Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Kyle Thorson – School of Graduate Studies Senator

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

Date: April 24th, 2014

Re: American Indian Students

Whereas, the Student Government acknowledges the historic and current challenges faced by the
American Indian students through both overt aggression and inadvertent statements on our campus
and within the Greater Grand Forks community, 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 recent actions of some within the UND community and Student Government have
demonstrated a lack of respect and understanding for our Native American brothers and sisters, and

Whereas, we know that racism is carried not only by our intentional actions, but also by the
unintentional consequences of our actions, and

Whereas, we as the student government do not condone or support any action—intentional or
unintentional—that causes harm to a person or community of people, and

Whereas, one such action which causes deep pain to many within the American Indian community is
the continued use of or reference to bringing back the retired Fighting Sioux logo, and

Whereas, the Student Government also recognizes that the American Indian community faces a variety
of unique stigmas and stereotypes, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Student Government encourages and supports the creation of
programs, safe spaces, educational events, and conversations that challenge discrimination and
naivety regarding various cultures and customs, and
Therefore, be it further resolved that we as members of the Student Government—the Senate, the Executive team, and all other associated branches of government—in order to support our Native American students will make no public statement that could be interpreted as continuation of or desire to bring back the retired logo, and

Therefore, be it further resolved that we commit ourselves to finding multiple points of conversation throughout the year, including physical gatherings of Student Government and American Indian students to learn and grow with one another, and

Therefore, be it furthest resolved that all members of UND Student Government will participate in a sensitivity training in order to be as informed as possible about the issues that affect our American Indian Students and to better understand their perspectives.

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Student Body President, Nick Creamer