

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4034

Introduced by

Senator Christenson

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study racial issues within the North
2 Dakota public higher education system and determine what can be done to reduce or eliminate
3 racial tensions at public higher education facilities within North Dakota.

4 **WHEREAS**, it is the official policy of North Dakota, as expressed in statutes, court
5 decisions, proclamations, and other official acts of public officials that racial discrimination is
6 unlawful and unacceptable; and

7 **WHEREAS**, despite the official policy of North Dakota, racially based incidents continue
8 to occur against Native Americans and others who are attending or visiting North Dakota
9 institutions of higher education, including discriminatory acts, threats, obscene depictions and
10 gestures, and other racially based actions; and

11 **WHEREAS**, these racially based incidents degrade the quality of life in North Dakota for
12 those against whom such incidents are directed and are contrary to the purposes of institutions
13 of higher education, which should provide an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding
14 for diverse cultures and diverse ways of life; and

15 **WHEREAS**, such acts provide an atmosphere which discourages diversity in North
16 Dakota and thus act to discourage economic development in our state; and

17 **WHEREAS**, there are limited resources available at all levels of government to respond
18 to and prevent these racially motivated acts; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the state of North Dakota has an obligation to ensure that those who set
20 policy and manage its institutions of higher education have in place policies which will not
21 tolerate racially motivated incidents and which will act, over time, to reduce the likelihood that
22 such incidents take place in the future;

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**
24 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly

1 That the Legislative Council study ways to reduce racial tensions within the public
2 institutions of higher education of the state of North Dakota, including recommendations to the
3 State Board of Higher Education regarding establishment of programs and institutions the goal
4 of which would be to work toward reconciliation between cultures and racial groups present at
5 the institutions of higher education within North Dakota; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
7 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations to
8 the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly.