

NDSA-24-2223

A Resolution in Opposing Censorship in Higher Education

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, institutions of higher education are environments where students will be exposed to academic material they find challenging and it is incumbent upon students to use academic rigor and critical thought when engaging with any material; and,

WHEREAS, higher education students' ability to engage in productive discussion, critical thinking, respectful disagreements, learning, and the choice to pursue higher education free from academic mandates and ideological echo chambers should not be restricted; and,

WHEREAS, governmental intervention in higher education regulating content or discussion is a violation of academic freedom; and,

WHEREAS, if NDUS institutions hope to maintain a status as reputable establishments for higher education, they must be able to meet a national standard of academic excellence, an expectation that cannot be achieved without critical thought and progressive discussion; and,

WHEREAS, restrictions on academic discourse or content would have a significant negative impact on both student and faculty retention; and,

WHEREAS, protecting academic freedom, freedom of speech, and freedom of discourse is vital to maintaining a competitive educational market in North Dakota; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NDSA reaffirms its support for academic freedom, freedom of speech, and freedom of discourse, firmly opposing legislation that would infringe on any of those essential components of a quality higher education.

*Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly
Saturday, March 25th, 2023*