



**NDSA-12-2223**

## **A Resolution in Support of HB 1003: Higher Education Budget Allocation for the 23-25 Biennium**

**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 North Dakota legislature meets every two years, for up to 80 days, to set North Dakota policies and laws and to appropriate state dollars; and,

**WHEREAS**, every legislative session, the NDUS is allocated a set budget from the state legislature to fund operations for the following two years; and,

**WHEREAS**, during the 2023 legislative session, the legislative bill HB 1003 sets the NDUS Budget at 2.6 billion dollars, which matches the base funding from the prior session; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional budget requests are included in the NDUS Budget; and,

**WHEREAS**, these additional requests include 24 million dollars for a Workforce Education Workforce Grant, a 10 million dollar allocation for education scholarships, and 1 million dollars for the ND/CTE Scholarship shortage bases, all of which fall in line with the NDSA's legislative priorities of increasing student financial aid for NDUS students, and ensuring that NDUS students receive education preparing them to enter workforces in emerging technologies; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is also a 3.6 million dollar allocation for a Behavioral Health Initiative, adding 12 full-time and 1 part-time Counselor positions across the NDUS, which increases student access to mental health resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, one item in this bill also increases staff and faculty salaries by 6% the first year, and 4% the second year following enactment, which would help retain staff and faculty, and while directly impacting students' quality of education within the NDUS; and,

**WHEREAS**, if the state legislature does not fully fund those salary raises, institutions would have to increase tuition which would affect NDUS recruitment and retention of students; so,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the NDSA General Assembly supports HB 1003; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NDSA General Assembly supports increases to the NDUS Budget, including additional increases in allocation to faculty and staff salary raises, scholarships and the Behavioral Health Initiative; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, these allocated funds will allow the NDUS to operate and provide all NDUS students



with a competitive, affordable, and valuable higher education degree, and will help address today's workforce needs within the state.

*Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly  
Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023*