

Cam Knutson

Presentation at the State Legislature's Higher Education Interim Meeting

Hello everyone my name is Cam Knutson, and I'm the Student Body President at North Dakota State University. I'm currently a senior majoring in Zoology pre-med from right here in Bismarck, North Dakota.

I want to speak briefly right now about the problems we are having with the current funding model for higher education in North Dakota. Now as I said I go to NDSU and it is a great school that my peers and I are proud to call home.

However, every FTE student at NDSU receives less than half the amount of funding from the state compared to their peers at neighboring North Dakota institutions. For the majority of the last decade, we have ranked second to last in funding per FTE student.

The question I bring forth on behalf of my students today is why should students be penalized for choosing to attend NDSU?

One may think that being funded at our level may mean that NDSU's education offering is less than that of the other institutions in the state. Yet, we all know this is not a truth.

The funding model that Higher Education in North Dakota has been using the past decade, forced NDSU to make cuts to programs and services and recently forced an increase in tuition for our students.

The unfairness in this funding formula is made even worse when you consider that 95% of NDSU students physically attend classes on campus versus as little as 5% in face-to-face traditional classes at other NDUS schools.

Unfortunately, the trend line for NDSU only indicates the problem will continue to get worse.

I ask you all to not let a great institution of learning and economic growth continue to wither under an unfair and inequitable funding mechanism. The current funding method does not have to be this way.

I'm aware that there have been some decisions and events made at NDSU these last few years that have undermined your trust. But the fact is, NDSU is a great institution of higher learning and does an outstanding job preparing our youth to compete in a global economy.

Do not punish the current and future NDSU students for the mistakes made in the past.

We look to your leadership to fix the funding problems now before it gets worse. We would be more than happy to help out in the process any way that we could and are eager to bring fairness to all in our state.

Thank you.

MAY 2011

SR

A Resolution Pertaining to Tuition and North Dakota State University's Future

Whereas, the students of North Dakota State University (NDSU) expect fairness in the dispersion of state funds to the North Dakota University System, and,

Whereas, NDSU desires to benefit the state by fulfilling its mission as the state's land grant institution, and,

Whereas, NDSU has grown over the last decade to become North Dakota's largest university, and,

Whereas, recent achievements in academics and research have proven NDSU's potential to become one of the top academic institutions in the country, and,

Whereas, funding inadequacies from the state of North Dakota have jeopardized NDSU's ability to continue to improve at all levels, and,

Whereas, the students of NDSU are outraged about the unacceptable amount of disparity between general fund spending per student at NDSU versus other state institutions, and,

Whereas, as an example, University of North Dakota, which despite having less students than NDSU, still received \$16.5 million more in state funding last biennium, and,

Whereas, as a further example, a student at Valley City State University received \$9,144 in state funding per student versus a student at NDSU which received \$4,286 in state funding last biennium, and,

Whereas, this trend has been continuing over the last decade and must stop, and,

Whereas, in the last year alone NDSU has gone through a 10% funding cut across all academic budgets and a 19% funding cut from other non academic programs pushing NDSU to a point where core academic programs and student services are all that are left to remove, and,

Whereas, the decisions made by the 2011 Legislative Assembly have resulted in a continued inequitable funding model for NDSU, and,

Whereas, the passage of HB1003 directs the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) to allocate a total of \$15.2 million in equity and tuition assistance across the university system, and,

Whereas, the SBHE now has the opportunity to provide an equitable funding solution to NDSU and the university system, and,

Whereas, it is the SBHE's constitutional duty to fairly fund North Dakota's institutions of higher education, and,

Whereas, the students have the right to hold the SBHE responsible for upholding their constitutional responsibilities, and,

Whereas, while it is unacceptable that the SBHE is considering to fund NDSU at a level that is inequitable in every way, it is even more unacceptable to consider the potential losses of academic programs and services that ultimately define our University, therefore be it,

Resolved, the Student Body of NDSU implores the SBHE to allocate the said \$15.2 million in a manner that resolves the university system's inequitable funding allocations and closes the gap on the disparity of state funds per FTE between institutions in the university system, and,

Resolved, that we, the students of NDSU will not tolerate nor settle for any sort of cutbacks to critical programs and services or decreases to our quality of education, and be it further,

Resolved, students are prepared to make the necessary sacrifices and support a tuition increase up to the amount that ensures our quality of education does not suffer and that our university continues to succeed, and be it further,

Resolved, that the students of NDSU will pursue the issue of state funding inadequacies and will continue to work towards a financial solution that is equitable to the North Dakota higher education system.

