Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota
Authors: Chase Johnson - Honors Program and Matt Kopp – Student Body President
Sponsors:
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: 10/04/2015
Re: Support for a Freedom of Expression Statement at the University of North Dakota

Whereas, college is meant to further a student's education beyond their high school years, and

Whereas, freedom is an integral part of that educational experience and is an obligation that must be protected, and

Whereas, the Mission of the University of North Dakota (UND), "...encourages students to make informed choices... to be intellectually curious and creative...", and

Whereas, part of this education is learning about opinions that may be different from one's own, and

Whereas, unencumbered freedom of expression furthers investigation, analysis, discourse, and critical thinking required at a university, and

Whereas, the President of the United States recently stated that leaving students “coddled and protected from different points of view” is “not the way we learn,” and

Whereas, if speech is censored due to people simply disagreeing with its content, it denies each student the education he/she deserves at UND, and

Whereas, currently at the University of North Dakota (UND), there are no explicit student protections for freedom of expression, and

Whereas, an adoption of a freedom of expression statement would help students, staff, faculty, and student organizations create a more informed campus community, and

Whereas, other research institutions, such as the University of Chicago and Purdue University, already guarantee freedom of expressions for their respective colleges, and

Therefore, be it resolved that the UND Student Senate supports and encourages the development of a Freedom of Expression statement for the University of the North Dakota, and

Be it furthest resolved that that the Student Senate is committed to protecting and championing the right to freely communicate ideas in all matters, without censorship.