Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Tanner Franklin - Student Body President; Jon Knutson - Governmental Affairs Commissioner

Sponsors: John Mitzel - Off Campus Senator

CC: Tanner Franklin - Student Body President; Brett Johnson - Student Body Vice President; Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor; Andrew Frelich - Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor; Dr. Lori Reesor - Vice President for Student Affairs; Cara Haigren - Associate Vice President for Student Services & Dean of Students

Date: October 19th, 2014

Re: Four Year Guarantee

Whereas, the cost of higher education in North Dakota has increased dramatically over the past 5 years, and

Whereas, in order to alleviate the cost of higher education there has been reform and policy changes from many institutions in regards to four year graduation rates, and

Whereas, several colleges and institutions around the country have implemented a "4 year promise" program as part of their orientation and advisement for incoming freshman classes, and

Whereas, such programs state that if a student follows the guided plan for their major, the University will guarantee that all courses will be offered at the times that are stated, and

Whereas, if for some reason a course is not offered, the University either finds a substitutable course, or pays for the student's tuition for having to stay after the four year period, and

Whereas, the following are examples of institutions that already have implemented and practice such programs:

- Ashland University
- Baldwin Wallace University
- Dakota Wesleyan University
- Doane University
- Garrett College
- Midland University

Page 1
Portland State University
• Purdue University
• Saint Mary’s College

University of Minnesota
• University of Nebraska

University of Wisconsin-Stout
• Vanguard University

Whereas, over the past two years there has been a push at the North Dakota University System level as well as by UND Administration to increase four year graduation rates, and

Whereas, there have been several concerns regarding course rotation, incorrect entries in the UND Academic Catalog, Campus Connection not reflecting the same information as the catalog, online resources posting incorrect information, etc., and

Whereas, these concerns have prevented some students from graduating within four years, and

Whereas, such a program could assist with increasing four year graduation rates, and

Whereas, such a program could also assist in increasing retention, and

Whereas, such a program could potentially save students thousands of dollars for having to stay longer than four years, and

Whereas, the current University structure may not give a prospective student the ability to complete a plan of study in four years, and

Whereas by implementing such a program, the contract would hold departments and the University as a whole accountable for honoring the “four year plans” already developed for several majors, and

Whereas by implementing such a program, all majors within each field of study who have not yet developed a four year plan would be required to create, publish, and therefore honor it’s four year plan, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the University of North Dakota Student Body fully supports further accountability in regards to: incorrect entries in the UND Academic Catalog, courses offered in Campus Connection not reflecting the same information as the catalog (including Essential Studies course designations), course planning in Campus Connection not reflecting the same information as the Academic Catalog, online resources i.e. webpages posting incorrect information, publishing accurate course rotation schedules, creating feasible course schedules which will allow students to graduate within four years, and honoring their four year plans, and

Therefore, be it furthest resolved that the University of North Dakota Student Body fully supports the creation and implementation of a four year guarantee program.

Tanner Franklin, Student Body President