



*Onward:*

Periodic Report

[09/22/15 - 11/09/15]

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# 1- Background

**Purpose:** *Onward* is an online, moderated forum that collects tangible student ideas and, through a responsive environment, demonstrates their value. The best ideas enter an implementation pipeline where, after consultation with relevant administrators and staff, they are executed by collaborative action to improve the Notre Dame community.

**Support Team:** Support for *Onward* comes from three main teams

- Student Government Forum Steering Committee: A collaboration of Department Directors who report to the Student Body President and direct the operations of the forum and its ancillary activities
- Moderation Team: Student Government members who moderate the forum and do the day-to-day work of the responses. They also assist in the development of plans for contacting faculty and staff stewards and monitor the implementation pipeline. As the issues in the pipeline progress, they give public updates about the current efforts.
- Faculty and Staff Stewards: Members of the Notre Dame community who commit to responding to ideas posted on the forum. This group is comprised mostly of Directors in Student Affairs, Directors of campus services, and Deans of Undergraduate Studies.

**Additional Information:** For more about *Onward*, please visit

- <http://studentgovernment.nd.edu/>
- <http://nd-1.ideascale.com/>

*While Her Loyal Sons Are Marching **Onward** to Victory*

## 2- Current Efforts

### *Status of Top Ideas*

| Ranking | Idea                                | Net Number of Votes | Status         |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1       | Reevaluate Restaurants in LaFortune | 167                 | Ideation       |
| 2       | Wifi on the Quads                   | 165                 | Ideation       |
| 3       | Berries in the Dining Halls         | 135                 | Ideation       |
| 4       | RSVP Meals for Visiting Students    | 116                 | Ideation       |
| 5       | Better Grab-n-Go Options            | 115                 | Ideation       |
| 6       | Visible Prices for Huddle Products  | 115                 | Implementation |
| 7       | Teacher Reviews in Class Search     | 113                 | Ideation       |
| 8       | Better Water Throughout Campus      | 107                 | Ideation       |
| 9       | Nightly Fireworks Over the Dome     | 92                  | Ideation       |
| 10      | Free Laundry                        | 73                  | Ideation       |

### *Additional Projects Being Considered*

- Online ID/Profile Pictures (28 Votes, Ideation)
- Blue Light System (10 Votes, Ideation)

# 3- Current Efforts

## *Projects In Ideation*

### **Project 1: Reevaluate Restaurants in LaFortune**

- Basic Idea: “It seems that not a lot of people go to Burger King, let's see what popular chain we can get to replace it.”
  - 23 September 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - This issue was discussed in Student Senate along as part of a longer discussion regarding local and sustainable food options.
- Possible Approaches
  - The University is currently on a bi-yearly contract with Burger King, but an idea has been introduced to Student Government to replace it with the local food cafe by the 2016-2017 school year.
- Point of Contact
  - Daniella Narimatsu, Director of Department of Social Concerns
    - Carolyn Yvellez, Director of Department of Social Concerns
- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point of contact
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review

### **Project 2: Wifi on the Quads**

- Basic Idea: “Lots of colleges now have wifi extending beyond the classroom. At a campus as beautiful as Notre Dame, many students want to study outside, but the wifi is slower than a herd of snails traveling through peanut butter. I think we should invest in broader-range wifi so you can be connected on the quads.”
  - 23 September 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - The University of Notre Dame already has an extensive wifi network, and Notre Dame students should be able to connect through their smart phones, laptops etc.
- Possible Approaches
  - Extending university wi-fi is clearly a concern of campus infrastructure. Any work done in changing or strengthening campus wi-fi will involve action and support from numerous offices in the university administration. We recommend that for serious consideration of this idea, that discussion occur between the relevant parties, initiated by Student Government.

