

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee-

As the President stated my name is Luke Brodeur, Student Body President at NDSU. We felt that it's important that you hear the students' perspective on the findings of this audit seeing as it is our dollars being spent and us as students being affected.

There is no question that procedures for use of institutional dollars can constantly be improved. And the points made in this report certainly point out legitimate concerns about mistakes that were made and draw attention to those areas that must be evaluated. However, as has been pointed out several times within the report, those efforts are well underway. Furthermore, I think it's important for you to know that we as students are directly and constantly involved in discussions about accountability.

A few examples of our involvement would include the creation of the Student Fee Advisory Board, which was largely initiated by our Student Government and of which student members make up the majority. Additionally, when discussions arose about the newly adopted Student Success Tuition Model, our Student Senate put significant energy into discussing and questioning its effect on the student body, and ultimately supported the initiative. Finally, I would point to our Student Activity Fee, which is wholly monitored and allocated by our Student Government. In fact, as Finance Commissioner for Student Government last year, my entire responsibility was the oversight of the Student Activity Fee and all other cost of education issues.

The amount of effort that our student leadership puts into supervision of these financial affairs is why it was especially disheartening that we were never approached directly while this audit was being conducted. A fact that is especially troubling given that each year our student leadership attends a nationwide Student Government conference, and each year learn more and more that Student Government at NDSU has more knowledge and involvement with cost of education issues than almost all other Student Governments from across the country that we meet with.

Please know that we as student leaders are dedicated to continued diligence in looking out for the best interests of our fellow students, especially concerning these important issues of how our dollars are being spent.