



NDSA-03-2526

A Resolution in Support of Protecting Cultural Diversity Waivers Across NDUS Institutions

¹**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

²**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,

³**WHEREAS**, the NDSA is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in all practices^[1]; and,

⁴**WHEREAS**, SBHE policy 820.1 both allows and encourages NDUS institutions to use additional authority on tuition waivers "to promote enrollment of a culturally diverse student body, including members of Indian tribes and economically disadvantaged students for the benefit of all students and the academic community, to promote enrollment of graduate students and research, and for other purposes consistent with an institution's mission"^[2]; and,

⁵**WHEREAS**, on January 20, 2025, Executive Order 14151 Ending Radical and Wasteful DEI Programs and Preferences was signed; and,

⁶**WHEREAS**, in recent years, NDUS institutions such as Bismarck State College (BSC)^[3] and the University of North Dakota (UND)^[4] have faced civil and legal complaints, related to cultural diversity waivers; and,

⁷**WHEREAS**, cultural diversity waivers are an important facet of creating a diverse student body, supporting diverse student experiences, and preparing NDUS students for performance in an increasingly heterogeneous environment^[5] while also increasing affordability, and;

⁸**WHEREAS**, cultural diversity waivers align with the NDSA 2025-2027 biennium legislative priorities of incentivizing students to attend NDUS institutions by increasing the affordability of the NDUS and ensuring that NDUS students are prepared to enter relevant and emerging workforce environments^[6]; and,

⁹**WHEREAS**, the NDSA has previously passed NDSA-04-2324 A Resolution in Support of NDUS Diversity Tuition Waivers^[7]; so,

¹**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NDSA is in favor of protecting the use of cultural diversity waivers across NDUS campuses, and;

²**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NDSA and NDUS continue to challenge complaints against SBHE policy-approved cultural diversity waivers across NDUS campuses, and;

³**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NDSA, NDUS, and SBHE discuss ways to safeguard NDUS cultural diversity waivers amid the current federal climate surrounding DEI initiatives.



Respectfully submitted,

Eniola Soetan

Vice President of Governmental Affairs

[1] - <https://ndsa.ndus.edu/diversity-and-inclusion-resources/>

[2] -

https://ndusbpos.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/NDUSPoliciesandProcedures/ET1PMU_B0qZLo4upTGTSxmwB9QJtlkWZmcd1tCrY5t02YA?e=NXNVFE

[3] - [https://www.kxnet.com/news/top-stories/bismarck-state-colleges-cultural-diversity-waiver-challenged-by-rhode-island-legal-](https://www.kxnet.com/news/top-stories/bismarck-state-colleges-cultural-diversity-waiver-challenged-by-rhode-island-legal-group/#:~:text=The%20Equal%20Protection%20Project%2C%20however,ND%20University%20System%20Chancellor's%20office.%E2%80%9D)

[group/#:~:text=The%20Equal%20Protection%20Project%2C%20however,ND%20University%20System%20Chancellor's%20office.%E2%80%9D](https://www.kxnet.com/news/top-stories/bismarck-state-colleges-cultural-diversity-waiver-challenged-by-rhode-island-legal-group/#:~:text=The%20Equal%20Protection%20Project%2C%20however,ND%20University%20System%20Chancellor's%20office.%E2%80%9D)

[4] - <https://equalprotect.org/case/univeristy-of-north-dakota-cultural-diversity-scholarship/>

[5] - <https://s3.cdn.ndus.edu/ndus-web/media/tuition-waiver-report-2022-23.pdf>

[6] - <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/spodintegration/index.html#>

[7] - <https://ndsa.ndus.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2024/01/A-Resolution-In-Support-of-NDUS-Diversity-Tuition-Waivers.pdf>