- Point of Contact
  - Michael McRoskey, Director of the Department of Campus Technology
- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015
  - 7 December 2015

### **Project 3: Berries in the Dining Hall**

- Basic Idea: “It would be awesome if we had more diverse fruit options in the dining hall, like strawberries. Maybe the money saved from removing the styrofoam cups could be used toward fruit at all dh meals”
  - 23 September 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - The idea of introducing berries to the dining hall has been introduced to Student Senate.
- Possible Approaches
  - One possible approach is to promote a day where berries will be provided in the winter in order to boost spirits during the cold.
  - Introduce various other fruits that are in season from local providers other than the daily average ones to provide a variety of options.
- Point of Contact
  - Rohit Fonseca, Director of the Department of Health and Wellness
  - Daniella Narimatsu, Director of the Department of Social Concerns
  - Sibonay Shewit, Student Government Secretary
- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point of contact
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review

### **Project 4: RSVP meals for Visiting Students**

- Basic Idea: “RSVP meals don't work on home football weekends, and \$16 is too much for many of our friends visiting from other colleges. While many parents are willing to pay the full fee, many students will go to LaFun or elsewhere, which loses potential business for the dining hall. If our guests show a valid student ID from another college, we should be able to use our RSVP meals with them.”
  - 23 September 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - No previous efforts have been made to reform RSVP meals for visiting students as of the writing of this report. As it stands, the system for RSVP meals is as described in the idea above.

- Possible Approaches
  - The idea of reformatting RSVP meals for visiting students can be introduced to the University's Food Service Committee, where the committee members could discuss the feasibility and reasonability of the idea as well as any future steps that can be taken to lead to a reform on the University's current policy on RSVP meals.
- Point of Contact
  - Rohit Fonseca, Director of the Department of Health and Wellness
  - Daniella Narimatsu, Director of the Department of Social Concerns
  - Sibonay Shewit, Student Government Secretary
- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point of contact
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review

#### **Project 5: Better Grab and Go Options**

- Basic Idea: "Grab and go really shortchanges students when it comes to quick food options in the dining hall. Just because you're in a hurry doesn't mean your swipe should count for any less than a normal one. I think there should be a grab and go option where you can get a to-go box like the ones they have in regular restaurants and fill it up with actual dining hall food to eat later. It doesn't seem fair that students in a hurry are relegated to pre-made sandwiches and and juice boxes as their only option."
  - 29 September 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - According to a May 3, 2006 Observer article, many students were looking for changes in grab and go options. After a Student Government survey was sent out to the student, additional options were added to grab and go soon after, including Ramen. The goal was to give students a more diverse array of options to select from, and changes were made in this previous effort.
  - The issue of the quality of Grab and Go options was introduced to the 2014-2015 Student Senate.
- Possible Approaches
  - One possible approach would be having Student Government send out another survey to the student body, and then propose these desired options to food services.
- Point of Contact
  - Rohit Fonseca, Director of the Department of Health and Wellness
  - Daniella Narimatsu, Director of the Department of Social Concerns
  - Sibonay Shewit, Student Government Secretary

- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point of contact
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review

### **Project 7: Teacher Reviews in Class Search**

- Basic Idea: “Problem: Students have limited access to reviews of their professors when signing up for classes.  
Solution: Implementing reviews, possibly from CIF information, into the class search feature in insideND”
  - 23 September 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - No previous efforts have been made to include teacher reviews in Class Search. As it stands, Class Search was just updated to be included in the NOVO system.
- Possible Approaches
  - Work with OIT to integrate CIF responses with Class Search
- Point of Contact
  - Bridget Rickard, Director of the Department of Academic Affairs
  - Michael McRoskey, Director of the Department of Campus Technology
- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review

### **Project 8: Better Water Throughout Campus**

- Basic Idea: “Why is all of the water on campus so bad, especially Debart? Is there any way we can get some hydration stations in Debart and other classrooms? It seems like a waste to buy water bottles but is often the only option when in class all day in Dabart. And its not just Dbart, many other class buildings have this problem too.”
  - 23 September 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - This issue has been brought to the University’s attention.
- Possible Approaches
  - A large part of the water quality issue comes from construction currently going on. The school is very aware of the issue we are having with water taste, but the only solution would be to dig up and replace the pipes filtering into the Debart water stations.
- Point of Contact
  - Rohit Fonseca, Director of the Department of Health and Wellness
- Target Dates

- This project will most likely not be readdressed until after the construction of Crossroads is complete

