



April 7, 2025

Dear Governor Kelly Armstrong

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 reviewed House Bill 1437 and its implications for students and staff.

The NDSA believes that policies regarding tenure should be determined by the State Board of Higher Education and the 11 institutions that the Board oversees. This allows for both the Board and the 11 institutions to create a policy that best fits the needs of campuses, faculty, and students.

This bill also sets a troubling precedent for the legislature to continue to dictate higher education policy in later legislative sessions. HB 1437 dictates a policy currently in the process of being created and implemented by the North Dakota University System (NDUS) with the input of students such as myself and administrators across the 11 institutions. The legislature and the Governor's office should be collaborating with the Board to build higher education policy together rather than the legislature unilaterally dictating the policy of the State Board of Higher Education.

HB 1437 does not outline the process to remove faculty if they do not meet the standards established for post-tenure review. Because the bill does not include this process, the State Board of Higher Education will have to create a policy regarding this circumstance because of this bill. The solution to this problem is simple: veto this bill and allow for the State Board of Higher Education and the North Dakota University System to continue their work in their progress in creating a post-tenure review policy.

This letter was approved unanimously by the NDSA General Assembly April 5, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carter A. Gill

Vice President of Governmental Affairs

North Dakota Student Association