

**Statement Against Proposed Senate Bill 2247
Relating to Specified Concepts at Institutions of Higher Education**

[Senate Bill 2247](#) intends to prohibit any nondiscrimination training (seminar, workshop, or orientation) of students and faculty if it mentions a so-called “divisive concept” (in the amended version of the bill, “a specified concept”) of race, religion, sex, ethnicity, or gender.

Any restrictions placed on nondiscrimination training, credit or noncredit, may still have a chilling effect on the curriculum. Although Section 15-10.6-05 of the amended bill includes protections for free speech and academic freedom, and excludes “nondiscrimination requirements of federal or state law” from the ban, Section 15-10.6-03.1.b of SB 2247 prohibiting “a noncredit earning training for a student or employee if the program or material includes a specified concept” would apply to any nondiscrimination training that is not federally or state mandated. It would, moreover, counter the requirement for diversity officers “to strengthen and increase intellectual diversity” stipulated in Section 15-10.6-03.2.

The State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) officially opposes SB 2247. According to Article VIII. Education, [Section 6.6.b](#) of the North Dakota Constitution, the “state board of higher education shall have full authority over the institutions under its control [...].”

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) of North Dakota State University upholds the subsidiary power of the SBHE. Further, the FSEC opposes this bill and strongly urges Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee to vote **DO NOT PASS on SB 2247**.

Approved by the Voting Members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on March 6, 2023.

Dr. Anastasiya Andrianova, *Faculty Senate President*

Dr. Florin Salajan, *Faculty Senate Past President*

Dr. Warren Christensen, *Faculty Senate President-Elect*

Dr. Eric Berg, *College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources*

Dr. Pamela Emanuelson, *College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences*

Dr. David Hong, *College of Business*

Dr. Jerry Gao, *College of Engineering*

Dr. Karla Haug, *College of Health Professions*

Dr. Ryan McGrath, *College of Human Sciences and Education*

Dr. Mila Kryjevskaja, *College of Science and Mathematics*