Onward:
Periodic Report
[12/1/15 - 02/1/16]
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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://studentgovernment.nd.edu/)
- [http://nd-l.ideascale.com/](http://nd-l.ideascale.com/)

*While Her Loyal Sons Are Marching* **Onward** to Victory
## 2- Current Efforts

### A. Status of Top Ideas

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<td>210</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Better Water Throughout Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Where Are My Meals?</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Ideation</td>
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</table>

**Additional Projects Listed**

- Online ID/Profile Pictures (49 Votes, Ideation)
- Blue Light System (10 Votes, Questions Answered)
2 - Current Efforts

B. Projects In Ideation

(for projects in the top 10- not all current projects in ideation)

Project 1: Wifi on the Quads (Ranking: 2)

- 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, specifically the Office of Information Technologies, initiated by Student Government.

- Update
  - This idea has been presented to the Department of Campus Technology in Student Government. The idea was discussed in the University Council on Academic Technology. According to the UCAT, the expansion of campus wireless is a long-term project costing millions of dollars. As UCAT begins to assess and discuss its budget allocations for the following years, this project will be in consideration. To reflect this new development, the status of this idea will be changed from Ideation to Consideration on Onward.

- Point of Contact
  - Office of Information Technology
  - Michael McRoskey, Director of the Department of Campus Technology in Student Government

- Project Timeline
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea Presented to Student Government Point of Contact
  - 7 December 2015 - Progress Review
  - February 2016 - Idea moved to Consideration
Project 2: Teacher Reviews in Class Search (7)

- **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**
  - Begin discussions with the Office of the Registrar and Dean Page’s office to evaluate project potential and feasibility.

- **Update**
  - This idea is currently on hold, but Student Government will continue to work with the relevant university divisions in any discussions and evaluations of NOVO.

- **Point of Contact**
  - Chuck Hurley, Registrar
  - Hugh Page, Dean, First Year of Studies
  - Bridget Rickard, Director of the Department of Academic Affairs
  - Michael McRoskey, Director of the Department of Campus Technology

- **Project Timeline**
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review

Project 3: Better Water Throughout Campus (8)

- **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.

- **Update**
This idea involves a whole restructuring of university infrastructure, and any work attempted to fix the issue will be time consuming and costly. The University of Notre Dame is fully aware of this issue, and is in the ongoing process of determining short-term as well as long-term solutions. At the publishing of this report, this idea will be moved to Questions Answered and archived. The status of the idea will be changed in Onward to reflect any real change in project status as it occurs.

Point of Contact
- Rohit Fonseca, Director of the Department of Health and Wellness

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

Project 4: Where are my Meals? (10)

Basic Idea: “Sometimes at the end of the week I have three or four meals left over and they just go away. This is problematic. Even if I wanted to use these meal swipes for grab-n-go, there are restrictions for when you can swipe. For example, you can't swipe for dinner until after 11am. Why not remove those restrictions and allow students to use their 14 or 21 meal swipes however we want. This seems especially unfair because paying extra for a Gilded plan allows the person to use their swipes however they want and they can even swipe in other people. I just feel like it’s a waste of money to have that many unused meals just go away.”
- 29 September 2015

Previous Efforts
- Student Government partnered with Food Services to create a committee with student representatives to discuss ideas, problems, and solutions with Food Services

Possible Approaches
- Commence discussions among the committee and food services to discuss the issue and evaluate potential solutions.

Update
- As of January 17, 2016, a memo listing numerous Onward ideas concerning food services has been submitted for review by Food Services and the Food Services committee. To reflect its submission to the Food Services committee, this idea’s status will be changed to “Consideration”. This change will be reflected on Onward and in the next report.

Point of Contact
- Christ Abayasinghe, Director of Food Services
- Sibonay Shewit, Student Government Chief-of-Staff; Member of Food Services Committee

Project Timeline
Project 5: Unused DH Swipes Changed to Flex Points (9)

- Basic Idea: “As noted in other comments, many students find themselves with unused swipes at the end of the week that go to waste. What if there were an option to change swipes into Flex Points? This would benefit students who have extra swipes, as well as students who are low on Flex Points, offering more flexibility in the students' meal plans and an overall happier experience.”
  - 14 October 2015

- Previous Efforts
  - Student Government partnered with Food Services to create a committee with student representatives to discuss ideas, problems, and solutions with Food Services

- Possible Approaches
  - Continue discussions among the Food Services committee to evaluate the idea and potential solutions

- Update
  - As of January 17, 2016, a memo listing numerous Onward ideas concerning food services has been submitted for review by Food Services and the Food Services committee. To reflect its submission to the Food Services committee, this idea’s status will be changed to “Consideration”. This change will be reflected on Onward and in the next report.