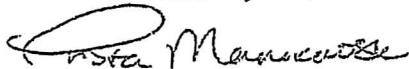
Respectfully Submitted,



Cam Knutson  
Student Body President



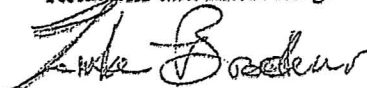
Keenan Hauff  
Student Body Vice President



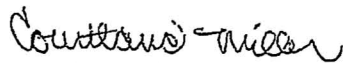
Trista Manikowske  
President of the Graduate Student  
Association



Tyler Leverington  
Executive Commissioner of Governmental  
Relations and Intercollegiate Affairs



Luke Brodeur  
Executive Commissioner of Finance



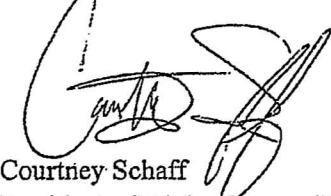
Courtland Miller

President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity



Jace Beehler

Blue Key National Honor Society President



Courtney Schaff

President of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority



Michael Fairbairn

Former NDSU Football Captain



Levi Hall

Former Bison Ambassadors President



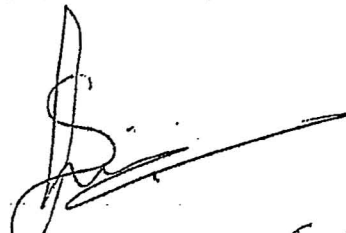
Tyler Johnson

Vice President of the Student Athlete  
Advisory Council



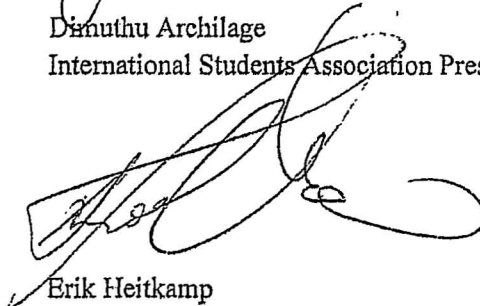
Abby Plucker

President of the Student Athlete Advisory  
Council



Dinuthu Archilage

International Students Association President



Erik Heitkamp

President of the American Medical Student  
Association



Mike Hurkes

President of Tesseract  
Resident Assistant



Aimee Sugden

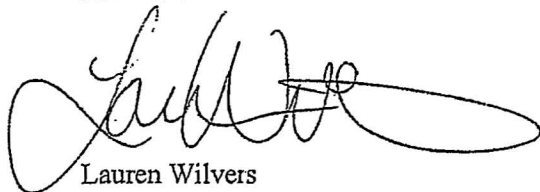
Executive Commissioner of Public Relations



Jacob Williams  
Assistant Executive Commissioner of Public  
Relations



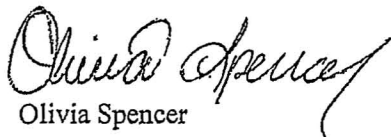
Rachel Black  
Off Campus Senator



Lauren Wilvers  
Executive Commissioner of the Congress of  
Student Organizations



Matt Zimmerman  
Campus Attractions President



Olivia Spencer  
Administrative Assistant



Matt Katzenmaier  
President of the Inner Fraternity Council



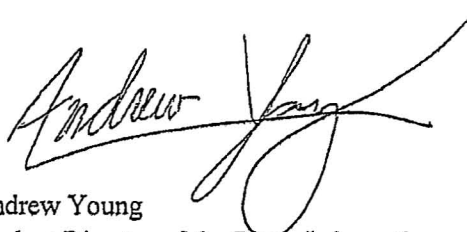
Chris Nelson  
Executive Commissioner of Technology



