Senate Resolution

To:                The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota
Authors:          Matt Kopp – Student Body President
Sponsors:          Ryan Brown – College of Business and Public Administration Senator
CC:                Matt Kopp - Student Body President, Taylor Nelson – Student Body Vice President, Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Freligh – Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor; Dr. Lori Reesor – Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Thomas DiLorenzo – Provost; Rebecca Weaver-Hightower – University Senate Chair
Date:             9/13/2015
Re:                Reduction of Minimum Credit Hours Required for Graduation

Whereas, there is a UND, NDUS, and nationwide effort to improve four-year graduation rates, and

Whereas, one of the components of that effort is to encourage students to take 15 credits every semester in order to graduate in four years, and

Whereas, currently the minimum number of credits required to graduate from the University of North Dakota is 125, and

Whereas, if a student takes and passes 15 credits every semester for eight semesters, they still would not be eligible to graduate under the current requirements, and

Whereas, most four-year institutions in the United States require 120 credits to graduate, including several regional peers of the University of North Dakota such as the University of Minnesota and the University of Montana, and

Whereas, a new policy reducing the minimum number of credits required to graduate to 120 would not limit specific departments from increasing the number of credits required to graduate from certain programs as deemed necessary by the University, and

Whereas, a new policy reducing the minimum number of credits required to graduate to 120 could potentially save students thousands of dollars and allow them to enter the work force or an advanced degree program earlier, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the University of North Dakota Student Senate supports the implementation of a new policy that will reduce the minimum number of credits required to graduate from 125 to 120, and

Therefore, be it furthest resolved that the Student Senate urges the UND University Senate to adopt a similar resolution for the consideration of the Provost and University President at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Student Body President, Matt Kopp