



NDSA-13-2021

A Resolution in Support of the Decision to Reprioritize the Vaccination of NDUS Faculty, Staff, and Administration on July 1st, 2021

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, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way higher education is delivered in North Dakota and around the world; and,

WHEREAS, NDUS students have consistently cited struggling with academics and mental health due to the pandemic and the abrupt changes to their learning delivery methods; and,

WHEREAS, students and educators desire a return to the option of in-person education as soon as possible; and,

WHEREAS, the return to in-person learning is highly dependent upon vaccinations, specifically the vaccination of faculty, staff, and administrators, as their populations are more likely to be at-risk of severe COVID-19 complications than the student population; and,

WHEREAS, as vaccinations have begun to be distributed in North Dakota, the higher education community has voiced concerns about where NDUS faculty, staff, and administrators are located on the priority list; and,

WHEREAS, higher education faculty, staff, and administration are currently included in Phase 1C of North Dakota's COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Groups; and,

WHEREAS, after conversations with NDUS leaders and students, the North Dakota Governor's office has issued a decision that if North Dakota has not reached Phase 1C by July 1st, 2021, NDUS faculty, staff, and administration will be reprioritized to ensure they have the opportunity to be vaccinated before the start of the fall 2021 semester; and,

WHEREAS, this decision will increase the likelihood that NDUS students are able to return to in-class and on-campus instruction at higher levels in the fall of 2021; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSA supports and thanks the Governor's office and the North Dakota COVID-19 Vaccination Ethics Committee for their decision to reprioritize NDUS faculty, staff, and administrators on July 1st, 2021 if they have not had the opportunity to become vaccinated before that date.

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