Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Tanner Franklin - Student Body President

Sponsors: Baylee Ladner - JDOSAS 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: April 16th, 2015

Re: Vote of No Confidence in President Robert Kelley, Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost Tom DiLorenzo, Vice President for Student Affairs Lori Reesor, and Vice President for Finance & Operations Alice Brekke

Whereas, new tuition model discussions began in 2012 as a part of the Pathways Plan developed by the North Dakota University System (NDUS) office, and approved by the State Board of Higher Education (SHBE), and

Whereas, proposals of new models had a deadline to be presented to the SBHE of March 1st, 2015, and

Whereas, this date has continually been extended at the request of the University of North Dakota, and

Whereas, on March 11th, 2015 University of North Dakota (UND) administrators had first discussions with UND students in regards to options of the proposed tuition models with a tentative implementation date of Fall 2016, and

Whereas, UND students raised very basic questions at this discussion that UND administrators including VP Brekke, VP Reesor, and VP DiLorenzo were not able to answer, and

Whereas, UND students raised significant concerns about the proposals and requested that the UND administration take these concerns to the North Dakota State Legislature, and/or the NDUS SBHE, and
Whereas, UND students requested an electronic copy of the information to be sent out to Student Senators who were unable to attend the discussion held on March, 11th, 2015, and

Whereas, further requests were made for the electronic version of the information which took nearly two weeks to receive, and

Whereas, UND students also requested any additional information on all options of proposed tuition models on March 11th, and

Whereas, multiple attempts to receive further information were made after the March 11th discussion with no avail, and

Whereas, despite the requests, UND administration chose not to share further information with it's students, and

Whereas, this lack of transparency by the UND administration led to an open records request being filed with Legislative Council, and

Whereas, documents in the open records request clearly indicate that UND administration retained information prior to it's initial meeting with students on March 11th, 2015, and

Whereas, UND administration lied directly to it's students about possessing the information, and

Whereas, further documents in the open records request prove that substantial work had taken place after the initial meeting with students, and

Whereas, this information was also withheld from students, and

Whereas, students, staff, faculty, legislators, and taxpayers have a right to know what UND might propose, and

Whereas, UND administration is not being transparent with it's stakeholders on a decision that should be driven through student, staff, and faculty input, and

Whereas, this has resulted in a mistrust between the UND administration including, President Robert O. Kelley, and the three vice presidents directly involved with the process, Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Lori Reesor, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo, and Vice President for Finance and Operations, Alice Brekke, and its students, and

Whereas, this lack of transparency, coupled with Option 1 and Option 2 of tuition models as of April, 9th, 2015 which result in a 10.5% and 12.3% increase in tuition, directly conflict with national best practices, and do nothing to be of benefit to students, further proves the point that certain UND administrators lack competence levels to complete tasks at hand and do not care about the best interest of students attending UND, and
Whereas, furthering the point of zero transparency, the University had course and program fee fund balances of $3,734,692.84 at end of FY14, roughly an entire year's worth of reserves, and

Whereas, there was no mention of these balances in our initial and only discussions on March 11th & 12th, 2015, and

Whereas, even though this balance exists, students continue to be charged the same rate for course and program fees, without seeing realized benefits, and

Whereas, in a memo from Vice President of Finance & Operations, Alice Brekke, a plan is in place to spend these fund balances down, and

Whereas, this lack of transparency and willingness to listen to students has happened on prior occasions including the social host ordinance, academic advising concerns, and previous tuition cap discussions, and

In addition to the examples laid out, claims have been made in regards to: recent enrollment numbers, the Dean search for the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences, and the Chester Fritz Library funding, and

Whereas, given the aforementioned issues, it is abundantly clear that leadership directly involved in continuing processes including President Robert O. Kelley, Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Lori Reesor, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo, and Vice President for Finance and Operations, Alice Brekke, continue to be non-transparent with current students, prospective students, staff, faculty, North Dakota legislators, North Dakota taxpayers, and all others in the general public, and

Whereas, the University of North Dakota Student Government Executive team, as well as Student Senators, have exhausted all means of diplomacy to resolve the aforementioned issues, and

Whereas, the University of North Dakota Student Government wants what is best for the future of the institution, and

Therefore be it resolved that the Student Senate of the University of North Dakota on behalf of all students attending the University of North Dakota, submits a vote of no confidence in University of North Dakota President Robert O. Kelley, Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Lori Reesor, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo, and Vice President for Finance and Operations, Alice Brekke, and

Therefore be it furthest resolved, that on behalf of students at the University of North Dakota, the Student Senate calls for the resignations of University of North Dakota President Robert O. Kelley, Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Lori Reesor, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo, and Vice President for Finance and Operations, Alice Brekke for the reasons of lack of trust, transparency, good communication, integrity, respect of student voice, and effective leadership.
Student Body President, Tanner Franklin