



NDSA-03-2122

A Resolution regarding firearm accessibility and governance on NDUS campuses

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, in the 2021-2022 biennium, numerous bills were submitted to the North Dakota Legislature relating to the access and governance of firearms in public spaces; and,

WHEREAS, these bills included but are not limited to HB 1272, HB 1297, HB 1304, and HB 1311^[1]; and,

WHEREAS, a state institution of higher education would qualify as a public building, as well as areas outside of buildings on campuses as public spaces; and,

WHEREAS, the NDUS currently operates under policy 916.1, which prohibits firearms or dangerous weapons in a campus residence; and

WHEREAS, policy 916.1^[2] allows for special approval for students who wish to store firearms on campus and includes provisions for a safe designated space to store such firearms; and,

WHEREAS, increased accessibility and changed governance related to firearms on NDUS campuses has the potential to cause dangerous situations including but not limited to:, suicide attempts, mental health deterioration, campus security threats, and disagreements among students, staff, faculty, administration, and other individuals; and,

WHEREAS, the NDSA fully supports the right of students, staff, faculty, and administration to own a firearm for off-campus use; and,

WHEREAS, in the past biennium, legislation related to the access and the governance of firearms in public spaces was submitted without the input of students, staff, faculty, and administration; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSA opposes any additional changes to the current NDUS firearm policy without the input of campus stakeholders that will be directly impacted by changes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NDSA supports the opportunity for a safe and welcoming campus for all NDUS students to pursue success in all areas of their lives.

[1] <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021>

[2] <https://ndus.edu/sbhe-overview/sbhe-policies/900-heading-policies/>



*Passed by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly
Saturday, October 16th, 2021*

[1] <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021>

[2] <https://ndus.edu/sbhe-overview/sbhe-policies/900-heading-policies/>