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## Finding Aid to the Name Change (NDAC to NDSU) Records

### Name Change (NDAC to NDSU) Records

Name Change, 1957-1960

.5 linear feet

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### OVERVIEW

**Access:** The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the University Archives.

**Provenance:** Scrapbook donation by Robert Cromm in 2003 (Acc. 456) and materials accumulated by the University Archives.

**Property rights:** The University Archives owns the property rights to this collection.

**Copyrights:** Copyrights to this collection remain with the University Archives.

**Citation:** [Identification of item]. Name Change Records, University Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

### HISTORY

The impetus for changing the name of North Dakota Agricultural College (NDAC) to North Dakota State University (NDSU) had been in discussion since the 1920's when the students referred to the institution as "North Dakota State." As early as the 1890s, Land-Grant colleges were changing their designation to university, which reflected their growth, scope and diversification. In 1953, the following Midwestern Land-Grants became universities: Colorado State, Kansas State, Iowa State, Michigan State, and Oklahoma State.

The first real drive, on a state-wide basis, to change the name to North Dakota State University was in 1957-58. The name change amendment was placed on the state-wide ballot in November of 1958 and lost by a narrow margin. This did not deter the advocates for the name change and they reorganized with their sights on the 1960 state-wide ballot. A 15-member committee formed statewide that worked toward the placement of an amendment on the November 1960 ballot.

The justification for the name change, outside of citing other Land-Grants which changed their names, was that the name change would better represent the prestige and diversity of the university. North Dakota Agricultural College was not simply an agricultural college, rather Agriculture was but one of seven schools, which also included: Applied Arts and Sciences, Chemical Technology, Engineering, Home Economics, Pharmacy, and the Graduate School. In addition, the name change would improve the institutions chances for obtaining financial research grants, as well as the ability to recruit and maintain quality staff.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> of 1960 the name change was approved 2-1 vote. This effort was in no large part due to the phenomenal effort of NDAC staff, faculty, students and alumni. On December 8, 1960, North Dakota Agricultural College officially became North Dakota State University.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

These records have been arranged in four series: Correspondence, Reports, Press and Publication Information, and Robert L. Cromm's Scrapbook. The **Correspondence** series includes a breakdown of letters to the Name Change Committee, letters to the County Chairman, and other letters of concern and support for/against the name change. The **Reports** series includes a number of informational essays and reports drawn up to show both the positive and negative side of the name change. The **Press and Public Information** series includes the information that was released to the public regarding the name change as well as the scripts and campaign information for the voting on the name change. Finally, the **Robert L. Cromm Scrapbook** includes his original scrapbook on the name change (and a copy) that provides detail of the events leading up to the name change,

## BOX AND FOLDER LIST

### BOX 1

Finding Aid

1. Name Change Committee Correspondence -1959-60
2. County Chairman Correspondence -1960
3. Other Correspondence -1958-72
4. Name Change reports -1958-61
5. Statistical Analysis on Name Change by James William Dodd -1959
6. Press Releases -1959-61
7. Scripts and Advertisement - 1960
8. Publications/ Brochures -1959-60

9. Opinion Articles and Letters to the Editor -1960
10. Newspaper Clippings -1958-60
11. Robert L. Cromm Scrapbook - 1953-1956 (& copy)

Separations: Film Reel – c. 1958-1960