

Whereas, the University of North Dakota is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA); and

Whereas, following its 2004 reaccreditation visit to UND, the NCA issued a report concluding that UND's continued use of Indian nicknames and Indianhead logos, and the controversy it causes:

- “reduces the university’s ability to accomplish its purposes and diminishes its educational effectiveness”,
- “adversely affects student participation in the classroom and the laboratory... adversely affects student relationships in residence halls and in sports and other recreational activities...[and] encourages disrespectful treatment of some students by other students and by some faculty and staff”,
- “diminish[es] collegiality and learning for many in the campus community”,
- is “manifestly inconsistent with the university’s goal of being the foremost university in the nation in the programs it offers for and about American Indians”,
- “clearly has a negative impact on the campus climate for majority and minority students, faculty, and staff”; and

Whereas, on these bases the NCA urged UND to cease using Indian nicknames and Indianhead logos; and

Whereas, the controversy recently erupted once again when the National Collegiate Athletic Association prohibited the University of North Dakota from using Indian nicknames and Indianhead logos in NCAA championship competitions; and

Whereas, the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education responded by expressing support for UND’s pending appeal to the NCAA, but directing UND to “explore all other options” relating to the issue.

Now, therefore, it is resolved that the University Senate of the University of North Dakota will, at the January 12, 2006 meeting, address the academic issues concerning the Indian nickname and Indianhead logo controversy and, if appropriate, put forward recommendations to the President of the University of North Dakota and the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education.