder – Off Campus Senator, Patti Tedjasukmana – University Apartments Senator, Derek LaBrie – JDOSAS Senator

CC: Nick Creamer - Student Body President, Lexi Hanson - Student Body Vice President, Cassie Gerhart - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Freligh – Student Government Office Manager, Student Body Treasurer – Abi Nadeau, Keith Malatre – UNDIA Advisor, Dr. Lori Reesor – VPSA, Dr. Leigh Jeanotte – AISS Director

Date: 03/30/14

Re: UNDIA Annual Wacipi (powwow) Community Buffalo Feed

Whereas, the Student Government was established to among other things “improve student cultural, social, and physical welfare,” and

Whereas, the University of North Dakota Mission Statement states, “the University promotes cultural diversity among its students, staff, and faculty,” and

Whereas, University of North Dakota Statement on Institutional Diversity and Pluralism states, “all must be valued for the richness their cultures, heritages, perspectives, and ideas they bring to this community” and,

Whereas, the Statement on Institutional Diversity and Pluralism also states, “of particular importance is the University's longstanding commitment to the education of American Indian students and the cultures and traditions of the American Indian people” and,

Whereas, the University of North Dakota Indian Association (UNDIA) will be hosting their 44th annual Wacipi (powwow) on April 11-13, 2014 at the University of North Dakota, and

Whereas, a Wacipi (powwow) is defined as a celebratory event for all people to partake in traditional Native American activities such as dancing, singing, and socializing, and

Whereas, the work of UNDIA members have accumulated funds from outside sources, such as the University of North Dakota Student Affairs Office, the city of Grand Forks, as well as student organizational volunteer fundraising efforts in the form of food and activity sales, and

Therefore, be it moved that the Student Senate of North Dakota allocate no more than $2,000 from the unallocated portion of the Student Government General Account to UNDIA to cover the cost of the 2014 Community Buffalo Feed, and

Therefore, be it furthest moved, that UNDIA submit proper documentation and unspent allocated money to the Student Body Treasurer no later than May 1, 2014.
Student Body President, Nick Creamer