Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Chris Petschen – College of Engineering and Mines Senator

Sponsors: Ryan Bjerke – Off Campus Senator

CC: Brandon Beyer - Student Body President, Blake Andert - Student Body Vice President, Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Freligh - Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor; Dr. Laurie Betting - Vice President for Student Affairs, Cara Halgren - Associate Vice President for Student Services & Dean of Students

Date: 2/15/2017

Re: Support of Tuition Cap

Whereas, it is the duty of the Student Senate of the University of North Dakota to advance the interests of the students of the University, and

Whereas, the University of North Dakota prides itself on providing students with exceptional programming at an affordable rate, and

Whereas, the University of North Dakota is committed to ensuring the academic success, as well as the economic success of its students during and after their educational career at the University, and

Whereas, in 2016 American college students graduated with $37,000 in student loan debt, and

Whereas, Governor Doug Burgum’s budget recommendation to the North Dakota General Fund Budget for the 2017-2019 biennium includes a 20% decrease in higher education appropriations, and

Whereas, the proposed budget changes would have a significant impact on the programming available to UND students, and

Whereas, in their February meeting, the UND University Senate passed a resolution in support of a “multifaceted approach to dealing with the current budget crisis,” as well as an “optimization of tuition rates to ensure student success,” and

Whereas, the UND Student Senate is in support of a multifaceted approach to dealing with the current budget crisis, and

Whereas, the UND Student Senate is committed to ensuring student success, retention, and graduation of its constituents, and

Whereas, the UND Student Senate is committed to advocating for the most optimal tuition models for its constituents, and

Whereas, the proposed budget calls for a maximum increase of base resident undergraduate tuition rates to be 3% per year, and
Whereas, the tuition cap of 3% would provide current and future UND students with the financial security they deserve, and

Whereas, any tuition increase in excess of 3% would be detrimental to student retention, graduation, and recruitment efforts, and

Therefore, be it moved that the UND Student Government recognizes the resolution passed by the University Senate contains vague language and is misleading in purpose, and

Therefore, be it furthest moved that the UND Student Government opposes any attempt to raise base resident undergraduate tuition rates above the 3% cap outlined in the North Dakota General Fund Budget.

Brandon Beyer, Student Body President