

**2025 SENATE EDUCATION**

**SB 2242**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2242  
1/28/2025

Relating to institutions of higher education.
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10:30 a.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt, and Wobbema.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Committee appointed by legislative management
- Dual credit expansion

10:30 a.m. Senator Myrdal, District 19, introduced the bill and testified in favor.

10:34 a.m. Marit Heidbreder, ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, testified in favor and submitted testimony #32023.

10:39 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*



### Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2242

Marit Heidbreder  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
January 28, 2025

Dear Chairman Beard and honorable members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Marit Heidbreder and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action in support of Senate Bill 2242 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Senate Bill 2242 creates an opportunity to study the state of higher education in North Dakota with an aim to promote efficiency, increase collaboration among state institutions, expand dual credit options for high school students, and consider developing shorter three-year bachelor degree programs. We strongly support this effort to join numerous other states in helping students reach their goalposts sooner by maximizing dual credit opportunities in high school thus likely reducing their potential college debt and diminishing the timeframe required for them to fully enter the workforce.

Dual credit is widely recognized to create a smoother transition from high school to college, increase college completion rates, and reduce college costs. These are all desired outcomes which can greatly benefit North Dakotans.

Currently in ND, if a high schooler wants to take dual credit classes, they and their parents are responsible to pay 100% of the tuition, fees, and books<sup>1</sup> to the credit-granting institution (albeit the cost may be slightly reduced from retail depending on the institution). On the other hand, next door in MN, since 1985 they have offered high school students the Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program<sup>2</sup> which provides dual credit classes through various participating public and private state colleges and universities but there is no charge to PSEO students for tuition, books, or fees<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/education-programs/academic-support-programs/dual-credit>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/124d.09>

<sup>3</sup> <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/dual/pseo>

There is clearly a night and day difference between our two states in this area. ND asks parents to be financially prepared to bear the full weight of college tuition earlier than usual if families would like their child to participate in dual credit courses, whereas MN makes it financially feasible for EVERY family with a motivated high schooler to take advantage of dual credit offerings. In fact, it is not uncommon for MN high schoolers to graduate with both their high school diploma and their two-year associate's degree simultaneously.<sup>4</sup> That option moves the goalposts of a four-year degree much closer and is a very efficient use of their time! It bears mentioning that this also makes the possibility of an advanced degree more viable for students.

ND is not MN and I'm truly thankful for that, however, there are things we can glean in this area from our neighbors to the East. Is there a middle ground possible between all cost and no cost to the dual credit student's family?

The legislative study proposed in Senate Bill 2242 could consider zero-cost opportunities like Modern States program called *Freshman Year for Free*<sup>5</sup> which some states and school districts have incorporated with their high school curriculum and utilizes College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits which the NDUS system already accepts<sup>6</sup> to help deliver both high-school and college credit to their students. Jefferson Pestronk, the Executive Director of Modern States, notes "The cost of U.S. higher education has increased by 180% since 1980, far outpacing income growth. There is more than \$1.7 trillion dollars in student loan debt, and even students attending public universities – long understood as affordable – borrow an average of \$32,362 to attain a bachelor's degree."<sup>7</sup>

North Dakota's students deserve our best efforts to identify avenues which allow them to achieve their goals efficiently and successfully so they will hopefully choose to stay in our state to join the workforce and raise their own families.

For all these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action asks that you please render a "DO PASS" on Senate Bill 2242. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, I will gladly stand for any questions.

Marit Heidbreder  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fairmontsentinel.com/news/local-news/2022/05/14/fhs-seniors-graduate-with-aa-degree/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://modernstates.org/freshman-year-free/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ndus.edu/download/1518/gerta-cbe/22355/cbe-chart-2024.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.edtechdigest.com/2025/01/27/for-37-million-people-a-beacon-of-hope/>

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2242  
2/5/2025

Relating to institutions of higher education.
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2:31 p.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt, and Wobbema.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

2:31 p.m. Senator Boschee moved to adopt Amendment #25.0971.01001.

2:31 p.m. Senator Axtmann seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

2:36 p.m. Senator Wobbema moved Do Pass as amended.

2:36 p.m. Senator Axtman seconded the motion

Senators	Vote
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

Senator Boschee will carry the bill.