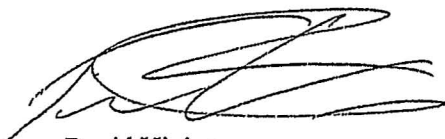
Mike Paolini  
Executive Commissioner of Academic and  
Student Affairs




Zach Peterson  
Engineering and Architecture



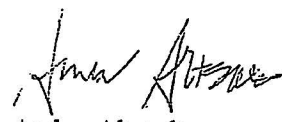
Andrew Young  
Student Director of the Bison Information  
Network



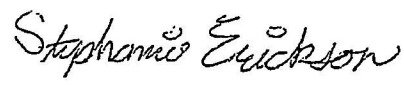
David Vining  
University Apartments



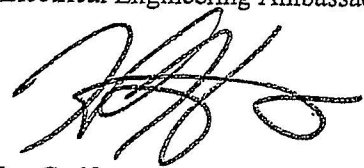
Jeff Silvers  
President of the Accounting Club




Amber Altstadt  
Former Student Body President



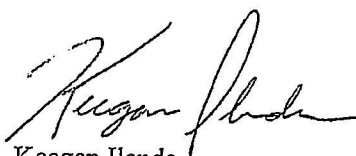
Stephanie Erickson  
Electrical Engineering Ambassadors




Ian Godfrey  
Senator for Off-Campus Senator



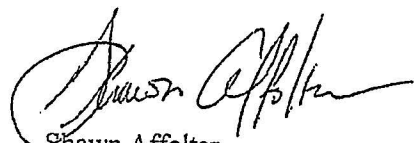
Ian Hall  
Senator for Agriculture, Food Systems, and  
Natural Resources



Keegan Ilenda  
Resident Hall Association President



Kevin Black  
Former Student Body President



Shawn Affolter  
Former Student Body Vice President

August 2011

**HIGHER EDUCATION GENERAL FUND PER STUDENT COSTS**

The following tables provide information regarding the per student costs of operations funding provided from the general fund to North Dakota University System institutions:

	2001-03 Biennium			2003-05 Biennium			2005-07 Biennium		
	Operations - General Fund <sup>1</sup>	FTE Enrollment <sup>2</sup>	Cost Per FTE Student	Operations - General Fund <sup>1</sup>	FTE Enrollment <sup>2</sup>	Cost Per FTE Student	Operations - General Fund <sup>1</sup>	FTE Enrollment <sup>2</sup>	Cost Per FTE Student
Bismarck State College	\$15,800,887	4,704	\$3,359	\$16,112,327	5,200	\$3,099	\$16,865,548	5,253	\$3,211
Lake Region State College	\$5,032,456	1,264	\$3,981	\$5,032,682	1,385	\$3,634	\$5,389,989	1,488	\$3,622
Williston State College	\$5,424,874	1,190	\$4,559	\$5,436,977	1,324	\$4,106	\$5,752,997	1,350	\$4,261
University of North Dakota	\$86,740,336	18,914	\$4,586	\$86,862,537	20,858	\$4,164	\$92,551,602	21,241	\$4,357
UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences	\$30,212,510	1,450 <sup>3</sup>	\$20,836	\$30,165,865	1,400 <sup>3</sup>	\$21,547	\$31,361,002	1,671 <sup>3</sup>	\$18,768
North Dakota State University	\$68,412,865	18,424	\$3,713	\$71,444,066	19,774	\$3,613	\$75,804,650	21,642	\$3,503
State College of Science	\$24,247,302	4,218	\$5,749	\$23,869,431	4,306	\$5,543	\$24,986,828	4,394	\$5,687
Dickinson State University	\$13,860,931	3,455	\$4,012	\$13,669,533	3,774	\$3,622	\$14,711,627	4,090	\$3,597
Mayville State University	\$8,515,748	1,236	\$6,890	\$8,602,335	1,370	\$6,279	\$9,003,630	1,374	\$6,553
Minot State University	\$26,061,907	5,528	\$4,715	\$25,890,346	5,684	\$4,555	\$27,215,849	5,991	\$4,543
Valley City State University	\$11,365,513	1,705	\$6,666	\$11,304,672	1,720	\$6,572	\$11,806,526	1,743	\$6,774
Dakota College at Bottineau	\$4,137,614	836	\$4,949	\$4,102,856	862	\$4,760	\$4,334,460	785	\$5,522

