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10/3/03
Date

2003 HOUSE EDUCATION
HB 1356

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Date

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1356
House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 3, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	580-5091
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Linda Fuchter</i>			

Minutes: **Chairman Kelsch** opened HB 1356

Rep. Terry Froelich, District 31 See Attached Testimony, amendments attached

Rep. Hawken: Are you aware of what happens to student fees and who controls them?

Froelich: I have two sons, one is a resent graduate and one is attending. I can't give you the specifics.

Rep. Hawken: For your information. Student fees are highly controlled by the students themselves. That happens not at just NDSU but at every campus under the board of Higher Education. So now we would not allow one college to not be able to use these fees the way the students want to use them, is that correct under this bill?

Froelich: It is correct, if they want to go to Division I they would be limited.

Rep. Hawken Basically this bill is to penalize NDSU. And in your mind then the UND has never used one dime for the Division I Hockey. And that is okay. But it would not be okay for NDSU. I need to tell you personally, they are not going to use any academic money for Division I. The point is this is a very vindictive bill, and I can't quit understand how you can say it was

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okay for UND, but would not be okay for NDSU without ever knowing what the budget would be and how the money would be spent. Furthermore, handcuffing the students that go to the schools and how they choose to spend their student fee. I guess it more of a statement then a question, but I would like to know a answer to the UND question. That would be a yes or no.

Froelich: I understand there are problems, and I understand that UND has been doing this for a number of years. They have a great program and I am not out to penalize them. But when I have constituents come to me and these are there concerns.

Rep Hawken: Have you visited with anyone to see how the budget is laid out for NDSU?

Froelich: No I have not. **Rep Hawken:** Perhaps you may want to do that.

OPPOSITION:

(1294) Byron Clark, District 44 Fargo.

The brought up in the testimony why would you want to fund out state athletes to play Division I athletics in North Dakota. When of children want to play Division I athletics, they have to leave ND to play and then they are out of state students. This just provides another opportunity for students to play in Division I and stay in ND. UND has built a wonderful hockey program and that just speak acolytes for ND all the time. I don't see a problem with NDSU proposal to add Division I football team to provide another avenue in which our students can excel.

Rep. Herbel In most cases, out of state athletes are funded by scholarships. Are there any general moneys allocated to these scholarships? **Clark:** Not to my knowledge.

Rep. Ron Iverson, District 27, Fargo, See Attached Testimony

Rep. Solberg I have 4 daughters who have 4 husbands who have graduated from NDSU. I have huge investment in NDSU and I love it and I am a great fan of their football team. I have a

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neighbor who has played for NDSU and coached, he has 5 championship rings in his office. I have asked a lot of people and I have not received a good answer to my question. I need one really good reason why NDSU should go Division I.

Iverson: To be the best that you can possibly be. I don't think NDSU wants to continue playing the caliber talent like Moorhead and Crookston, Division II has gotten watered down. Years ago you had great teams in that Division. NDSU is seeking to make themselves better, be the best that they can be. And we should not limit them. Division I athletes from out-of-state coming in. Montana won the Division I championship a couple of years ago, and I think they had 45 of the 57 guys on the teams were from in state. The fact of the matter is our boys will get to play.

Rep. Blair Thorson, District 44, Fargo

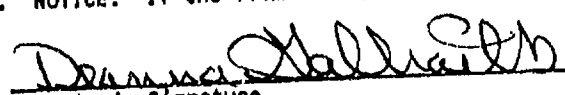
I just want to make a comment, basically the students being very proud of the fact they are in control of the student funding. Students decide where those dollars would best go and I would hate to see this body take that ability away from our young leaders at any campus. It taught myself and a few others here in the room, what it means to take someone else's money and allocate it for good uses.

(1930- 2326) Gene Taylor, Director of Athletics at NDSU, See Attached Testimony

Rep. Herbel As I read the paper and I look at the budgets of some of the major universities that are Division I, how do you propose as a matter of information, how you will meet the Division I costs?

