

SB 2242

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025
House Education Committee
Rachelle Hunt, President
Council of College Faculties

Dear Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Council of College Faculties (CCF) to express our **OPPOSITION** to Senate Bill 2242. This bill represents an overreach into the governance of higher education in North Dakota, which is constitutionally vested in the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE).

The North Dakota Constitution, through Article VIII, Section 6, provides the SBHE with broad powers over the state's institutions of higher education. Established by an initiated measure approved by voters in 1938, the SBHE is granted "control and administration of" all state institutions of higher education, both existing and future. The Constitution explicitly states that the SBHE "shall have full authority over the institutions under its control" and the power to "organize or reorganize within constitutional and statutory limitations, the work of each institution under its control, and do each and everything necessary and proper for the efficient and economic administration of said state educational institutions."

Furthermore, North Dakota Century Code § 15-10-01.2 designates the institutions under SBHE control as a unified system of higher education, known as the North Dakota University System (NDUS). This statutory framework underscores the SBHE's comprehensive authority to manage and oversee higher education in the state.

In addition, the proposed committee composition in SB 2242 lacks representation from NDUS administration, faculty, staff, and students. These stakeholders are integral to the functioning and success of our higher education institutions and should have a voting voice in any study or decision-making process affecting them.

The CCF is open to discussions about a study conducted by the SBHE, which would respect the constitutional framework and include input from all relevant stakeholders. We urge a **DO NOT PASS** for SB 2242 and support the SBHE's continued authority to govern higher education in North Dakota.

Respectfully,
Rachelle Hunt, President, Council of College Faculties