



STUDENT SENATE AGENDA

March 24, 2025
Plains Room/Virtual

1. **Call to Order** *President Hoff called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.*

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Approval of Minutes and Agenda** (March 17, 2025)

Senator Exe motioned to approve the minutes. Senator Hollingsworth seconded. Motion carried.

4. **Guest Speaker**

- **5 Days Finals Week Resolution**

- *Dr. Karch, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*
- *Chef BJ, Associate Professor/Program Coordinator for Culinary Arts*

President Hoff introduced Chef BJ and Dr. Karch.

"This is a time for all of you to express where you got your information from to Dr. Karch and Chef BJ. It's their time to understand our point of view and for us to understand where they come from. How about Dr. Karch and Chef BJ explains where they come from."

Dr. Karch spoke on the 5-day Finals Week Resolution

"When I came here four years ago there was no break between Labor Day and Thanksgiving break, this change came from students 4 years ago. Another part that came into play was having the conversation with Residential Life about students going on internship and back, and the 8-week classes change. Through having collaboration and talking with stake holders, we came to the conclusion to have the two day break the Monday and Tuesday after the first 8 weeks. It gives Residential Life and facility time to breathe and allows students who live more than 3 hours away to go home. The schedule change was first implemented this fall, and the calendar is already set for next year. The North Dakota University System sets a majority for our calendar already, it tells up holiday breaks and when school has to be done. NDSCS has a unique campus with having so many 8-week courses."

Chef BJ added in

"Speaking on behalf of the facility side of it, the professional development days are during that break for Tuesday which worked out great for facility to get grades in. That was a major benefit for our discussion in facility senate."

Senator Hollingsworth discussed his perspective on the resolution

"We created this resolution because when I was tabling we asked throughout the fall semester and after the fall break, how students felt during finals week. Some students were stressed, and

the shortened finals caused some students to have 3 finals in one day. Other students we asked didn't care about multiple finals in a day or the shortened week didn't affect them."

Dr. Karch asked how many senators had a real final during Finals week and not a final assignment. Multiple senators raised their hands. If the 3-day Finals week was to go back to a 5 day finals week the Facility would have to have real finals everyday instead of just projects.

Vice President Maudal stated "There was student frustration with having class on that Monday and Tuesday with learning new materials and not having enough time to prepare for the final on that Wednesday. Students would prefer to be finished with new materials with the Friday before finals week to give students enough time to properly prepare for finals the next week."

Dr. Karch clarified that the North Dakota Policy 406 states that, Finals week starts on a Monday, but institutions can start within that week and it doesn't have to be that Monday.

Chef BJ added in that Lab students need to have more time to clean during the week and that it wouldn't fit within that final's hour. We are required to have a certain amount of institutional learning days, and per university policy finals must end on a Friday."

President Hoff stated, "This was a good time for Dr. Karch and Chef BJ to try and end the resolution before this situation got bigger than it needed to be."

Senator Larson asked if Dr. Karch thought this 3-day finals week is better than the past finals week because a handful of my friends were frustrated that there was a lot of school work crammed at the end of the semester."

Dr. Karch stated from a retention standpoint, we want to make sure students have the best experience possible and have a high-quality experience while they are here. The Facility sharing frustrations with the students in class made Dr. Karch sad because facility should be going to talk to their support instead of students because you guys are hearing to learn, and she is sorry about that happening.

Chef BJ was also disappointed because in the facility senate there was a split vote on a 3-day finals week but there was no real push back during our Facility Senate meetings where this should have been addressed.

Senator Hollingworth wanted to clarify that there must have been a miscommunication somewhere because personally I had asked our professors about their thoughts on this topic and so had other students in other classes. The professors weren't blurting out their thoughts on this topic. "I was appreciative of my professors input because we had asked them about their thoughts."

Dr. Karch was appreciative for the clarification.

Senator Hollingsworth wanted clarification again about where the two days went during the revise.

Dr. Karch stated that the assessment day was infused in the two days off and advising day happens all the time for a lot of students especially CTE courses with advisors being the teachers.

Senator HollingParsworth stated that there must've been a miscommunication on the petition for the Favor of a 5 day finals week. The Senate was not against having a two-day break. It is unfortunate that Administrative Assistant Bohnenstingl creates these minutes for people to read about what we are doing and why we created it.

Chef BJ feels the Senates pain about facility or students that don't react to a change until after the motion is passed. That is why we have the meetings for people to come in and discuss what we and why we are trying to change something.

Senator Hiltner was curious about what departments the petition was going to.

Chef BJ stated that it was giving in one department and the Dean of that department stepped in before it was brought to a higher level.

Senator Larson stated that he appreciated Chef BJ and Dr. Karch coming in and listening to our perspective. We appreciate your all around understand of why.

Chef BJ stated you should reach out to your advisors anytime you want about anything. If you have a problem you can talk to us or Dr. Karch

Vice President Maudal expressed gratitude for your time.

Dr. Karch we appreciated your feedback and we are looking into our facility and liberal art programs. We will think about some of the problems that are occurring and will look into we can better finish the semester.

