



North Idaho College

NIC board chair drafts statement regarding votes of no confidence

Greg McKenzie, board chair of the North Idaho College Board of Trustees, drafted a statement to students, faculty, staff and the community in response to multiple votes of no confidence the board has received from the Associated Students of NIC, Faculty Assembly and Staff Assembly since 2021.

Trustee McKenzie read a draft of this statement during the [board's April 26 meeting](#), and he said he plans to present this statement as an action item during the board's May meeting in the hopes that each trustee will approve and sign a statement in response to votes of no confidence from constituent groups.

North Idaho College is an organization that consists of staff, faculty and students, and the multiple votes of no confidence through the years have been heard and considered.

The extraordinary commitment, dedication and time investments made in service to NIC by all is extraordinary. The institution of NIC cannot operate without its staff, faculty and students, and the accomplishments and contributions of the people who make NIC a stellar college must be recognized.

The board appreciates ASNIC's commitment to "support every president who is committed to actively participate in the NIC community, listen to student voices and strive for excellence" written in ASNIC's November 30, 2021 resolution. Within the past several months, ASNIC has shared numerous ways in which students' lives have been improved through fruitful efforts of their constituent group, and the board commends your efforts.

Student success is the underpinning of NIC's success. The board understands board actions and motions have caused "large amounts of concern" (ASNIC Resolution dated December 9, 2022).

The college Senate asked the question: "What's the point of having a diverse body of representatives of the NIC community if the board decides to arbitrarily change policies without its consultation?"

Let it be known that the board appreciates having a diverse body of representatives of the NIC community in policy ideation. The marketplace of ideas requires different perspectives to be valued and heard. NIC is a safe space to engage in various ideas, perspectives and resolutions that are needed to encourage hearts and minds in the pursuit of truth.

Within the board's authority, the board accepts all input. It can take courage to give input, and votes of no confidence often require even more courage to present. Disagreement is a strength of our country, and the ability of people to voice their opinions and be secure in their jobs demonstrates that openness and the willingness to listen exists at NIC.

This current board is glad to now provide a response and wishes it had been timelier.

The board appreciates the commitment from NIC's staff to support the students, faculty, administration and this great community. The board is confident each of you will continue contributing to the good work that has received accolades from the NWCCU.

The board appreciates the devotion from NIC's faculty to the college and community in doing the faculty's part every day to maintain the college's accreditation. Your contributions have been reaffirmed in every major review cycle from 1947 to present date.

And to our student leaders, you inspire us. The evolution of us listening to you and adapting – at times in real-time – to your thoughts is genuine.

Each constituent group plays a very important role at the college, and the board is committed to working to improve our board governance and respecting the board members' roles.

The board desires to learn together to build bridges and move beyond the votes of no confidence.

Through this response, which is not meant to defend board actions, the board hopes to see NIC maintain an environment for students to excel and for employees to thrive. The board recognizes all parties want NIC to succeed. The board desires to work with all constituent groups for the betterment of the students and our college.

Trustees Banducci, Corkill, McKenzie, Waggoner and Zimmerman intend to learn to speak with one voice, focus on resolving conflict and work together as a board to keep the interests of our students at the forefront of our efforts. The board looks forward to the continued success of North Idaho College.

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