Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Erik Hanson – Student Body President

Sponsors: Talon Schloesser – Off-Campus Senator, Cassidy Johnson – Off-Campus Senator

CC: Erik Hanson - Student Body President, Kaleb Dschaak - Student Body Vice President, Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Frelich - Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor, Dr. Cara Halgren - Vice President for Student Affairs and Diversity, Dr. Deb Melby – Academic Policies and Admissions Committee Chairman

Date: 04/03/2019

Re: Implementation of Academic Review Week

Whereas, UND Student Government works to ensure the best overall learning environment for students,

Whereas, we also work to ensure the greatest possible environment for both physical and mental health and wellness for students,

Whereas, the last two weeks of the semester are objectively proven to be some of the most stressful times of the year in a college student’s life which can lead to adverse effects on the health and wellness of our students,

Whereas, the final two weeks of an academic semester are often associated with a large percentage of the points that impact a final grade and a semester’s grade point average, which can have a profound impact on the placement of students upon graduation in either their desired career path or post-graduate place of education,

Whereas, UND currently operates under a system that incorporates Reading and Review Day, generally the Friday before the week of final examinations each semester. This is a day where no regularly scheduled classes are held and allows students one additional day for studying or completing final projects, papers, etc.,

Whereas, this system does allow our students one additional day of studying, but it does not adequately address the systemic problem that plagues the reduced health and wellness of students across campus during this time, and by continuing to utilize this system of our academic calendar, students will continue to be hindered in their academic potential,

Whereas, beyond health and wellness, studies show that placing multiple examinations next to one another has adverse effects on the learning outcomes in those areas, and often in UND’s current system, students are asked to take a block exam within a week before a final cumulative exam, leading to “cramming” of information, which has severely lower levels of information retention,
Whereas, our goal is to create a predictable, yet flexible method of review and study period to foster a healthy environment for students to achieve their maximum academic potential during their final weeks of each semester,

Whereas, both peer institutions and top-tier academic universities have begun seeking systemic changes to reduce the load of work placed on students in the final two weeks of their semester, including, but not limited to: NDSU, Utah State, Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and many others,

Therefore, be it moved that UND implement each semester as a part of its institutional academic calendar an Academic Review Week. This week will begin the last Monday of the Semester prior to Finals Week, and end the beginning day of Finals Week,

Therefore, be it further moved that during the Academic Review Week, courses may go on as normal, including new material, but there shall be no administering of examinations or quizzes that consist of more than 10% of the final grade,

Therefore, be it further moved that during the Academic Review Week, there shall be no assignments, projects, presentations, papers, or other substantial graded components that consist of more than 5% of the final grade due during this week unless designated via the syllabus, uploaded to Blackboard, or other reasonable means by the 10th week of the academic semester and given all supplementary materials to complete the assignment, project, presentation, paper or substantial graded component by the 12th academic week of the semester,

Therefore, be it further moved that during the Academic Review Week, the following exceptions to the above rules may apply:

- The equivalent of three or more days of class cancellation due to a University closure nullifies the limitations of the Academic Review Week, but the professor is asked to retain the spirit of the rules for the betterment of the health and wellness of their students, and the advancement of their learning outcomes
- If the professor moves the final examination from the week of Finals Week, they may be allowed to administer that exam during the Academic Review Week, but the rules for the Academic Review Week then apply to the Finals Week for this course
- Graduate and Professional Courses
- Enroll anytime courses
- Lab courses
- Summer courses
- Courses with non-standard class dates as defined in Campus Connection
- Courses without a scheduled final exam period
- Any make up tests, quizzes, or other substantial graded components

Therefore, be it further moved that UND Student Government asks the Academic Policy and Admissions Committee to adopt the Academic Review Week as stated in this resolution,

Therefore, be it furthest moved that UND Student Government asks the University Senate to adopt the Academic Review Week as stated in this resolution.

Erik Hanson, Student Body President