Senator Hollingsworth appreciated you guys for coming, "I liked the two days break but I was wondering were we lost those two days, advising day go rid of and assessment day was blended in."

Dr. Karch stated, Those days were able to be counted on those days because classes started after 4 p.m. The 406 policy only accounts for 160 days for spring and fall semester.

These 3 Day final weeks has increased our retention for students increase from 64% to 91% of students. Where as before students were getting burned out.

Dr. Karch

"The 3-day finals was a lot for some students, and that is something we will work on with our facility."

Caudillo, If there is a bigger change in the schedule is there a way we can communicate that with students before classes start and how advisors and Residential Life can make it an easier transition for students. I was talking to Melissa, you guys took the responses well and got a quick response, and a lot involves the communication and how we process the response, but this is a learning curve for all of us.

Dr. Karch

The calendar wont change for next year because its already set, early next year or September and we can talk about it, but the new challenge is many of you are leaving, and I welcome feedback and if I can leave with you please invite us in early in the process, to find resolution before it gets sent to the next level.

Vice President Maudal

"We are new at this as well and our chain of command would technically be Melissa and we were wonder who you want us to send these to."

Chef BJ stated

We haven't seen a student resolution in over 5 years, and with this resolution we have started to open up more communication channel by having more communication lines with the senate and facility senate which has been a good thing.

President Hoff thanked Dr. Karch and Chef BJ for coming.

5. New Business/Presentations

- Grade Checks/Intent to Return forms

The senators handed in their grade checks and intent to return forms.

- New senator application

President Hoff welcomed Carl Peterson to speak on his senator application.

"Thank you for this opportunity. I am Carl Peterson, I am a second year automotive technician, and my first year of being a RA, shout out to Residential Life. I have made a lot of great connections. I care deeply about this college and think this is a very special campus. That's reflected in the academics, the instructions, and the students who I share this campus with. With my background I believe there is a lot that I can contribute and to close there are very few institutions that have regretted hiring an eagle scout."

President Hoff asked Carl to step out of the room.

Vice President Maudal motioned for open discussion. Senator Martinson seconded. Motion carried.

Senator Martinson motioned to closed discussion. Senator Mumaw seconded. Motion carried.

Senator Mumaw motioned to approve Carl Peterson as a new senator. Motioned carried in a 12-1 vote with Senator Larson in opposition.

Carl Peterson returned to the room and President Hoff welcomed Carl Peterson to the senate.

Heather welcomed Senator Peterson to the senate. Senator Peterson will be receiving a binder and on boarding material. His mentor and on boarder will be Vice President Maudal.

- Marketing Day

Mr. Caudillo spoke on NDSCS Marketing Day coming up. There is a photo shoot coming up.

Marketing wants to update the online library and update photos around campus. Marketing is looking for 8-10 diverse portfolios of diverse students on April 9-10 from 3 to 4:30. They are looking for volunteers and they will go through as a team and choose anyone on campus. Send Mr. Caudillo your information and there will be a \$50 certificate for the Book Store. The sooner the better, so we can get your information to Melissa and the Marketing Committee.

Senator's Larson, Peterson, Jensen, Exe, Hunskor, Mumaw, Hollingsworth, and Maudal were interested.

Heather will send these names to Jeremy Caudillo. She wanted to make senators aware that just cause you send your information to Jeremy doesn't mean you will be selected.

- Student Senate Annual Report

Dr. Karch has asked all the clubs and organizations on campus to give an annual report such as its purpose, goals and what we do during our meetings.

Administrative Assistant Bohnenstingl motioned to open discussion. Vice President Maudal seconded. Motion carried.

Senator Hollingsworth motioned to closed discussion. Senator Mumaw seconded. Motion carried.

Senator Hollingsworth motioned to approve the Student Senate Annual Report with the changes discussed. Vice President Maudal seconded. Motion carried.

6. Old Business

7. Student Concerns/Updates

Senator Mumaw stated that some people would like golf night moved to a different day due to team lifts. Some students also brought up wanting a Wii Sports night.

Senator Jensen brought up that the Fargo Bookstore is only open for two weeks during the start of the semester and the last two weeks of the semester. He's not sure about how the dynamics staffing the bookstore in Fargo, but Fargo students expressed concerns about not being able to purchase items if they need them late. Another concern was not enough of variety for caffeine in Fargo, but Senator Jensen believes there is plenty variety. There was also a concern for lack of clubs or activities based around Fargo. Senator Jensen was not aware that he was technically in the Welding Club because he is in the welding program. Fargo students just want to be more aware of what they are allowed to do or clubs they can be apart of.

Vice President Maudal heard that when Residential Life would put on events for Fargo students no students would show up.

Heather added in that she understands the frustration and she believes that there should be a part time position. The only big week for events for students in Fargo is really welcome week. She agrees that there is not enough going on for the Fargo students but the students need services during the day and there is no one to cover.

Senator Jensen asked that with the new Career Innovation Center building that there might be a culture change with students wanting to be more involved in Fargo.

Jeremey Caullido stated there is a teams meeting with Sadie from the Fargo Campus. He will reach out and see if there is anything we could do.

