

General Assembly

Meeting Minutes
(Saturday)

Chaired by Jason Fincel, President



NDSA



General Assembly

Meeting Minutes
Saturday, April 23rd, 2023

- I. Call to Order
 - A. NDSA President Jason Fincel called to order at 9:11 am
- II. Roll Call
 - A. BSC: 7 present, 7 voting
 - B. DCB: 1 present, 1 voting
 - C. DSU: 0 present, 0 voting
 - D. LRSC: 2 present, 2 voting
 - E. MaSU: 1 present, 1 voting
 - F. MiSU: 3 present, 3 voting
 - G. NDSCS: 10 present, 6 voting
 - H. NDSU: 13 present, 13 voting
 - I. UND: 12 present, 12 voting
 - J. VCSU: 6 present, 5 voting
 - K. WSC: 5 present, 5 voting
 - i. 10 out of 11 institutions present, 60 present, 55 voting
- III. Explanation of Meeting Procedure
- IV. **ACTION: Additions to and Approval of the Agenda**
 - A. NDSCS Moves to approve
 - B. UND Seconds
- V. **ACTION: Consider Approval of the Consent Agenda**

A consent agenda allows the General Assembly to approve routine and noncontentious agenda items and reports simultaneously in a single agenda item, saving time during the meeting. Items will be placed underneath this line item prior the start of Saturday's meeting. Members may request to remove items from the consent agenda.

 - A. NDSCS motions to approve
 - B. UND seconds
- VI. Committee Reports:
 - A. Internal Affairs Committee
 - a. Vice President of Finance – Discussion on host school reimbursement. Talked about constitution and bylaws changes. Meeting weekly this semester. Talked about councils. Talked



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about the NDSA executive scholarships.

B. Student Affairs Committee

- a. Vice President of Communication – Discussion on reviving social media and making it more interesting. Talked about the student outreach task force. Talked about the NDUS committees. Reach out to Sammi or Katie if you are interested.

C. State Legislative Affairs Committee

- a. Vice President of Governmental Affairs – Talked about some organizational outreach. Updated on the diversity tuition waivers. Discussion on conducting business such as referring to committees and executive team. Had an update from PAR. The student concern section talked about further representation of SBHE the NDSA power in policy making and HB 1404. Putting a guidebook for the NDSA. Will be on the feedback survey. State fleet for student organizations.

- VII. Presidential Report – Conducted a campus visit before the NDSA. More are scheduled for the rest of the semester. Excited to visit everyone! In the process of reaching out to have the NDSA webpage linked to the various Student Government websites to raise greater awareness about it on campus. UND said they could do so. Currently, the Chief Admin and I are working on the NDSA website to make it more user-friendly and easier to understand for incoming students. A state board meeting I attended last week about how it governs itself and how interacts with various NDUS councils. There hasn't been an interim committee yet, but will attend that when it is open. Reached out to the student cabinet and continued some conversations from last year.

VIII. SBHE Student Member Report

- A. SBHE Student Member – The State board met last week. Approved a lot of new program requests. Approved a lot of policies, mostly updates needed to be done after some time. Got a scholarship report from CTE. In governor strategy review and will be presenting to him in March, this is regarding some of the Envision groups. Presented a financial literacy course and will be speaking at an upcoming NDSA meeting. This will be free for students to better understand their financial situation.

IX. New Business

A. Confirmation of Vice President of Communication

- i. The previous VP stepped down and Jason appointed Sammi Webber from UND. Needs to pass from the GA



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- ii. Sophia Weshnevski NDSCS motion to confirm
 - iii. Carter Gill VCSU seconds.
 - iv. Motion passes by a voice vote.
- B. NDSA-02-2324: A Resolution Supporting Effort to Promote Diversity and Inclusion on Campus
- i. This was a broad resolution, but the intent was there to support efforts for diversity in the NDUS. The SAC committee gave it a due not pass recommendation for the bill.
 - ii. Christopher Scott UND Motions to pass the resolution.
 - iii. Loren Parks NDSCS seconds
 - iv. Discussion
 - a. Christopher Scott UND: I intend to vote no on the motion, did this to have a discussion.
 - b. Joseph Werne UND: Doesn't add much value and we have talked about this from the
 - c. Connor Ferguson UND: Wonder if you would rather table indefinitely instead of killing the resolution.
 - d. Christopher Scott UND: Going off a precedent from last year. Would be open to changing the motion.
 - e. Christopher Scott UND: rescinds his motion.
 - f. Loren Parks NDSCS seconds the change.
 - v. Connor Ferguson UND: Motion to table Indefinitely
 - vi. Carter Gill VCSU: Second the motion
 - vii. Motion passes 38-2-2
 - viii. Resolution is tabled indefinitely.
- C. NDSA Student Fee Bylaw Change Proposal
- i. This is going to be the first reading of the change.
 - ii. A change must sit for two meetings, but we need to make the change by the next meeting.
 - iii. Increasing costs have been causing us to run into a deficit in the last year so that is the reason for the increase. This will go up to .06 cents which is .02 cents more than the previous one.
 - iv. This couldn't count as readings in previous meetings due to



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not meeting the quorum.

v. Questions:

a. NDSU: Will save a question for the resolution.

