Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota
Authors: Matt Kopp – Greek Housing Senator
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 Halgren – Associate Vice President for Student Services & Dean of Students
Date: January 25th, 2014
Re: Support for North Dakota Senate Bill 2150

2 Whereas, one of the main goals of the University of North Dakota Student Government should be to protect the rights of students, and

4 Whereas, whenever it is appropriate to expand the rights that students possess on campus and within the broad scope of the legal system it should be the priority of this body to secure those rights, and

6 Whereas, Senate Bill 2150, brought forth by the 64th North Dakota Legislative Assembly, seeks to protect and expand the rights of students by affording them the right to council in administrative disciplinary hearings, and

8 Whereas, the right to representation is a critical component of any just disciplinary system that attempts to provide an environment for a fair and impartial punitive process, and

10 Whereas, the current system of disciplinary hearings at the University of North Dakota, even under the best possible intentions of those administering the hearings, can be exploitative of the relative lack of student knowledge in regards to University of North Dakota policies, and

12 Whereas, the presence of an attorney or a non-attorney councilor with a depth of understanding regarding the Code of Student Life and other such policies as may be used in a disciplinary hearing would be beneficial to students, and

14 Whereas, there are disciplinary hearings that conclude the termination of a student’s enrollment at the University of North Dakota is necessary, often times costing the affected student thousands of dollars and severely hindering a student’s opportunity to continue in higher education at the University of North Dakota and elsewhere, and

18 Whereas, a student that has incurred such serious punishments both financially and in loss of reputation ought to be able to appeal that decision through the traditional legal system, an environment in which impartiality and fairness are not in question, and

22
 Whereas, in the event that the University of North Dakota has expelled a student in error, that student should qualify to receive a reimbursement for any financial loss incurred in the process of the expulsion hearing as well as reinstatement to resume their education with all possible expediency, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Student Senate of the University of North Dakota fully and unequivocally supports the intention of North Dakota Senate Bill 2150, and urges the 64th Legislative Assembly to adopt this critical piece of legislation, and

Therefore, be it furthest resolved that this body also strongly urges the support of SB2150 from the University of North Dakota and the North Dakota University System as a whole to ensure that the basic rights of the students at institutions of higher education in North Dakota are protected.

[Signature]
Student Body President, Tanner Franklin