<sup>1</sup>The amounts reported include the institutions' share of funding pools appropriated to the University System office. The amounts do not include appropriations for extraordinary repairs and major capital projects.

<sup>2</sup>The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment reported is the total FTE enrollment reported for the corresponding fall semesters for the biennium.

	2007-09 Biennium			2009-11 Biennium			2011-13 Biennium		
	Operations - General Fund <sup>1</sup>	FTE Enrollment <sup>2</sup>	Cost Per FTE Student	Operations - General Fund <sup>1</sup>	FTE Enrollment <sup>2</sup>	Cost Per FTE Student	Operations - General Fund <sup>1</sup>	Estimated FTE Enrollment <sup>4</sup>	Cost Per FTE Student
Bismarck State College	\$19,733,680	5,729	\$3,445	\$24,204,005	6,368	\$3,801	\$27,628,314	6,707	\$4,119
Lake Region State College	\$6,511,348	1,548	\$4,206	\$7,956,210	1,789	\$4,447	\$9,003,614	1,780	\$5,058
Williston State College	\$6,622,504	1,113	\$5,950	\$7,696,999	1,143	\$6,734	\$8,849,685	1,170	\$7,564
University of North Dakota	\$107,011,830	20,531	\$5,212	\$125,036,783	21,647	\$5,776	\$140,457,484	22,475 <sup>5</sup>	\$6,249
UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences	\$34,488,501	1,573 <sup>3</sup>	\$21,925	\$41,115,401	1,677 <sup>3</sup>	\$24,517	\$47,747,971	1,744 <sup>5</sup>	\$27,378
North Dakota State University	\$89,593,630	23,015	\$3,893	\$108,367,622	25,285	\$4,286	\$125,015,305	25,416	\$4,919
State College of Science	\$27,740,368	4,138	\$6,704	\$31,607,155	4,293	\$7,362	\$34,320,009	4,567	\$7,515
Dickinson State University	\$16,856,110	4,452	\$3,786	\$21,223,737	4,255	\$4,988	\$22,383,539	4,199	\$5,331
Mayville State University	\$10,115,065	1,149	\$8,803	\$11,629,616	1,366	\$8,514	\$12,775,787	1,627	\$7,852
Minot State University	\$30,095,122	5,450	\$5,522	\$34,623,707	5,834	\$5,935	\$37,838,974	6,071	\$6,233
Valley City State University	\$13,350,137	1,630	\$8,190	\$16,368,001	1,790	\$9,144	\$17,694,741	1,900	\$9,313
Dakota College at Bottineau	\$4,759,548	842	\$5,652	\$5,862,372	1,030	\$5,692	\$6,489,750	1,012	\$6,413

<sup>1</sup>The amounts reported include the institutions' share of funding pools appropriated to the University System office. The amounts do not include appropriations for extraordinary repairs and major capital projects.

<sup>2</sup>The FTE enrollment reported is the total biennial FTE enrollment reported for the corresponding fall semesters for each year of the biennium.