D. NDSA-03-2324: A Resolution for NDSA Fee Increase

i. This resolution to back up the Bylaw change. This was advised by SBHE members to pass something to have the fee increase occur by the time the fee increase is due. We would be able to vote on this today. It is up to the chancellor on the change, it is just our input.

ii. Questions

iii. Discussion

1. NDSU: The .02 cent increase was to pass, what is the projected increase that NDSA would get?
2. Cody Olski VPFO: The projected increase would put at a \$9,600 increase for operating expenses.
3. NDSU: Have concerns about this fee increase. Confused about how we operated on a budget but had to pull from reserves. Seems to be a clerical error. The resolution says stating for increase the scholarship increase. Don't think it needs to be higher cause it isn't benefiting students enough.
4. Cody Olski VPFO: Looking at the fiscal year 22-23 budget, we didn't account for the April meeting to account for that. There was a clerical error. The accounting fee did increase and will go up every year. Looking forward to next year so we will need more money for lobbying next year. We can't do partial cents and .01 cents may not be enough.
5. Conner Ferguson UND: What does the reserve look like?
6. Cody Olski VPFO: End of fiscal year '22, 90,770, at the end of '23 it was 89,906. If we continue this downward trend, it can run out quickly.
7. Conner Ferguson UND: With how vast our reserves are, I think that we shouldn't have that vast of a reserve and we should spend that amount down. I think we should spend us down. At UND, we also had to spend down our reserves.
8. Adelyn Emter UND: A point to add to Connors, the money that we are collecting is from student fees, which we should give back to them. Agree with Connor



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to use that career forward budget.

9. NDSU: Why should we increase the fee when we have the reserve funds?
10. Evan Hutchison UND: Could do a .01 increase so that we are pulling from reserves but not as much.
11. Connor Ferguson UND: agree with even, motion to change the verbiage in the resolution from 2 cent increase to a 1 cent increase in the whereas clause.
 - a. Connor Birnbaum NDSCS: Seconds.
 - b. The motion to amend is passed by 28-22-3
12. NDSU: Aside from the Amendment raising the fee isn't needed to the reserves amount. Doesn't think we will go through the fees through the amount of money and justify going through student fees.
13. Connor Birbaum NDSCS: Wondering if we could put it in an endowment fund.
14. Christopher Scott UND: There may be state regulations on how we can use state funds. We could also look into the budget for burning and the reserves have been gathering for 20 years. It was unknown until last year. Inflation has gone up 25% in the last year, so do think it may need to increase. Change the fees from reserves instead of the students.
15. Connor Ferguson UND: Don't think that an endowment fund is illegal.
16. Chloe Anderson VCSU: If we don't feel that we are benefiting the students, we could invest it in the students. Bring it to IAC to do this. It's not getting used because we don't have ideas to use them.
17. Adelyn Emtter UND: Chloe is right, that is what happens at UND. Do that before asking for more. The budget was number 89,906. The standard account procedure is about 7% of the budget, which would be roughly 2,000. I think we need to spend it down for a while. I think doing Christopher's idea to decrease it can work as well as Chloe.
18. Connor Ferguson UND: With this amount of money in reserves, we may end up getting audited by the state.
19. Evan Hutchinson UND: One thing that has been mentioned was upping the scholarship since they



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haven't been increased in a decade.

20. Motion to pass by Christopher Scott

21. No second, motion dies.

22. Moved back into discussion.

23. Evan Hutchinson UND: Motions to table until next meeting

24. BSC: Seconds the motions

a. Questions

b. Discussion:

c. Voting: 28-25-1

iv. Cody Olski VPFO: This fee will now affect the 25-26 budget.

v. NDSU: Work with student fees and they have in the budget from the System office. So is it now tabled? Is going to affect budgets now or what is the end result of that?

vi. Cody Olski VPFO: It has to go through the student board, so it is ultimately up to them on the decision of the increase. We are just giving our recommendation. At the end of the day, it is ultimately their decision on the fee.