Taylor: The average Division I, AA budget is about 7.5M ours currently is about 5.6 M we would need to come up to that level. the majority of that will come from scholarship allocation travel. And we are looking for external sources, I think we need to expand our moneys from the

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corporate side, from the team makers dollars, and certainly student activity fees is an area that we will look at as a revenue source. The opportunity to play Division I brings 2M in revenue, there is some opportunities to get the 2M whittled down.

Rep. Herbel I see a lot of programs being cut at these schools because of the tight budget problems, do you foresee this being a problem or not?

Taylor: We are not going to be allowed to cut programs because we are at the minimum now, which is 16 sports.

Rep. Mueller Division I is primarily about athletics, can you give us some tie into the academic well being and the relationship we want?

Taylor: Many Presidents across the country, and this may be debatable, and I certainly agree with it, the athletics program is front porch to the University. It is a way to get exposure about your program and unfortunately is it negative exposure. The great thing about the student athletes at NDSU is that they are truly student athletes. You want you athletic program to mirror your academic vision and image. I think right now NDSU academics is up here and it is continually going up. In the world of Division II that we have all become a custom to over the years, during the period of the eight championships, a lot of those institutions that we competed against have now taken their program to Division I level. So we are now raising our program up to equal the image of the institution. There is a tie because notoriety by the performance of your team and opportunities you provide across the country.

Rep. Mueller Greatly concerned if effort on behalf of Division I, has any type of a negative impact on the academic excellence that we have come to expect from NDSU. Lets not put

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Athletics over academics. 37 students maintaining a 4.0 gpa and over 56% of the student athletes have a 3.5 gpa. or higher. That academic level will stay the same, I can promise you that.

Rep. Solberg: Give me a reason for NDSU to go to Division I.

Taylor: To keep pace with the image and the direction of the university is going as a whole. And currently where I feel Division II athletics is going is in the opposite direction of the university. They are becoming smaller and they don't profile like we profile, they are national research institutions like we are, and their programs are not broad based focused programs. Where all programs can be successful.

Rep. Hanson Graduate rate of men and women athletes, 63% women & men, 4 years average 47%, student body of 43%.


Rep. Haas Student fee portion of it can you give us an example:

Taylor: That was our athletic number in the handout.

Chairman Kelsch: As to how NDSU to fund venture to Division I? A lot of people are concerned about this. Because Fargo has the largest retail center in ND, and if we want to keep our dollars in ND and you want to take your family and shop, people don't utilize the dome but they have to pay the sales tax to pay for the dome. Their is a concern is their going to be a tax to help pay for Division I, so tell me again, what is going to pay the 2 M increase. Is there going to be a increased sales tax, or Student fees?

Taylor: The tax thing is not on the radar screen at all. Student activity fees are one source. Based on a survey that the students were part of, increase it up as much as a 1M to 1.2 M as high as 1.8M of what they would be willing to pay. The students have control, there are clear checks and

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balances and they can turn us down. The student fees are lower than most Division II schools in the country.

Chairman Kelsch What is the average student activity fee? for one student.

Taylor: \$8/ credit hour per semester, with a maximum of 259.00

James Bergam, President of the Student Body at NDSU

Student activity fees, a solely controlled student fee. Last year the budget was 1.873M that the students gave out. We have a great process in place. Two weeks ago, The North Dakota Student Association took a stance against this bill unanimously. We are very proud of the fact that we have this opportunity to propose and control these fees ourselves.

Last year the student senate took a stance in favor of a move to Division I. The students also was a hot topic in the student body election. And both the top two vote getting tickets, were in favor of moving to Division I. The students are very excited about this move.

Rep. Mueller referenced a survey, can you tell me how many responded to the survey and what the actual results were?

Bergam: It was part of the car study. 1161 surveys, 240 responded, at least a \$25 increase 83%, \$50/ semester increase were 78%, \$75 /semester increase were 73%, random sampling of students.

Rep. Hanson How many Division I athletes from ND are out-of-state now?, Do you have any idea?

Taylor: I only know of two.

Rep. Hunsakor Are these paid per semester?

Bergam: Yes per semester.

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