



HB 1437

February 7, 2025

Carter Gill, North Dakota Student Association

(701) 388 7589 | carter.gill@ndus.edu

Chair Schauer and Members of the Committee: My name is Carter Gill and I am NDSA Vice President of Governmental Affairs. I am here today in opposition of HB 1437.

The North Dakota Student Association is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects higher education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions, meeting monthly to engage students in discussions about North Dakota higher education policy. Since 1969, our mission has been to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to provide a student perspective on higher education policy.

During the January 2025 General Assembly Meeting, the NDSA passed [NDSA-18-2425](#) which states our opposition to HB 1437. The NDSA believes that without any changes to the way the North Dakota University System contracts faculty, the removal of tenure would create uncertainty for faculty on whether their contract would be renewed or not to maintain employment. In the absence of tenure, we could see more of a revolving door at our two-year institutions, where students will be unable to build meaningful professional relationships with faculty and would also negatively impact the quality of students' education.

The NDSA also wants to acknowledge the relationship between the NDUS, State Board of Higher Education, and the North Dakota Legislature. In Article VII Section 6 of the ND Constitution, it states that the State Board of Higher Education was created for "the control and administration" of NDUS institutions, whose members are approved by members of the legislature. This is where the line for where legislature's involvement in higher education should be; with the nomination of the board's members. These board members have demonstrated to the

governor and others in the North Dakota government that they have the ability to govern our public institutions of higher education. This is especially the case with tenure. The decisions made about policy regarding tenure should be left up to the individual institutions in the best interests of faculty and students.

I understand that there is a proposed amendment regarding HB 1437 that would reflect the autonomy of the SBHE by leaving the policy on tenure up to both the SBHE and the 11 NDUS institutions.

On behalf of the North Dakota Student Association, I ask that this committee gives HB 1437 as it stands a DO NOT PASS recommendation and in support of the proposed amendments.