- Point of Contact
  - Chris Abayasinghe, Director of Food Services
  - Sibonay Shewit, Student Government Chief-of-Staff; Member of Food Services Committee

- Project Timeline
  - Fall 2015 - Student Government and Food Services collaborate to form committee focused on Food Services issues and projects
  - January 17, 2016 - Memo submitted to Food Services Committee

Project 6: Online ID/Profile Pictures (Unranked)

- 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
horsemens 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, OIT, the Career
Center, and the Campus Card Office, 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.

Update

Currently, no inroads have been made regarding this idea. However, the Department
of Campus Technology is looking to engage in discussion with the Registrar’s office
regarding this idea.

Point of Contact

- Campus Card Office
- Office of Information Technology
- Hilary Flanagan, Director of the Career Center
- Michael McRoskey, Director of the Department of Campus Technology in Student
  Government
- Jack Kill, Director of the Department of Constituent Services in Student
  Government

Project Timeline

- 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point of contact
- 6 December 2015 - Idea discussed in Department of Constituent Services staff
  meeting
2 - Current Efforts

C. Projects in Consideration

(for projects in the top 10- not all current projects in consideration)

Project 1: Berries in the Dining Hall (3)

- 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.
  - Initiate discussions with Food Services, continuing to evaluate student’s options in the Dining Halls

- Update
  - As of January 17, 2016, a memo listing numerous Onward ideas concerning food services has been submitted for review by Food Services and the Food Services committee.

- Point of Contact
  - Chris Abayasinghe, Director of Food Services
  - Rohit Fonseca, Director of the Department of Health and Wellness in Student Government
  - Daniella Narimatsu, Director of the Department of Social Concerns in Student Government
  - Sibonay Shewit, Student Government Chief-of-Staff

- Project Timeline
  - Fall 2015 - Student Government and Food Services collaborate to form committee focused on Food Services issues and projects
  - 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government point of contact
  - 7 December 2015 - Idea progress review
Project 2: Better Grab and Go Options (4)

- 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.”

- 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.

  - This idea should be issued to the Food Services committee in Student Government. Food Services will be contacted, partnering with them to discuss possible solutions.

- Update

  - As of January 17, 2016, a memo listing numerous Onward ideas concerning food services has been submitted for review by Food Services and the Food Services committee.

- Point of Contact

  - Chris Abayasinghe, Director of Food Services
  - 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 3: RSVP meals for Visiting Students (5)
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. More details about RSVP meals can be found at food.nd.edu

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.

Update

As of January 17, 2016, a memo listing numerous Onward ideas concerning food services has been submitted for review by Food Services and the Food Services committee.

Point of Contact

Chris Abayasinghe, Director of Food Services
Rohit Fonseca, Director of the Department of Health and Wellness in Student Government
Daniella Narimatsu, Director of the Department of Social Concerns in Student Government
Sibonay Shewit, Student Government Secretary

Project Timeline

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

Project 4: Free Laundry (6)

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.
  ○ The oversight and maintenance of laundry and drying machines is conducted by Vending in Food Services. Student Government will partner with Food Services to discuss reviewing and possibly modifying laundry services, working to find a compromise between the current pricing and completely free laundry.

● Update
  ○ As of 31 January 2016, the Department of Health and Wellness in Student Government has begun to discuss the idea and any possible further action.

● Point of Contact
  ○ Chris Abayasinghe, Director of Food Services
  ○ Rohit Fonseca, Director of the Department of Health and Wellness in Student Government

● Project Timeline
  ○ 15 November 2015 - Idea presented to Student Government
  ○ 7 December 2015 - Idea Progress Review
  ○ 31 January 2016 - Project transferred to the Department of Health and Wellness for discussion.

2 - Current Efforts

D. Projects in Implementation

(for projects in the top 10- not all current projects in implementation)

**Project 1: Reevaluate Restaurants in LaFortune (1)**

○ 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 a local food cafe by the 2016-2017 school year.

○ Student Government should initiate discussions with Food Services and the West Building steering committee (Campus Crossroads Project), partnering with them to continue evaluating student dining options in LaFortune and the future Duncan Student Center.

Update

○ As of January 17, 2016, a memo listing numerous Onward ideas concerning food services has been submitted for review by Food Services and the Food Services committee.

Point of Contact

○ Chris Abayasinghe, Director of Food Services
○ Brian Fremeau, Director of Student Activities Facilities
○ Daniella Narimatsu, Director of Department of Social Concerns in Student Government
  • Carolyn Yvellez, Director of Department of Social Concerns in Student Government

Project Timeline

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

2 -Current Efforts

E. Projects Achieved

(All Achieved Projects)

Project 1: Reduce Concession Prices in the Stadium (Unranked)

○ 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**
  - Sibonay Shewit, Chief-of-Staff

- **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.

