



October 15, 2022

Dear Members of Academic and Student Affairs, Chancellor's Cabinet and the State Board of Higher Education,

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students. As an authority on student welfare in the state of North Dakota, NDSA advocates issues of higher education in support of enhancing the student experience.

With the high goals NDSA aims to achieve, we actively educate ourselves on current topics that will impact students on a wide variety of levels. With this in mind, during the 2021-2022 academic year, the Student Affairs Committee of the NDSA discussed the topic of creating a Fall Break to support the mental health of students, faculty, and staff in the North Dakota University System. After much productive discussion, the Student Affairs Committee sent the resolution to the General Assembly with a do-pass recommendation, which subsequently passed the resolution as NDSA-07-2223.

The North Dakota University System has since proposed three different options for Fall Break. These three options, if they were to occur during the 2022-2023 Academic Year, are Monday, October 17th; Tuesday, October 18th; Thursday, October 20th and Friday, October 21st; or the full week of October 17th through the 21st. The three proposed options would occur during Week 9 of the Fall Semester.

The NDSA's Student Affairs Committee met on October 14th, 2022 and had a discussion on the three proposed dates. The options were carefully considered by the committee, and it came to a consensus that having Monday and Tuesday off would be beneficial to students, faculty, and staff and would have a less disruptive effect on the academic schedule of both the student population and faculty.

The North Dakota Student Association thanks the North Dakota University System Student Affairs Council for the opportunity to give our opinion as students on these potential dates proposals. We respectfully request the State Board of Higher Education to consider our recommendation to the proposed Fall Break dates as the change has an impact on the 45,000 students in the North Dakota University System.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher M. Scott
President of the North Dakota Student Association