2:40 p.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*

February 5, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2242**

Introduced by

Senators Myrdal, Paulson, Wobbema

Representatives D. Johnston, S. Olson, Motschenbacher

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study relating to institutions of higher  
2 education.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER**  
5 **EDUCATION.**

- 6 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the  
7 institutions of higher education under the control of the state board of higher  
8 education. The study must include:  
9 a. Methods to promote efficiency and collaboration among state institutions;  
10 b. Consideration of statewide dual-credit expansion to develop standard three-year  
11 bachelor degree programs;  
12 c. An analysis of the cost of tuition and fees for students;  
13 d. Consideration of the feasibility and desirability of a system of uniform transcripts  
14 and the waiver of fees to transfer credits within the state higher education  
15 system; and  
16 e. Consideration of the feasibility and desirability of consolidating colleges and  
17 universities and implementing satellite campuses of universities.  
18 2. If selected, the legislative management shall appoint a committee for this study as  
19 follows:

- 1 a. The voting members of the committee, who must be appointed by the legislative  
2 management, are:
  - 3 (1) Three members of the senate, two from the party with the largest number of  
4 members in the senate and one from the party with the second largest  
5 number of members in the senate;
  - 6 (2) Three members of the house of representatives, two from the party with the  
7 largest number of members in the house of representatives and one from  
8 the party with the second largest number of members in the house of  
9 representatives; and
  - 10 (3) One member of the legislative assembly to serve as the committee  
11 chairman.
- 12 b. The nonvoting members of the committee are:
  - 13 (1) The chairman of the state board of higher education;
  - 14 (2) The chancellor of the North Dakota university system, or the chancellor's  
15 designee;
  - 16 (3) One representative of kindergarten through grade twelve education; and  
17 ~~(3)~~(4) One representative each of the manufacturing, health care, agriculture, and  
18 energy industries.
- 19 3. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together  
20 with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth  
21 legislative assembly.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2242**

**Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0971.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2242 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



**2025 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**SB 2242**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2242  
3/5/2025

Relating to institutions of higher education.
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1:59 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

### Discussion Topics:

- Efficiency and expansion of services
- Satellite Campuses
- Individuality and uniqueness of campuses
- Student Fees
- Student Participation

1:59 p.m. Senator Myrdal introduced the bill.

2:08 p.m. Carter Gill, Vice President of Governmental Affairs, NDSU, testified in opposition and submitted testimony. #38929

2:16 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

2:16 p.m. Vice Chair Schreiber- Beck proposed to add one student to the board and well as adding research competitiveness and quality of education.

2:18 p.m. Representative Marschall seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 14-0-0

2:26 p.m. Representative Hager proposed changing the number of people on the board.

2:26 p.m. Motion failed for lack of second.

2:28 p.m. Vice Chair Schriber- Beck moved a Do Pass as amended.

2:28 p.m. Representative Jonas seconded the motion.

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	N
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 13-1-0

Bill Carrier: Representative Heilman

**Additional written testimony:**

Zarrina Azizova, University Senate Chair, UND, submitted testimony in opposition. #38714

Marit Heidbreder, Lobbyist, ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, submitted testimony in favor.  
#38786

Rachelle Hunt, President Council of College Facilities, submitted testimony in opposition.  
#38870

Katherine Kempel, Governmental Affairs Commissioner, UND Student Government, submitted  
testimony in opposition. 338918

2:30 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

*Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk*

March 5, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO  
FIRST ENGROSSMENT**

3.5.25  
JLB 1 of 2

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2242**

Introduced by

Senators Myrdal, Paulson, Wobbema

Representatives D. Johnston, S. Olson, Motschenbacher

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a legislative management study relating to institutions of higher  
2 education.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER**  
5 **EDUCATION.**

- 6 1. During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall consider studying the  
7 institutions of higher education under the control of the state board of higher  
8 education. The study must include:
- 9 a. Methods to promote efficiency and collaboration among state institutions;
  - 10 b. Consideration of statewide dual-credit expansion to develop standard three-year  
11 bachelor degree programs;
  - 12 c. An analysis of the cost of tuition and fees for students;
  - 13 d. Consideration of the feasibility and desirability of a system of uniform transcripts  
14 and the waiver of fees to transfer credits within the state higher education  
15 system; ~~and~~
  - 16 e. Consideration of the feasibility and desirability of consolidating colleges and  
17 universities and implementing satellite campuses of universities;
  - 18 f. Research on the competitiveness among state institutions; and
  - 19 g. An analysis of the quality of education provided at each state institution.

