



July 22, 2024

Dear Chancellor's Cabinet and the North Dakota 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 on 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, the NDSA Executive Team has discussed the resignation of the nursing faculty and President Steve Easton at Dickinson State University (DSU). After considering the options, the NDSA is in support of continuing the nursing program at DSU.

The NDSA Executive Team attended a North Dakota Nurses Association (NDNA) Open Forum about the issue on Wednesday, July 17th to hear from the nursing students of DSU. Although other schools have expressed their willingness to accept those students to their programs, DSU students had many concerns including financial constraints, relocation, transferring credits, and scholarships.

Following the NDNA Open Forum and careful consideration, the NDSA Executive Team concluded that it is not feasible for DSU to cut the nursing program. It would result in substantial disruption for all students and faculty, affecting academic continuity and institutional stability. Relocating to other institutions is not a viable option for many students due to financial constraints, inability to relocate, and the complexities of transferring credits and scholarships.

The North Dakota Student Association thanks the North Dakota University System for the opportunity to give our opinion as students. We respectfully request the Chancellor's Cabinet and the State Board of Higher Education to consider our recommendation to maintain the DSU Nursing Program as the change has an impact on the 45,000 students in the North Dakota University System.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi J. Weber

President of the North Dakota Student Association