Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Nicholas Creamer, Student Body President; Abi Nadeau, Student Body Treasurer

Sponsors: Brett Johnson, Residence Halls Senator; Derek Labrie, Aerospace Senator; Jon Knutson, Medical Health Sciences Senator

CC: Lexi Hanson, Student Body Vice President; Ryan Brown, Chief of Staff; John Mitzel, State Government Affairs; Cassie Gerhardt, Student Government Advisor; Dr. Lori Reesor, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Alice Brekke, Vice President for Finance and Operations; Dr. Josh Riedy, Vice Provost

Date: 2/23/2014

Re: Student Support of the Program and Support Service Prioritization Project

Whereas, the University of North Dakota (UND), as a public, state funded entity, has an obligation to the taxpayers to be responsible stewards of state resources, and

Whereas, UND has acknowledged that the traditional process for resource allocation within institutions of higher education is a historic-based budget model which has grown to be outdated and ineffective, and

Whereas, UND has chosen to embark upon a Program and Support Service Prioritization process to proactively engage in a self-evaluation of how resources are allocated within the institution, and

Whereas, the 63rd Legislative Assembly of North Dakota recently enacted legislation which changes the means by which funds are appropriated to a performance-based funding model, making it particularly important for UND to undertake an exercise of this unique nature at the current time, and

Whereas, UND has sought outside consultation from a nationally recognized expert who has successfully facilitated the development of similar activities on campuses throughout the United States and Canada, and

Whereas, the students, faculty, and staff of our campus were invited to participate in informational and data gathering sessions which provided nearly 500 participants with an opportunity to educate themselves on the process in its entirety, and

Whereas, the process will ultimately be developed exclusively by members of the UND community so that it encompasses the distinct values of our campus and is specific to UND, and

Whereas, the Coordinating Committee will help guide and oversee the efforts of Program and Support Service Prioritization throughout the duration of this project and will begin by appointing nominees to the two different task forces, and

Whereas, one task force will be responsible for examining academic programs, and the other for examining support functions, and
Whereas, the charge of each task force is to conduct an assessment of all academic programs or support services, with each task force developing criteria and weighting which they will ultimately be using for the program prioritization of their respective areas, and

Whereas, the Coordinating Committee will appoint nominees to the various task forces using five basic criteria for their evaluation of each nominee, which will include individuals who: “Understand and embrace the mission of the institution, including its role as a research university, and are student-centered; represent the diversity of the institution; have earned a high level of credibility as demonstrated by respect of peers, previous leadership, and/or professional accomplishment; are known for getting things done and meeting commitments within a specific timeframe, and would be an effective member of a team; demonstrate a willingness to adopt an institutional perspective,” and

Whereas, this program will require transparency, data-driven decision making, fairness and consistency in the assessment of all programs, and an objective analysis of relevant factors in order to provide useful recommendations which will eventually inform resource allocation, and

Whereas, upon the conclusion of the assessment process, the recommendations of the task force will be made available to the public for review, which is designed to allow for a period of response before implementation begins, and

Whereas, the Program and Support Prioritization process will guide the institution in decision-making and will serve as an essential tool once the university begins the strategic planning process, and

Therefore, be it resolved that this body requests the coordinating committee include a student representative to allow for student input in the oversight and guidance of the overall program prioritization process, and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Coordinating Committee use the five criteria, outlined in the call for nominations announcement, in their evaluation of each individual nominee as the basis for appointing members to the task forces, even if the potential nominee is a student, and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the students of the University of North Dakota support the university’s decision to embark on the Program and Support Service Prioritization Process, and

Therefore, be it furthest resolved that following the completion the Program and Support Service Prioritization process, the institution conducts an analysis of the effectiveness of the project, and consider implementing the practice on an ongoing basis in future years.

Student Body President, Nick Creamer