Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: John Mitzel, State Governmental Affairs Commissioner; Nick Creamer, Student Body President; Lexi Hanson, Student Body Vice President; Joe Kalka, Public Relations Commissioner; Abigail Nadeau, Student Body Treasurer; Ryan Brown, Chief of Staff; Ryan Fraase, Director of Internal Affairs

Sponsors: Philip Jensen, COBPA Senator

CC: Nicholas Creamer, Student Body President; Lexi Hanson, Student Body Vice President; Abigail Nadeau, Student Body Treasurer; Ryan Brown, Chief of Staff; Ryan Fraase, Director of Internal Affairs; Joe Kalka, Public Relations Coordinator; Cassie Gerhardt, Student Government Advisor; Andrew Freligh, Student Government Office Manager; Dr. Lori Reesor, Vice President for Student Affairs

Date: 03/09/2014

Re: Maintaining Affordability in Higher Education

Whereas, tuition rates are one of the most critical concerns for college students, and

Whereas, providing quality education for students at an affordable price should be a desired goal, and

Whereas, students in the North Dakota University System have endured the financial burden of drastic tuition and fee increases and,

Whereas, the maximum rate of tuition growth at UND approved by the State Board of Higher Education for the current academic year was 3.72%, and

Whereas, this rate represented the largest rate of tuition growth at UND since 2009, and

Whereas, the Legislative Assembly increased appropriations to UND by nearly $13,000,000, or 8.9% for the current biennium, and

Whereas, the University of North Dakota is currently approved to increase the rate of tuition for the next academic year by up to 3.72%, the same rate, and

Whereas, this is the cap on the rate of tuition growth that was recommended by the State Board of Higher Education’s Budget & Finance committee, and

Whereas, President Kelley has indicated that it is UND’s intent to maintain a 3.72% tuition increase for FY2015, and

Whereas, it is also the intent of the University of North Dakota to set a 3.72% tuition increase for FY2015, even if the State Board of Higher Education authorizes a higher maximum rate, and

Whereas, this body recognizes that there are circumstances where an increase in the rate of tuition is necessary for an institution of higher education to fulfill its mission, and
Whereas, if the University of North Dakota is able to appropriately fulfill its mission at an increase of 3.72%, the State Board of Higher Education should not authorize a cap exceeding this level, as the original budget proposes to do, and

Whereas, the State Board of Higher Education should establish the maximum rates of tuition growth with the institutions' needs in mind, seldom setting a rate higher than that which is absolutely necessary, except in extenuating circumstances, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the University of North Dakota Student Senate urges the State Board of Higher Education to amend the previously proposed budget, which would have set the maximum rate of tuition growth at the University of North Dakota to 4.90%, to set that rate of growth at a level no greater than 3.72%, the rate which is currently authorized and was recommended by the State Board of Higher Education's Budget and Finance committee, and

Therefore, be it further resolved, that the University of North Dakota Student Senate urges the State Board of Higher Education to solicit feedback from the institutions' respective student bodies prior to making budgetary decisions in the future, and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the University of North Dakota Student Senate urges the State Board of Higher Education to develop procedures, to be used in future budgeting decisions, which requires NDUS institutions to specifically demonstrate a need to increase the rate of tuition at their campus, as well as the potential implications if such an increase were not granted, prior to the State Board of Higher Education approving any increase, and

Therefore, be it furthest resolved that the University of North Dakota Student Senate urges the State Board of Higher Education to continue to take steps to identify and address inefficiencies present within the various campuses of the North Dakota University System in order to maximize the value that students, donors, and taxpayers obtain from their investments.

Student Body President, Nick Creamer