- 1        2. If selected, the legislative management shall appoint a committee for this study as
- 2        follows:
- 3        a. The voting members of the committee, who must be appointed by the legislative
- 4        management, are:
- 5            (1) Three members of the senate, two from the party with the largest number of
- 6            members in the senate and one from the party with the second largest
- 7            number of members in the senate;
- 8            (2) Three members of the house of representatives, two from the party with the
- 9            largest number of members in the house of representatives and one from
- 10          the party with the second largest number of members in the house of
- 11          representatives; and
- 12          (3) One member of the legislative assembly to serve as the committee
- 13          chairman.
- 14        b. The nonvoting members of the committee are:
- 15            (1) The chairman of the state board of higher education;
- 16            (2) The student representative of the state board of higher education;
- 17            ~~(3)~~ The chancellor of the North Dakota university system, or the chancellor's
- 18            designee;
- 19            ~~(3)~~(4) One representative of kindergarten through grade twelve education; and
- 20            ~~(4)~~(5) One representative each of the manufacturing, health care, agriculture, and
- 21            energy industries.
- 22        3. The legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together
- 23        with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the seventieth
- 24        legislative assembly.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2242**

**Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0971.02001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2242 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

To: Chair Heinert and the Education Committee  
From: The University Senate of the University of North Dakota  
**Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 2242**  
Date: March 4, 2025

Dear Chair Heinert and Members of the Education Committee,

I am Zarrina Azizova, an Associate Professor of Higher Education and Chair of the University Senate at the University of North Dakota. On behalf of UND's University Senate, I write to express ***our opposition to SB 2242*** that proposes a legislative management study on institutions of higher education in North Dakota.

First and foremost, if a study is needed, it should be initiated and conducted by the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE). The North Dakota Constitution provides the SBHE with broad powers and specifies that the SBHE retains any powers it does not explicitly delegate to the institutions. Specifically, the SBHE was established by an initiated measure approved by the voters in 1938 (now Art. VIII, § 6 of the North Dakota Constitution). Art. VIII, §6 states the SBHE “shall have the control and administration of” all of the state institutions established in the state constitution at that time and “such other state institutions of higher education as may hereafter be established.” Further, the SBHE “shall have full authority over the institutions under its control” and “full authority to organize or reorganize within constitutional and statutory limitations, the work of each institution under its control, and do each and everything necessary and proper for the efficient and economic administration of said state educational institutions” (See also NDCC § 15-10-01.2).

SB 2242 proposes an expansive study that includes: (1) Exploring institutional consolidation and satellite campuses; (2) Standardizing three-year degree programs; (3) Reviewing tuition and fee structures; and (3) Evaluating transcript uniformity and credit transfer policies. Each of these areas requires careful consideration of diverse institutional missions, accreditation standards, faculty governance, student learning, student success outcomes, workforce demands, to name a few. Without input from higher education leaders and experts, there is a significant risk that the study's recommendations may be misaligned with best practices or fail to account for the operational and academic realities of colleges and universities in our state.

Additionally, institutional consolidation and curricular restructuring have long-term consequences that must be thoroughly examined with input from faculty, students, and institutional leadership. Any changes to tuition models, degree structures, or credit transfer policies must be implemented with a deep understanding of student needs and institutional shared governance models. The current committee composition of SB 2242 does not guarantee such expertise in decision-making. In other words, while we recognize the value of assessing and improving the state's higher education system, we have significant concerns about the committee composition and a potentially adverse impact of this study on higher education of the state. To reiterate, our two major concerns are:

1. **Legislative Overreach and Lack of Higher Education Representation & Voting Privileges.** The SBHE and the NDUS already oversee higher education policy and strategic planning. It is unclear why this study cannot be conducted within the existing governance structure rather than by a politically appointed committee. Additionally, SB 2242 excludes representatives from North Dakota's higher education institutions while assigning decision-making power to elected officials without clear justification for why lawmakers—rather than those who work directly in higher education—should determine strategies for institutional efficiency, curriculum development, and potential consolidation. Although the committee includes representatives from higher education—such as the chair of the SBHE and the chancellor of the North Dakota University System (NDUS)—they are relegated to nonvoting roles and given the same level of representation as K-12 education and industry. Decisions about higher education should be informed by those with academic expertise in curricular development, institutional operations, student success, accreditation requirements, and governance. The absence of higher education representatives as voting members suggests that political considerations, rather than educational expertise, may drive the study's recommendations.
2. **Overlooking Higher Education Expertise.** SB 2242, as written, diminishes the role of higher education experts in shaping the future of North Dakota's universities and colleges. Higher education institutions have long engaged in internal strategic planning, efficiency reviews, and curriculum development. If the goal is to enhance collaboration, affordability, and institutional effectiveness, those with firsthand experience in higher education should be leading the study, not merely providing nonvoting input. Additional representation from different types of institutions across the state should be considered as it would ensure a broader, more informed and data-driven perspective in shaping the future of North Dakota's higher education system.

