Senate Resolution

To: The Student Senate of the University of North Dakota

Authors: Matt Kopp – Student Body President

Sponsors: Erik Hanson – Off-Campus Senator

CC: Matt Kopp - Student Body President, Taylor Nelson – Student Body Vice President, Dr. Cassie Gerhardt - Student Government Advisor, Andrew Freligh – Student Organization Funding Agency Advisor, Ed Schafer – President, Dr. Lori Reesor – Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Cara Halgren – Dean of Students, Dr. Rebecca Weaver-Hightower – University Senate Chair

Date: 3/30/2016

Re: Support for ROTC Drills on the University of North Dakota Campus

Whereas, the students of the University of North Dakota who participate in the Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) program commit themselves to a life of service in defense of the United States of America, and

Whereas, ROTC has been a part of the University of North Dakota campus in some form for 128 years, and as a result has undoubtedly furthered the educational mission of the University by training thousands of students for service in the United States Army, and

Whereas, the UND ROTC Battalion has recently been criticized publicly by Associate Professor Heidi Czerwiec of the English department for holding one of its “Leadership Labs” in the quad on campus, and

Whereas, according the ROTC website, “Leadership Labs... are used to help build and retain cadets’ knowledge of Army tasks and skills,” which directly aligns with the mission of the UND ROTC, and

Whereas, the UND community is frequently notified of ROTC drills that will take place on campus grounds, including one message that was sent to all students, faculty, and staff as recently as March 3rd, 2016 that states, “ROTC cadets will train and conduct field exercises this spring in and around the quad area, beginning this afternoon. They will wear military uniforms and may carry military equipment, including dummy weapons,” and

Whereas, UND ROTC cadets, as an important part of the University, should have the same right to use campus grounds and facilities with appropriate permission given by UND as any other department or student organization on campus, and

Whereas, UND Police Department Sgt. Danny Weigel recently appropriately stated, “If somebody is worried or scared or they see something that doesn’t seem right or seems suspicious we always ask them to call (911),” and

Whereas, Professor Czerwiec has a fundamental right to speak freely, and in fact the ROTC students who commission into the United States Army will tirelessly defend this very right, and
Whereas, while it was reasonable to contact law enforcement after seeing the training exercise on campus, Professor Czerwiec’s profanity-laced comments to United States Army Lt. Colonel Clarence Carroll that the exercise performed by the ROTC cadets created a “terrorized environment” on the UND campus both unfairly and inappropriately characterize a routine and educationally beneficial activity, particularly after she was informed that the event that she had witnessed was a drill and posed no danger to the campus, and

Whereas, Professor Czerwiec should be held to a high moral standard as an educator, and with her comments to Lt. Colonel Carroll she has set a poor example for students at the University of North Dakota, and

Therefore, be it resolved, that the University of North Dakota Student Senate, as representatives of the Student Body as a whole, firmly supports the ROTC program and their ability to perform training exercises on our campus, and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Student Senate vigorously disagrees with the comments made by Professor Czerwiec and believes that the ROTC program adds tremendous value to the University of North Dakota, and

Therefore, be it furthest resolved that the Student Senate respectfully requests that Professor Czerwiec issue a public apology, particularly to the UND ROTC cadets, for the comments that she made to Lt. Colonel Carroll.

Student Body President, Matt Kopp