



NDSA-12-2021

A Resolution in Support of SB 2003 and SB 2030 and their alignment with NDSA's Pre-Session Legislative Priorities

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, NDSA's General Assembly unanimously approved the document "NDSA Legislative Priorities: Pre-Session" for lobbying use by the NDSA executive team through NDSA-06-2021 "A Resolution in Support of NDSA's 2020-2021 Legislative Priorities" on November 21st, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the document was developed to make the NDSA's priorities and positions on issues related to higher education clear before the North Dakota Legislature began its 67th Legislative Assembly and before any bills had been submitted for consideration by the legislature; and,

WHEREAS, the 67th Legislative Assembly is now in session and legislators have now begun to read and discuss potential bills for the 2021-2023 biennium; and,

WHEREAS, SB 2003 and SB 2030 both specifically align with the NDSA's Pre-Session Legislative Priorities; and,

WHEREAS, SB 2003 would fund the NDUS at the base level of funding needed, as calculated by the Higher Education Funding Formula, for the university system to continue operations without budget cuts that could result in the loss of services, employees, programs, and more on campuses; and,

WHEREAS, SB 2003 includes funding for two additional Pre-Session Priorities: Open Educational Resources (OERs) in the Shared Campus Services line, and Student Mental Health funding of \$284,400 – a number calculated by specific university requests as they work to increase access and services to meet the mental health needs of students; and

WHEREAS, SB 2030 as submitted would allocate \$9,650,000 to the State Board of Higher Education for the Challenge Fund Grants with is another Pre-Session Priority of the NDSA; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Dakota Student Association supports SB 2003, funding the NDUS to the full base budget calculated by the Higher Education Funding Formula, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NDSA supports SB 2030, funding the Challenge Fund Grants at \$9,650,000; and,



THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NDSA supports any subsequent proposals to increase the amounts currently allocated to the Higher Education budget and/or Challenge Fund grants, and opposes any proposals to decrease these amounts; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NDSA encourages the North Dakota Legislature to continue efforts to provide quality education opportunities for students of all socioeconomic statuses within the NDUS by adequately funding necessary programs and exploring ways to help students afford post-secondary schooling.

Approved by the NDSA General Assembly on Saturday, January 30th, 2021.