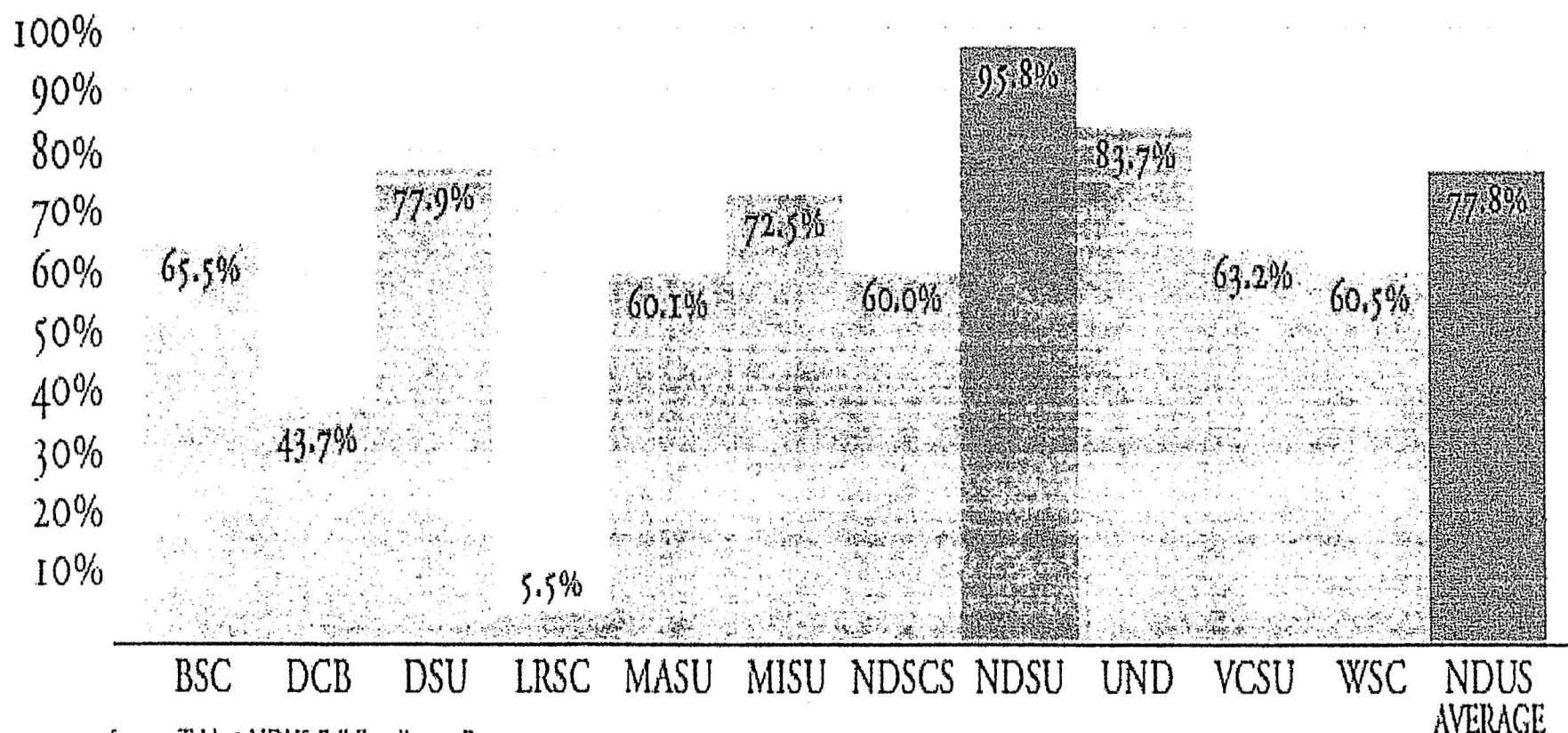
<sup>3</sup>The enrollment for the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences is based on the FTE of total credit-hours of students enrolled at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences during the corresponding fall semesters for each year of the biennium.

<sup>4</sup>The FTE enrollment reported is based on the estimated 2011-13 biennium FTE enrollment reported for the corresponding fall semesters for each year of the biennium as reported by the University System office in December 2010.

<sup>5</sup>The estimated enrollment for UND and the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences is based on the assumption that 7.2 percent of the total FTE enrollment for UND is students at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

## FACE-TO-FACE FALL 2010 ON-CAMPUS PERCENTAGES

PERCENTAGE OF DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS IN A TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT  
AT NDSU, 13,798 OF 14,407 STUDENTS ARE FACE-TO-FACE  
WITH FACULTY IN TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM SETTINGS.



Source: Table 9 NDUS Fall Enrollment Report