### **Project 9: Nightly Fireworks over the Dome**

- Basic Idea: “Disneyland has it, why shouldn't we?  
Just think, right at parietals, fireworks go off. Then people won't be able to say they lost track of time. Plus, they'll have a reason to leave the dorm and watch the display. It benefits the university as much as it would benefit its student body.  
Obviously the fireworks would be set off on the other side of the lakes, so nobody would get hurt.  
We spent \$400,000,000 on some buildings next to the stadium. If we spent \$3,000/day on fireworks, it would take us 365 YEARS to spend as much, and that's including if we did it over breaks.  
This is a real idea. The benefits are endless.  
Think: "Let's watch the fireworks and then grab some quarterdogs."  
"You going to Feve? Yeah, let's watch the fireworks while we wait for our Uber."  
"Duck Island? Nah, what if the fireworks go off while we're there?"  
If nightly is too ambitious, we could even just restrict it to weekends.  
Once again, this is a real idea. It's kind of been a dream of mine ever since coming here.”
  - September 30 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - No previous efforts have been made to implement the use of fireworks at the time of parietals. As it stands, there will be no changes in the University's current firework policy.
- Possible Approaches
  - This idea will be introduced to the Department of Constituent Services, where the department members will discuss the feasibility and reasonability of introducing the topic to the University's administration.
- Point of Contact
  - Jack Kill, Director of the Department of Constituent Services
- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point of contact
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review

### **Project 10: Free Laundry**

- Basic Idea: “I don't want to pay \$6 every time I do my laundry. I don't know why it costs so much, or why we have to pay anything at all. Our room and board already costs so much money that I think it's just silly to charge extra for laundry, especially to pay so much.  
#broke=nocleanunderwear?”

- 2 October 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - The idea of being able to use flex points as a method to pay for laundry was introduced to the 2013-2014 Student Senate, but benchmarking done on the topic showed that our peer institutions do not have a system to use their university's equivalent to flex points to pay for these same services.
- Possible Approaches
  - The idea of free laundry can be introduced to the 2015-2016 Student Senate, where it will then be passed to the Department of Residence Life to continue the conversation with St. Michael's Laundry Services.
- Point of Contact
  - Casey Skevington, Director of the Department of Residence Life
- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea Progress Review

### **Project 11: Online ID/Profile Pictures**

- Basic Idea: "A University provided photograph for your online accounts. Let's be honest, no one likes the photo taken of them during Freshman Orientation and they slapped onto your ID card, but logistically that was the best way for the university to handle 2000+ ID card photos in 2 days. For the remainder of your time at ND, that photo electronically follows you and not in a good way. In our digital age where every website is asking for a profile picture, a quality, semi-professional profile photo is essential, but hard to come by. The four horsemen society tried to do something like this during the career fair, but it is time that the university steps up with an official effort. I propose that at any point during the year OIT or another campus office will photograph you in front of an attractive backdrop and with good lighting if you would like. That photograph will be linked to your ND account. It will appear as your profile picture on your Gmail; it will be the photo that your professor sees when looking at their class roster. Additionally, this better photo will be accessible to the student, so that they may use it on other sites such as LinkedIn. The university also wins by raising it's uniformity and professionalism online."
  - 30 September 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - No previous efforts have been made to change the current status of Online ID/Profile Pictures. As it stands, the current method of issuing and obtaining Online ID/Profile Pictures is as described in the idea above.

- Possible Approaches
  - The approach listed in the posted idea seems feasible. If possible, Student Government through the Departments of Campus Technology and Constituent Services could facilitate a discussion between Student Government and OIT, as well as involving the poster of this idea into the discussion. The possibility of updating student identification photos and linking them to student Gmail accounts is an idea that should be investigated more thoroughly.
- Point of Contact
  - Michael McRoskey, Director of the Department of Campus Technology
  - Jack Kill, Director of the Department of Constituent Services
- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point of contact
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review

### **Project 12: Blue Light System**

- Basic Idea: “ND currently has a very inadequate blue light system instituted on campus. In order for this to be effective, there simply needs to be more stations, and the lights shouldn't just be on the edges of campus. It would be great to start by putting a blue light somewhere more central on campus, like outside of LaFun. I know I personally would really appreciate the extra initiative to keep our students safe.”
  - 14 October 2015
- Previous Efforts
  - The idea of implementing a better blue light system was introduced to the 2014-2015 Student Senate.
  - The 2014-2015 Department of University Affairs discussed blue light buttons on campus.
- Possible Approaches
  - Current plan is to introduce more blue light systems to campus, especially around the lakes, during the 2015-2016 academic year through conversations with NDSP.
- Point of Contact
  - Rohit Fonseca, Director of the Department of Health and Wellness
  - Patrick Murday, Director of the Department of University Affairs
- Target Dates
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point of contact
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review