E. NDSA-04-2324: A Resolution In Support of NDUS Diversity Tuition Waivers

i. Carter Gill VCSU: this resolution comes from a legal complaint that was filed against a few universities about a ruling on affirmative action about the waivers being discriminatory. It was written saying that we support the waivers. There is data from Bismarck about diversity in the resolution and how the waivers do help raise diversity. Found every institution has a different parameter on their waivers. This is just to support all those waivers. Accomplishes the job of the diversity resolution that we tabled earlier.

ii. Questions:

iii. Discussion:

1. Carter Gill VCSU: Motion to Amendment to another whereas clause after the 3rd whereas clause stating "Whereas, the NDSA recognizes that this issue is near resolution and acknowledges that this delay is due to the organization's General Assembly not meeting quorum". This is because the legal teams have already passed down recommendations in VCSUs and at some



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other institutions.

2. Seconded by Christopher Scott UND
 - a. The motion passes in the opinion of the chair
3. Carter Gill VCSU: Motion to Amend 1st Therefore, be it resolves “including and continue to support said waivers”
4. Seconded by NDSCS
 - a. The motion passes in the opinion of the chair
5. Carter Gill VCSU: A friendly amendment to remove the and in the previous amendment.

iv. Chair seeks a motion:

1. Christopher Scott UND: Motion to pass
2. Cherokee Warnecke NDSCS: Seconds
3. The resolution passes to 37-9-3

X. Complete General Assembly Feedback Survey

XI. Institutional Reports

- A. BSC: Crosswalk safety features have been funded after an accident with the icy roads.
- B. DCB: No report
- C. DSU: No report
- D. LRSC: No report
- E. MaSU: The basketball team started conference play and hasn't lost. Baseball and softball teams have started their spring season. Football and volleyball have started their off-season training.
- F. MiSU: Basketball is going great! Ranked 25th in the nation and has beat the #1 seed team. Have a lockdown on Thursday due to a gun threat at a daycare.
- G. NDSCS: The Ag department received 1.5 million dollars. A plumber going to France for a plumber competition. The NDUS chancellor visited this week. Dissolved the treasurer department on their senate.
- H. NDSU: Got shared governance hosted soon between faculty and staff. The Esports lab is open. NDSU is thriving.
- I. UND: There is green bandana training today which is a type of mental health training. There is a student organization fair on Wednesday so will be tabling to get more delegates at UND. STEM career expo on



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February 5th. UND hockey beat St. Cloud. UND was #2 and beat the #1 team (St. Cloud). Had a dollar dog and student government at the basketball game last Thursday. Student Government went to a UN Global Peace Summit in Thailand. The student government funded the All True Bike program which allows students to ride communal bikes for free.

- J. VCSU: Senate participated in MLK Day service projects. Our returning student scholarship application is open. McCarthy renovations have started.
- K. WSC: Working diligently to respond to student needs on campus. support students on campus. Focus is on working with a new company to stock feminine products throughout campus for students to use. Working on maintaining student involvement on campus with their activity board to create inviting activities to keep them happy in the cold weather.

XII. Public Comment and Announcements

- A. Carter Gill is the delegate of the month!
- B. Jayden Erickson is appointed Director of PR
- C. Thank you everyone for coming!
- D. Thank you, Minot, for Hosting!
- E. Please sign the sheet!
- F. Travis Smith MiSU: Bring up a concern with the resolution NDSA-16-2021 Opposition of HB 1311. This HB was regarding open carry. Bringing up the fact that the NDSA is supposed to be nonpartisan, and this seems to be partisan. I think that it's okay and we should be talking about these issues. I want to advocate for the right to bear arms on campus. It is important that students can defend themselves against people that would do them harm. That includes everyone on campus for that matter. There are a lot of worries about what this could bring, and I wanted to talk a bit about how we can work so that people are enabled and educated on these arm limits. Not exactly talking about firearms. Most of us have laptops, computers, phones, etc. and these devices serve as arms limits. The definition of arms limit is something that enables a military response. Information security is super important and could lead to a serious threat and I don't think many of us are equipped to advocate for limiting the use of IT devices. This is something to keep in mind when talking about firearms.

XIII. Adjourn

- A. Motion to adjourn by NDSCS.



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- B. Seconded by VCSU
- C. Motion Passes
- D. Adjourned at 11:00



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Roll Call Sheet
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INSTITUTION	STUDENT TOTAL	APPORTIONED VOTING DELEGATES	DELEGATES PRESENT	DELEGATES VOTING
Bismarck State College	4,065	7	7	7
Dakota College at Bottineau	1,180	4	1	1
Dickinson State University	1,453	4	0	0
Lake Region State College	1,810	5	2	2
Mayville State University	1,048	4	1	1
Minot State University	2,741	6	3	3
North Dakota State College of Science	3,140	6	10	6
North Dakota State University	11,952	15	13	13
University of North Dakota	14,172	17	12	12
Valley City State University	1,754	5	6	5
Williston State College	912	4	5	5
		TOTAL:	60	55