Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Cole Bachmeier—Residence Halls Senator

Sponsors: Matt Kopp—Student Body President, Taylor Nelson—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: 1/18/16

Re: Support for the Revision of Current Online Tuition Models.

Whereas, the University of North Dakota (UND) is a campus with a mission of teaching and learning, research, scholarly and creative activity, and service to every member of the university community, and

Whereas, the University of North Dakota seeks to provide a competitive yet affordable college experience to its students to fulfill said mission, and

Whereas, it is in the best interests of the university to keep college affordable for students, for they are major stakeholders in the success of the university, and

Whereas, collegiate tuition has been on a continual climb, and the University of North Dakota is not immune to said increases, and

Whereas, it has been a top priority for the University of North Dakota's Student Senate and Administration team to work with tuition for college remain affordable,

Whereas, online tuition at the University of North Dakota has been a particular avenue of increasing importance, and

Whereas, online tuition can be on the magnitude of one-point-five, two, or even three times more expensive than traditional classes after fees and dues are applied, and

Whereas, the university does not make these significant fees universally apparent without extensive research, background, or prior knowledge to these fees, and

Whereas, similar North Dakota Organizations, such as the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA), has passed legislation highlighting this lack of transparency of fees, encouraging the State Board of Higher Education (SBHD) to take action requiring universities to make these fees noticeable upfront, and

Whereas, the university has been encouraging its students to take these courses for the sake of convenience, and
Whereas, students are sometimes required to take these online courses due to scheduling conflicts with traditional classes provided by the institution, therefore inadvertently requiring them to pay significantly increased costs, and

Whereas, an on-campus student who provides funds via student fees and other revenue gaining opportunities for the university and who is taking a combination of traditional and online classes can end up paying more for an education that an out of state resident who is not providing similar revenues for the university, and

Whereas, the on-campus student is essentially paying tuition twice, once for tuition to take classes on campus, and once to take courses online plus the extra fees, and

Whereas, the special costs and fees can range up to an extra $275 dollars per credit for some of the high demand courses, and

Whereas, the Fee Advisory Group for the SBHE believes that “To the greatest extent possible, online and on-campus tuition should be the same and consistent with residency rates”.

Therefore, be it moved that UND Student Government supports that the University of North Dakota revisits its online tuition models, and

Therefore, be it further moved that the university looks at this double charge for college education, specifically for on-campus students to reduce or remove some of these extra fees, especially in the case where the student is required to take an online course due to traditional classes being full, and

Therefore, be it furthest moved that the university allows Student Government to take part in online tuition discussions for the sake of lessening the financial burden on students and making online fees apparent from the get-go.

Matt Kopp, Student Body President