# 4- Current Efforts

## *Projects in Implementation*

### **Project 6: Visible Prices for Huddle Products**

- Basic Idea: “Prices on all items in the Huddle would help students make better, more-informed decisions about how they want to spend their flex points (or other form of payment). This knowledge would help prevent the disheartening premature flex point depletion and also stem unwanted spending as a result of potentially inflated (but hidden) prices.”
  - 23 September 2015
- Progress Made So Far
  - The Department of University Affairs in Student Government is working to get Huddle prices listed, whether it be on physical signs at the Huddle or via a price scanner.
- Current Plan of Action
  - The Department of University Affairs is meeting with Chris Abayasinghe, the Director of Food Services, before the end of November to discuss making the huddle prices more visible.
- Next Step
  - 7 December 2015: Date of when the project will be revisited for a progress review

# 5-Current Efforts

## *Projects Achieved*

### **Project 1: Reduce Concession Prices in the Stadium**

- Basic Idea: “The prices for water and food in the stadium are too high. Is there any way we could work on lowering the prices for students?”
  - 23 September 2015
- Summary of Completed Approach
  - Over this summer, Student Government negotiated with administrators in Main Building and our concessions vendor to reduce the price of concessions in Notre Dame Stadium for all Notre Dame students. These discounts include "combos" that allow students to purchase more food for a lower price. It also includes several new specialty snacks and drinks, as well as significantly reduced drink prices. Only concession stands in the student section with this sign posted will offer the new student pricing, so keep an eye out for the GREEN boards on the walls! Please remember that you must present your student ID to receive discounted pricing.
- Points of Contact
  - Dan Sehlhorst, Chief
- Project Timeline (start to completion)
  - June 2015 - Original meeting to discuss the issue
  - July 2015-Early August 2015 - Meeting to negotiate concession prices
  - Early August 2015 - Devised and implemented marketing campaign
  - 5 September 2015 - New concession prices implemented
- Follow up information
  - Student have reacted positively to the new student concession prices

# 6-Current Efforts

## *Dismissed Projects*

(for projects in the top 10- not all dismissed projects)

There are no dismissed projects as of the writing of this report

## 7-Statistics

|                                   | Period of Performance for Last Report | Period of Performance for This Report | Percent Change |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| # of <i>Onward</i> Views          | N/A                                   | 627                                   | N/A            |
| # of <i>Onward</i> Posts          | N/A                                   | 62                                    | N/A            |
| # of Projects Under Consideration | N/A                                   | 10                                    | N/A            |
| # of Projects in Development      | N/A                                   | 1                                     | N/A            |
| # of Projects Completed           | N/A                                   | 1                                     | N/A            |
| # of Projects Dismissed           | N/A                                   | 0                                     | N/A            |

## 8-Onward Team Members

For more information on this report please contact:

- Jack Kill (John.F.Kill.2@nd.edu)
- Sibonay Shewit (Sibonay.Shewit.1@nd.edu)
- Dan Sehlhorst (Daniel.N.Sehlhorst.1@nd.edu)
- Michael McRoskey (mmcrosk1@nd.edu)
- Alex Fincher (afincher@nd.edu)
- Madi King (Madison.L.King.188@nd.edu)
- Alex Ellyin (aellyin@nd.edu)

Department Heads

- Director of Academic Affairs - Bridget Rickard (brickard@nd.edu)
- Director of Campus Technology - Michael McRoskey (mmcrosk1@nd.edu)
- Director of Community Relations - Rohan Andresen (randrese@nd.edu)
- Director of Constituent Services - John Kill (jkill@nd.edu)
- Director of Gender Issues - Danny Funaro (dfunaro@nd.edu)
- Director of Health and Wellness - Rohit Fonseca (Rohit.Fonseca.7@nd.edu)
- Director of Internal Affairs - Becca Blais (rblais@nd.edu)
- Director of Residence Life - Casey Skevington (cskeving@nd.edu)
- Director of Social Concerns - Daniela Narimatsu (dnarimat@nd.edu)
- Director of University Affairs - Patrick Murday (pmurday@nd.edu)
- Director of First Undergraduate Experience in Leadership (FUEL) - Madi Purrenhage (mpurrenh@nd.edu)
- Director of First Undergraduate Experience in Leadership (FUEL) - Michael Finan (mfinan@nd.edu)