

Statement against HB 1446:

I encourage the committee and legislature to vote NO for HB 1446. This bill is an ill-conceived effort to decrease accountability and academic freedom in the ND state university system (NDUS). While the stated intent is to install accountability in the tenure process, it has the opposite effect in that it removes accountability in a University President. Each university and college within the NDUS has defined policies and procedures for evaluating tenured professors. There are multiple levels at which the final evaluations of all faculty are reviewed, including at the University Presidential level. If these policies are not being followed currently, then removing them will not solve the issue of accountability, but rather disguise a sitting President's ability to competently do their job in evaluating their faculty in a fair and unbiased way. Therefore, it is imperative that HB 1446 not be support and a vote "in opposition to" this bill be delivered. The far reaching legal and educational implications that would result from this bill are not worth the hassle and effort the state and its limited resources would need to endure.