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**Project 2: Visible Prices for Huddle Products (Unranked; Previous Rank - 6, Report 1)**

**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

**Summary of Completed Approach**

- At the launch of Onward, Visible Prices for Huddle Products was one of the first ideas posted to the forum and quickly rose in popularity (before its achievement it achieved a net vote count of 100+). The project was given to the Department of Academic Affairs in Student Government who began discussions with Food Services and Huddle management. Following discussions, Food Services agreed to improve price visibility in the Huddle by mid-December.

- **Point of Contact**
  - Patrick Murday, Director of University in Student Government

- **Project Timeline**
  - 23 September 2015 - Idea posted in Onward
  - Early October - Department of University Affairs in Student Government begins evaluating idea and possible solutions.
Late November 2015 - University Affairs conducts a student survey regarding the pricing of goods available in the Huddle Mart.

20 November 2015 - University Affairs meets with Food Services Director, Chris Abayasinghe.

30 November 2015 - Prices for goods are officially listed in the Huddle Mart.

Follow-Up Information

- The Department of University Affairs will continue to collaborate with Food Services to ensure price visibility long term.
- Student response to the change has been overwhelmingly affirmative.

Project 3: Longer Print Queue (Unranked)

Basic Idea: “How nice would it to be to send something to print at night - knowing that you could pick it up the next morning on the way to class? Right now, documents can only be queued for six hours, when twelve hours would be of much greater convenience if you went to bed at, say 10, and wanted to pick up your paper at 8.”

30 September 2015

Summary of Completed Approach

- This project was given to the Department of Campus Technology in Student Government. Campus Technology began discussion with OIT regarding the extension.

Point of Contact

- Michael McRoskey, Director of Campus Technology in Student Government

Project Timeline

- October 2015 - The Department of Campus Technology discusses the feasibility of extending the printer queue length with OIT.
- November and December 2015 - OIT initiates work on the university printer system.
- January 2016 - OIT announces extended printer queue length.

Follow-Up Information

- Any questions regarding the revamped print queue or the university printing system in general can be directed to OIT.

2 -Current Efforts

F. Dismissed Projects and Questions Answered

(All Dismissed Projects and Questions Answered)
There are no dismissed projects as of the writing of this report

Questions Answered

Project 1: Nightly Fireworks Over the Dome (Unranked; Previous Rank - 9, Report 1)

- 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

- Summary of Action
  - Though this idea quickly rose in popularity in Onward, it was understood that this idea, though creative, clearly was unfeasible. Student Government responded to the original post, thanking the poster for his idea, but informing him that the idea could not be taken any further.

- Point of Contact
  - Jack Kill, Director of the Department of Constituent Services in Student Government

- Project Timeline
  - September 30 2015 - Idea posted to Onward
  - December 3 2015 - Student Government posted official response, and the idea was archived under Questions Answered.

Project 2: Blue Light System (Unranked)

- 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

Summary of Action

Student Government has been looking into the use of blue lights and discussing their purpose as well as possible alternatives with NDSP for the last couple of years. Under the Vidal-Devine administration, Student Senate discussed the possible increase in the number of blue lights on campus. However, at the time, NDSP was currently undergoing planning to phase out the blue lights. NDSP stated that national statistics revealed the underuse of blue lights, and that when blue lights are used they are typically for non-emergency situations. Therefore, it was suggested in Student Senate that putting more NDSP officers on patrol would result in a better use of NDSP resources. Student Government will continue to work with NDSP to determine what methods do work to keep Notre Dame students safe. Specifically, Student Government will continue collaborating with NDSP regarding the PAX mobile application. This idea has been placed in Onward’s Questions Answered archive. However, as Student Government continues to work with NDSP, this idea may be reevaluated in the future and its status will be properly changed to reflect such a reassessment.

Previous Efforts

- 2014-15 - The idea of implementing a better blue light system was introduced to the Student Senate. The Department of University Affairs in Student Government began discussions on the blue light system on campus.
- Ongoing - NDSP is currently conducting research on a mobile safety application that acts in the same manner as a blue light system.

Update

 NDSP has formulated a student focus group to assess a mobile application which serves as a mobile blue light system. NDSP will be determining ways in which to best advertise to students. This idea will be moved from the Questions Answered label to the Implementation stage of Onward, to reflect this new development.

Point of Contact

- Chief Phil Johnson, Notre Dame Security Police
- Sibonay Shewit, Student Government

Project Timeline

- 14 October 2015 - Idea was posted in Onward.
- 11 November 2015 - Student Government responded to the posted idea, citing previous and current efforts to evaluate the campus blue light system and other student safety issues. The idea was then archived in Questions Answered.
February 2016 - NDSP conducts student focus groups to assess the mobile application.

3 - Statistics

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4 - *Onward* Team Members

For more information on this report please contact:

- John Kill (John.F.Kill.2@nd.edu)
- Sibonay Shewit (Sibonay.Shewit.1@nd.edu)
- Michael McRoskey (mmcrosk1@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)
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