SSR 2015-XX

A Resolution for: Petition for Student Conduct Hearing Panels

Sponsored by: Campus Relations

First Reading: April 1, 2015

Vote:

Speaker Action: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Eric Boisen- Speaker Date

**WHEREAS:** the University of Northern Iowa has recommended the elimination of hearing panels in cases of Student Conduct Code violations.

**RECOGNIZING:** that hearing panels have been convened previously for all cases involving expulsion or suspension of the university; and

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING**: that being expelled or suspended from the university can have a profound impact on a student’s life; and

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING:** the actions that result in expulsion or suspension can have a tremendous impact on the lives of other students or campus members; and

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING:** it is the right of all students to have decisions with such an incredible impact made with extreme thought and care; and

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING:** there is less room for bias, overlooking details or other errors when a group of people with a variety of experiences, particularly including students, come together to make these decisions; and

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING:** our own legal system is based on this notion; and

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING:** that regardless of the time or effort needed, regardless of recommendations from the Office of Civil Rights, we should do what we, as a university, consider is the right, ethical course of action; and

**RECOGNIZING IN CONTRAST:** the majority of university conduct officials will do their utmost to ensure fairness for all students involved; and

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING IN CONTRAST:** the Office of Civil Rights has suggested that students do not get serve on panels for sexual assault cases; and

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING IN CONTRAST:** NACERM recommends seventy-two hours of training for panel members; and

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING IN CONTRAST:** that the scheduling of both the training and the hearing panels is quite difficult and requires several people to be involved;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:** The Northern Iowa Student Government Senate finds that the elimination of hearing panels in general and, more specifically, hearing panels with student representatives is a disservice to students and allows the possibility for students to receive a less fair hearing. Consequently, the Northern Iowa Student Government has an ethical problem with the elimination of hearing panels; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Northern Iowa Student Government Senate encourages the administration of the University of Northern Iowa to continue to keep hearing panels with student representatives as an option for students faced with expulsion or suspension. We understand that this will require additional training, but feel that the Student Conduct Review Committee could find ways to adjust the composition of the committee to address this issue; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** a copy of this resolution be sent to William Ruud, President of the University of Northern Iowa; Terrence Hogan, Vice President for Student Affairs; Leah Gutknecht, Assistant to President for Compliance and Equity Management and Title IX Officer, Leslie Williams, Dean of Students; Tim Kidd, Chair of Faculty Senate; Scott Peters, Chair of the Faculty; Amber Rouse, Executive Editor of the *Northern Iowan*; and any other person or persons deemed relevant by the Speaker of the Senate.