President Hoff stated if we keep this concern for Fargo students with the new CIS building coming, there could be a change.

Senator Larson stated he received a concern about the student text messages. It was about wanting to only receive campus activities and not sport updates.

Administrative Assistant Bohnenstingl stated that there isn't much Bobbi can do because it all goes through the same text message to all students.

Heather said she will look into it.

8. Reports

- **Executive Team Reports**

- President Hoff

Nothing to report

- Vice President Maudal

Get your tabling hours in

- Admin Assistant Bohnenstingl

Welcome Carl,

- **Advisor Report**

Heather asked if any senators would want to help out Hanna Franks with the ambassadors for the Dreams Auction if anyone would be available to dress up as Willy the Wildcat. Senator Haavig would like but Heather would like her to check with Kim Nelson first since she is an ambassador. Senator Hiltner would be willing to work from 4:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. and Senator Mumaw could work from 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

- **CAB – Senator Martinson**

The St. Patrick's Day photo booth went well.

The dirty soda stand had about 70 students, and next time their will be a diet soda option.

Pass around painting had 25 students

Beanie Bash is March 26th from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- **Residential Life – Senator Mumaw**

Nothing to report

- **NDSCS Team Reports**

- Accreditation & Strategic Planning-----Senator Hollingsworth

Nothing to report, Next meeting March 27th at 3 p.m.

- Dining Services -----Senator Hiltner

Did not meet, next meeting is March 25th at 3 p.m.

- Management Team ----- President Hoff

If you have noticed around campus a bunch of new signage, such as the Neon Sign by Wildcat Dining. Maintenance is paying for quite a bit of signs around campus. Accreditation is coming to campus in April and maintenance wants to make the campus look nice. The BAC is getting a banner to put on the building. The legislative passed an increase in a 3+3% increase for teacher salaries. Jermey Caullido added that the HLC visit is important and you will see a lot of maintenance going around and making things look nice. HLC is coming April 14th and 15th. This is where we get our funding, and they make sure we are running campus right, and programs are running right.

Senator Jensen asked if the HLC is going up to the Fargo Campus.

Jermey Caullido stated that NDSCS is having a meeting with the HLC on the 1st of April about if they are attending Fargo. The new Fargo CSC building is coming along and funding for it has been coming in.

- Wellness, Equity, & Belonging ----- Senator Bauer

We met on March 18th. We discussed a few events such as domestic violence awareness night, the website is updated on their page, so everyone should check it out. For the subcommittee update, there is a Plant Therapy Day for staff and students coming up, Wildcats Care Pantry has been stocked with donations from the Dollar Tree. There was a survey for employee well-being. The Women's History Month committee had made a post online. Sleep awareness campaign went on last week with giving out sleeping kits in Riley. Some upcoming events are Bingo on Tuesday nights from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Event Center for Athletics at the Wahpeton Event Center. There is STI testing on April 9th. A POW on April 5th and staff is encouraged to wear their mental health matters shirts. Next meeting is April 8th at 12 p.m.

- Parking Appeals Team ----- Senator Exe

Our last meeting was March 18th. There were two offenses, both of them were first offenses and we voided them. They had their old passes in their vehicles when transferring cars.

Last meeting 18th two offences, first offences, voided, they had their old vehicles

- Safety Committee ----- Senator Larson

Nothing to report, next meeting March 25th at 2 p.m.

- **NDSCS Student Senate Committee Reports**

- Community Engagement ----- Admin. Assistant Bohnenstingl

Last week the senate volunteered at the Humane Society of Richland-Wilkin Counties. We cleaned up dog poop, cleaned kennels, mopped, dusted, poured water into the drains, vacuumed, did laundry, clean windows, and whatever the staff wanted us to do. Administrative Assistant Bohnenstingl asked the senate for feedback because she knows that some senators were surprised of what they had to do and were wondering if they would ever want to do it again.

Most of the senate agreed it was a good volunteer opportunity for us. Considering that there is only two staff members at the shelter. Even though some senators thought they were going to get to play with dogs, we got to help a good cause and go some things for the shelter that really needed to be done.

- Club Bylaws and Constitution ----- Admin. Assistant Bohnenstingl

Nothing to report

- Tabling ----- Vice President Maudal

A reminder that you need to get your two tabling hours in. Some senators were frustrated about having to do a full two tabling hours this month even with the spring break. Most senators knock it out in one day anyway so you still need to do the two hours this month.

- Marketing Committee----- Senator Hollingsworth

We need to figure out a date to meet.

- Agawasia----- Senator Martinson

Nothing to report, meeting at the end of April.

- **North Dakota Student Association**

- IAC
- SLAC
- SAC
- GA
- Breakout Sessions
- PAR

Senator Mumaw gave a PAR update.

“We met on Saturday at 2 p.m. We discussed about the legislative meeting and monitoring bills during the crossover from the house to senate. The main bill we are monitoring is the Vaccination abstention bill, which is if I didn’t want to get the measles vaccine I could still work at a hospital for example.”

9. Announcements

- Fargo NDSA 4th & 5th

10. Adjournment

Senator Mumaw motioned to adjourn the meeting. Senator Hollingsworth seconded. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.