

Patrick O. Lee, *Stanford Hall Senator*
Renee Pierson, *Sophomore Class President*
Sara Kirsch, *Breen-Phillips Senator*
Grace Franco, *Walsh Hall Senator*
Michael J. Murakami, *Dunne Hall Senator*
Benjamin Erhardt, *Keough Hall Senator*
Margaret Allen, *Flaherty Hall Senator*
Neils Caspersen, *Fisher Hall Senator*

A RESOLUTION FORMALLY DISAPPROVING REV. JOHN JENKINS' VIOLATIONS OF UNIVERSITY HEALTH POLICY AND ENCOURAGING FURTHER ACTION

Whereas, Article III, Section 1 of the Student Union Constitution states that the purpose of the Student Senate is to “formulate and advance the position of the undergraduate student body on all issues concerning campus life”;

Whereas, on Saturday, September 26th, 2020, Rev. John Jenkins CSC, President of the University of Notre Dame, was in attendance for the nomination of Notre Dame Law School graduate Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) at the White House Rose Garden;

Whereas, Fr. Jenkins was clearly seen and photographed not wearing a mask while shaking hands with, interacting with, and sitting in close proximity to other attendees of the SCOTUS nomination, most of whom were also unmasked;

Whereas, despite all members present in the Rose Garden being tested prior to the event — per university spokesperson Paul J. Browne — it is known that rapid tests are capable of producing false negatives (per [CDC](#)); further, students on campus who have recently tested “negative” for COVID-19 at Notre Dame in surveillance testing, or have recovered from COVID-19 are still required to wear masks at all times on campus (both indoors and outdoors) and remain physically distant from others at all times;

Whereas, it is the position of the Student Senate that Fr. Jenkins’ actions *directly and publicly* violate University COVID-19 policies related to mask-wearing and physical distancing;

Whereas, it is disheartening for the student body, faculty, and staff to witness such actions during a time when all members of the University are being asked to act prudently for the sake of the physical safety of the Notre Dame community, the physical safety of the South Bend community, and the furthering of Notre Dame’s academic mission as a university;

Whereas, there must be appropriate consequences for all actions in violation of University policy whether the perpetrator is a member of the student body, faculty, staff, or administration in order to reinforce the responsibility we are all called to at Notre Dame to protect the physical health of the community;

Resolution SS 2021-19**October 1st, 2020**

Whereas, despite Fr. Jenkins sharing his sincerest apologies and announcing his decision to self-quarantine in a communication to the Notre Dame community on Monday, September 28th — an apology and decision the Student Senate recognizes and accepts — it is apparent that frustrations are [still clearly present](#) amongst members of the campus community demanding more be done to remedy this mistake;

Whereas, the Student Senate recognizes the valid frustrations of the student body in response to this incident, and believes that these frustrations and this incident as a whole highlight potential areas for improvement in current University COVID-19 policies;

Whereas, the Student Senate believes that it is possible to respond to the aforementioned frustrations in a respectful, constructive, and compassionate manner that benefits all members of the Notre Dame community;

Whereas, it is the position of the Student Senate that potential starting points to productively better the student experience at Notre Dame after this incident include joint reviews of and discussions with University administrators about University COVID-19 policies;

***Resolved*, in regards to Fr. John Jenkins’ decision to attend the SCOTUS nomination without wearing a mask or observing Notre Dame’s physical distancing policy, the Student Senate formally disapproves of this choice for the reasons stated above, encourages Fr. Jenkins to complete his appropriate quarantine period, and asks that he reviews elements of COVID-19 leadership training administered at TeamND to members of the Student Union; and be it**

***Further resolved*, the Student Senate respectfully requests that members of University administration engage in discussion with student leaders regarding the review and potential amendment of certain University campus life COVID-19 policies in the coming weeks to address frustrations of the student body in a constructive, respectful, and timely manner.**

Rachel Ingal
Student Body President