We strongly urge the committee to evaluate whether such a study should be conducted by the existing governance structures, such as the SBHE and the NDUS. We believe that, as a politically appointed body, the SBHE will represent the views and concerns of the taxpayers of North Dakota. We are also certain that the long-term success of North Dakota's universities and colleges depends on policies and decisions that uphold higher education expertise, broader academic representation in governance decisions, institutional autonomy, academic quality, and student success.

For these reasons, **we urge a DO NOT PASS recommendation on SB 2242.**

Respectfully submitted,

Zarrina Azizova, Ph.D.

2024-2025 Chair, University Senate of the University of North Dakota





## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2242

Marit Heidbreder  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action  
March 5, 2025

Dear Chairman Heinert and honorable members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Marit Heidbreder and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action in support of Senate Bill 2242 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Senate Bill 2242 creates an opportunity to study the state of higher education in North Dakota with an aim to promote efficiency, increase collaboration among state institutions, expand dual credit options for high school students, and consider developing shorter three-year bachelor degree programs. We strongly support this effort to join numerous other states in helping students reach their goalposts sooner by maximizing dual credit opportunities in high school thus likely reducing their potential college debt and diminishing the timeframe required for them to fully enter the workforce.

Dual credit is widely recognized to create a smoother transition from high school to college, increase college completion rates, and reduce college costs. These are all desired outcomes which can greatly benefit North Dakotans.

Currently in ND, if a high schooler wants to take dual credit classes, they and their parents are responsible to pay 100% of the tuition, fees, and books<sup>1</sup> to the credit-granting institution (albeit the cost may be slightly reduced from retail depending on the institution). On the other hand, next door in MN, since 1985 they have offered high school students the Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program<sup>2</sup> which provides dual credit classes through various participating public and private state colleges and universities but there is no charge to PSEO students for tuition, books, or fees<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/education-programs/academic-support-programs/dual-credit>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/124d.09>

<sup>3</sup> <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/dual/pseo>

There is clearly a night and day difference between our two states in this area. ND asks parents to be financially prepared to bear the full weight of college tuition earlier than usual if families would like their child to participate in dual credit courses, whereas MN makes it financially feasible for *EVERY* family with a motivated high schooler to take advantage of dual credit offerings. In fact, it is not uncommon for MN high schoolers to graduate with both their high school diploma and their two-year associate's degree simultaneously.<sup>4</sup> That option moves the goalposts of a four-year degree much closer and is a very efficient use of their time! It bears mentioning that this also makes the possibility of an advanced degree more viable for students.

ND is not MN and I'm truly thankful for that, however, there are things we can glean in this area from our neighbors to the East. Is there a middle ground possible between all cost and no cost to the dual credit student's family?

The legislative study proposed in Senate Bill 2242 could consider zero-cost opportunities like Modern States program called *Freshman Year for Free*<sup>5</sup> which some states and school districts have incorporated with their high school curriculum and utilizes College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits which the NDUS system already accepts<sup>6</sup> to help deliver both high-school and college credit to their students. Jefferson Pestronk, the Executive Director of Modern States notes, "The cost of U.S. higher education has increased by 180% since 1980, far outpacing income growth. There is more than \$1.7 trillion dollars in student loan debt, and even students attending public universities – long understood as affordable – borrow an average of \$32,362 to attain a bachelor's degree."<sup>7</sup>

North Dakota's students deserve our best efforts to identify avenues which allow them to achieve their goals efficiently and successfully so they will hopefully choose to stay in our state to join the workforce and raise their own families.

For all these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action asks that you please render a "DO PASS" on Senate Bill 2242. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Marit Heidbreder  
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fairmontsentinel.com/news/local-news/2022/05/14/fhs-seniors-graduate-with-aa-degree/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://modernstates.org/freshman-year-free/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ndus.edu/download/1518/gerta-cbe/22355/cbe-chart-2024.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.edtechdigest.com/2025/01/27/for-37-million-people-a-beacon-of-hope/>

**SB 2242**

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

House Education Committee

Rachelle Hunt, President

Council of College Faculties

Dear Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Council of College Faculties (CCF) to express our **OPPOSITION** to Senate Bill 2242. This bill represents an overreach into the governance of higher education in North Dakota, which is constitutionally vested in the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE).

The North Dakota Constitution, through Article VIII, Section 6, provides the SBHE with broad powers over the state's institutions of higher education. Established by an initiated measure approved by voters in 1938, the SBHE is granted "control and administration of" all state institutions of higher education, both existing and future. The Constitution explicitly states that the SBHE "shall have full authority over the institutions under its control" and the power to "organize or reorganize within constitutional and statutory limitations, the work of each institution under its control, and do each and everything necessary and proper for the efficient and economic administration of said state educational institutions."

