



NDSA-18-2425

A Resolution in Opposition to HB 1437: The Prohibition of Tenure for Faculty at Two-Year Colleges

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, during North Dakota's 69th Legislative Session, legislators introduced HB 1437, which would prohibit academic tenure at two-year colleges, and would not allow new faculty to be eligible for tenure if hired after July 1, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, unless there are sweeping changes to the process of contracting faculty at two-year colleges, faculty would be uncertain of continued employment without a contract renewal; and,

WHEREAS, the prohibition of tenure for two-year colleges would also disincentivize prospective faculty from accepting employment opportunities at these institutions, opting to go to other states and institutions where tenure is offered to them; and,

WHEREAS, this bill interferes with the State Board of Higher Education's (SBHE) authority to manage institutions of higher education in North Dakota, and the institutions' ability to provide the highest quality of education for students, setting a bad precedent of superseding the SBHE's autonomy from the State Legislature; and,

WHEREAS, while faculty at two-year colleges may not be as involved in as much research as other institutions, these faculty still contribute to research as part of their role at their institution; and,

WHEREAS, faculty are in a unique field where if their contract is terminated, they may not be able to find employment elsewhere in their profession; and,

WHEREAS, the absence of tenure creates the possibility of making two-year colleges a revolving door of faculty which would limit students' ability to create professional relationships with their faculty, in addition to impacting the quality of education for students who attend two-year colleges; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Dakota Student Association opposes HB 1437 as it would negatively impact the quality of education at two-year colleges for students.

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