

Petition P2021-02**October 29, 2020**

Michael Dugan, *Dillon Hall*
Connor Patrick, *Dillon Hall*
Ella Murphy, *Flaherty Hall*
Olivia Rubin, *Cavanaugh Hall*

The Undersigned Students

A Petitioned Resolution Calling For the Implementation of an Optional Pass/No-Credit Grading System for the Fall Semester 2020

Whereas, according to the [Office of the Provost](#), “The public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic... caused significant disruptions to the educational environment for both students and faculty at the University during the Spring 2020 semester”;

Whereas, the [Office of the Provost](#) wrote that in the Spring 2020 semester, “due to significant alterations to the manner in which classes were taught and course content delivered in this distance learning environment, the University understood that the grading mechanisms utilized by faculty would, for many students, no longer measure or reflect their knowledge of or familiarity with course content as much as the level of disruption they experienced”;

Whereas, according to the [Office of the Provost](#), “the University provided students a Pass/No-Credit (“P/NC”) grading option for Spring 2020 that was intended to relieve student anxiety and promote persistence in courses that the student might otherwise drop”;

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame du Lac has not extended the same pass/no-credit grading policy to the Fall 2020 Semester;

Whereas, the active and large outbreak of COVID-19 that occurred in the University community early in the Fall 2020 Semester caused temporary but significant disruptions to the educational environment, both for students and faculty at the University of Notre Dame du Lac;

Whereas, in [SS2021-14](#), the Student Senate recognized that “the COVID-19 pandemic can exacerbate negative experiences with mental health, such as feelings of loneliness, isolation, anxiety and depression”;

Whereas, the absence of a fall break has exacerbated the burnout of many students, many of whom are overwhelmed and filled with anxiety surrounding their ability to perform academically;

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Whereas, Restoration Week is a good-faith attempt to help alleviate the stress of students, and we appreciate the effort of the University agents who have created it;

Whereas, Restoration week, nonetheless, is not sufficient to adequately address the extraordinary levels of burnout and stress that are present in the undergraduate student body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac during the Fall 2020 Semester;

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame du Lac has not provided and made available general academic accommodations to relieve the high levels of stress and burnout in the undergraduate student body;

Whereas, it is the position of the undergraduate student body that moving to an optional pass/no-credit grading system akin to that which was implemented in the Spring Semester 2020, would help relieve academic-induced student anxiety and improve the overall mental wellbeing of the student body; therefore be it

***Resolved*, by the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac, that the University of Notre Dame du Lac should swiftly seek to implement a pass/no-credit grading policy for the Fall 2020 Semester akin to that which was implemented for the Spring 2020 Semester.**

Rachel Ingall
Student Body President