



NDSA-09-2425

## **A Resolution in Support of the Continued Offering of Mental Health Training Programs for NDUS Faculty and Staff**

**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**, NDUS students face limited access to mental health counselors due to the high demand and the insufficient number of counselors available to meet the needs of all students seeking support; and,

**WHEREAS**, during this academic year, the NDSA executive team has conducted campus visits to eight of the eleven NDUS institutions, and staff and faculty across these institutions have reported minimal training in supporting students who may be experiencing crises including but not limited to mental health; and,

**WHEREAS**, faculty and staff have additionally expressed concerns about being unprepared and unqualified to help these students, and they prefer to be better equipped to recognize, address, and support their students; and,

**WHEREAS**, students are more likely to have an established relationship with faculty and staff, and are more inclined to seek support from them about any concerns they have for themselves or their peers; and,

**WHEREAS**, faculty and staff may be acting outside of their job descriptions and roles; however, the high likelihood of students reaching out to them underscores the need for faculty and staff to have adequate training and support when these situations arise; and,

**WHEREAS**, an 8-hour mental health training program is offered to faculty and staff at no cost, but many are not aware of it; and,

**WHEREAS**, the continued offering of the available training program ensures that faculty and staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognize signs of mental health challenges, provide appropriate support, and create a more inclusive and supportive environment for students, staff, and faculty; so,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, training faculty and staff will help foster a supportive academic environment, promote student well-being, and reduce the likelihood of mental health crises; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NDSA supports the continued offering of mental health training programs for NDUS faculty and staff because it is vital for them to recognize mental health challenges and be prepared to respond appropriately.

*Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly  
Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025*