Furthermore, North Dakota Century Code § 15-10-01.2 designates the institutions under SBHE control as a unified system of higher education, known as the North Dakota University System (NDUS). This statutory framework underscores the SBHE's comprehensive authority to manage and oversee higher education in the state.

In addition, the proposed committee composition in SB 2242 lacks representation from NDUS administration, faculty, staff, and students. These stakeholders are integral to the functioning and success of our higher education institutions and should have a voting voice in any study or decision-making process affecting them.

The CCF is open to discussions about a study conducted by the SBHE, which would respect the constitutional framework and include input from all relevant stakeholders. We urge a **DO NOT PASS** for SB 2242 and support the SBHE's continued authority to govern higher education in North Dakota.

Respectfully,

Rachelle Hunt, President, Council of College Faculties



**Katherine Kempel** | Governmental Affairs Commissioner  
[Katherine.kempel@und.edu](mailto:Katherine.kempel@und.edu)

**Senate Bill 2242**  
**House Education Committee**  
**March 5, 2025**

Chairman Heinert and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Katherine Kempel, and I serve as the Governmental Affairs Commissioner for the University of North Dakota's (UND) Student Government. I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 2242, relating to providing a legislative management study relating to institutions of higher education.

UND's Student Government has identified two primary areas of concern within this bill including lack of student representation and the inclusion of student fees within this study.

1. Subsection 1.b. of this bill states that the study must include an analysis of the cost of tuition and fees for students. State Board of Higher Education Policy 805.3 relating to fees currently outlines the involvement of either an institution's student body or its elected representative body in establishing the amount and potential increases in student fees.<sup>1</sup> At UND, students are heavily involved in the process of determining the allocation of student fees. The duty of analyzing and reviewing the usage of fees paid by students at each institution should follow current policy and remain within the institutions. Because of this, we recommend that the cost of fees for students be removed from this analysis.
2. UND's Student Government is also concerned about the lack of student representation on this proposed committee that has the potential to significantly impact the direction of higher education in North Dakota. To account for this, we recommend that the Student Member of the State Board of Higher Education be included as a nonvoting member of this committee.

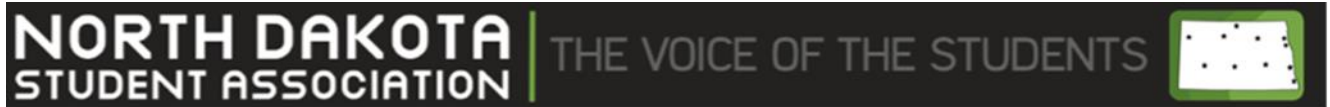
Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, I respectfully request a Do Not Pass recommendation on SB 2242 as written. Thank you for your time, and I am available to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Kempel

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ndus.edu/sbhe-overview/sbhe-policies/800-heading-policies/>

**SB 2242**

March 5, 2025

Carter Gill, North Dakota Student Association

(701) 388-7589 | [carter.gill@ndus.edu](mailto:carter.gill@ndus.edu)

Chair Heinert and Members of the Committee: My name is Carter Gill and I am Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the North Dakota Student Association. I am here today in opposition to SB 2242.

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.

Regarding the majority of this bill, the NDSA is always in favor of efficiency and expansion of services. However, the NDSA is opposed to Section 1.1.e: Consideration of the feasibility and desirability of consolidating colleges and universities and implementing satellite campuses of universities. In this academic year, the NDSA Executive team has visited 10 of the 11 NDUS institutions. In those visits, we met with students, student government organizations, staff, faculty, and administrators. A question we asked all of those that we met with was “Why did you chose this institution?” The most common response was the individuality and uniqueness of their institution. A concern of the NDSA is that turning an institution into a satellite campus of a larger institution could break down that individuality of these smaller institutions.

Regarding Section 1.1.c: An analysis of the cost of tuition and fees for students, it is important to note that in the creation and management of student fees, students play an integral role in establishing the fee amounts and the raising and lowering of them. A concern of the NDSA is

that there may be unintended consequences on departments that rely on student fees if the legislative management committee doesn't agree with where the funds are going even though these fees and their allocations are approved by students. The NDSA is also concerned that the legislature may use this committee to dictate where student fees can and can't go.

Should this bill pass, and if this management board is selected, the NDSA asks that this committee includes a student as a nonvoting member on this management committee. The inclusion of a student will allow for a continuation of student participation in issues of higher education. The NDSA recommends that the student member of the State Board of Higher Education be included in this committee.

All of these points considered the NDSA asks that this committee gives a DO NOT pass recommendation to SB 2242 unless Section 1.1.e is removed, student fees are removed from Section 1.1.c, and a student nonvoting member is added to the committee.