

- I. Opening Prayer and Moment of Silence, Sarah Galbenski, *Student Body Vice President*
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - A. We had a presentation from the folks at Campus Dining about updates, progress, and feedback. Ricardo Pozas Garza, the President of the CCC, gave a presentation on the CCC and the allocation of funds. SO 2021-12: An Order to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Replace the Executive Programming Board with the Executive Committee was passed, as was SO 2021-13: An Order to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Revise Article VIII
- IV. Executive Announcements
  - A. Title IX Procedures and Policies Update
    1. Presenting finalized drafts to key stakeholders to see if there are any suggestions of improvement before the november 20th deadline.
    2. If you have any comments or suggestions, let Sarah know and she can put you in contact with those that can implement those suggestions
  - B. Student Advisory Group for Campus Reopening Update
    1. One of the main areas of concerns right now is the increased cases in the community, so we are trying to be more aware and careful about how we interact with the community, making sure we are not furthering the danger to the community or endangering students when we come back from the South Bend area

2. The strategy for the Clemson game is going to be different than the past.  
There will be consequences in the next week for not attending surveillance testing, unless the university has on file that you have tested positive for covid-19 in the last three months. Make sure you are attending these appointments for the safety of our community and to make for a successful, safe game day.

C. Town Hall on Trust with Pete Buttigieg: Moved to Monday, November 9

V. General Orders

A. Sarah Galbenski: I would smile upon a motion to cap the meeting time at 90 minutes.

1. Michael Murakami: I make the motion to cap the meeting time at 90 minutes.
  - a) Seconded
  - b) Vote passes

B. Presentation by Diversity Council Executive Officers

1. Introduce what Diversity council is-- represents the minority groups on campus
2. Many clubs are under this umbrella, from cultural groups to Prism. The mission is to bring clubs together and to create a space for healthy dialogue.
3. Clubs join Diversity Council to gain representation, have a sounding board, and for collaboration opportunities with programming.
4. Notre Dame is quite segregated, students hanging out with other students of their same ethnic background and the separation of ideologies. In diversity Council, member groups are to listen to the ideas of other groups and what

they stand for as well as be able to share their own thoughts, struggles, perspectives

5. Founded in 1992, with the Big 3 cultural clubs being the only ones apart of it (AAA, BSA, LSA), with the purpose of joint programming
6. Since, many more cultural clubs have been added
7. Shift to serving as more of an advisory role, focusing on racialized issues at ND
8. Was very separated from student gov until 2019, being more of a distinct student government for MSPS. There is now much more crossover with the student union, since it reaches all students. DC has a spot on Senate and joins TeamND with student government now.
9. Want more students of color in student government and more white students on MSPS
10. Options moving forward:
  - a) Becoming a Student Union Branch (the most ideal option), which would make them a voting member of Senate and gain more power and representation when making policy. Better able to serve the student body.
  - b) Becoming a Special Interest Group
  - c) Remaining a club
11. Arguments in favor of DC joining the Student Union
  - a) DC functions in an advisory role-- staying out of programming and funding

- b) Ensures representation-- would better reach the entire student body and be more able to hear student voices
- c) Established precedent-- acts like an organization, but is not officially recognized as one as it is now
- d) Minimal funding-- would not divert funds from the Student Union.  
Any needed funds are received from MSPS

## 12. Anticipated Concerns

- a) The issue of overlap since DC would then be a voting member of senate. Represents clubs under DC, but these are also represented by CCC. However, more of a representative figure of students rather than focused on the budget and club allocation
- b) The Director of the Department of Diversity and Inclusion is on the DC board as a liaison. The executive department is focused more on programming, whereas, DC is focused more on endorsing, publicising, and advocating.
- c) Other representation of groups-- why DC? DC is open to collaboration, and many clubs such as Prism are a part of DC. They are open to expanding their scope of clubs and groups to ensure a diverse group of students
- d) Questions:
  - (1) Sarah Galbenski: There is an Ad hoc committee for governmental reform committee, and this could be a project this group takes up. Also, consider joining this group.

- (2) Ricardo Pozas Garza: I have a lot I would like to discuss. I would have hoped you would come to talk to the CCC, I have been advocating for the CCC to be more involved in marketing and programming. I am concerned there would be quite a bit of overlap for the Student Union, with muddying the channel rather than amplifying voices. The way I see it right now, a special interest group would be the best option, but I look forward to talking with you all about this more and bouncing ideas and opinions off one another.
- (3) Frankie: We are open to further discussion, and I do wish we had roped you in sooner. I still feel that this would do a lot of good for minority representing clubs from a policy and advocacy perspective. I would really love to have a conversation with you and see where we align and differ to come up with the best outcome.
- (4) Estefan Linares: I appreciate you always sharing your thoughts and for leading the CCC so passionately. We are not here to impose, our mission is to amplify. You have a big responsibility as the head of CCC, and this is our mission to make sure students have a voice.

- C. [SS 2021-21: A Resolution Encouraging the Pursuance of Various Strategies to Alleviate Campus Community Burnout During the Spring 2021 Semester](#) - read by Benjamin Erhardt

1. Questions:

- a) Alec Breiler: Do you think it would result in tests piling up at the same times?
- b) Benjamin Erhardt: Initially the University's goal was to spread midterms out, which resulted in extending these periods of high stress. Professors tried to help their students out by moving around tests, which just resulted in a lot of overlap.
- c) Matthew Bisner: Would you expect for student organizations to stop on these rest days as well, sort of like a reading day?
- d) Benjamin Erhardt: I would be open to that idea; I had not yet considered it. I feel that this is a good first step and from there we can see the best path of how to implement this course of action. I would also like to think it would be up to the student group and that they would likely choose to not do anything on those days. My thought is that most people would use those days to catch up on sleep and rest as well as school but yes I would be open to that.
- e) Ricardo Pozas Garza: Just to provide an example, I would not schedule an activity on a rest day, that would just be hostile. I think in the interest of flexibility it might be best to leave it open, but I would like to think most student leaders would abide by this mentality as well.
- f) Anisha Jaipura: Would this vary by college or be university wide?
- g) Benjamin Erhardt: My vision was that the entire University of all colleges would follow this, however, I know it is different by college with how many midterms. It is acknowledging the fact that all

colleges have different workloads and exam schedules, but many students take classes in multiple colleges. Making it a university-wide initiative ensures that all students are able to engage in this time of rest, and then colleges can see how them as individual colleges can better serve their students.

- h) Sarah Galbenski: Provost miranda supported university wide initiative and spread out pre med exams was important to her. They seem to be trying to be very accommodating.

2. Debate:

- a) Ricardo Pozas Garza: I know I am cosponsoring this, but it is so important and awesome. Please consider this!
- b) Karen Kennedy: We have the vision of programming related to rejuvenation, but do not expect lots of meetings and programming planning to occur during these days.

3. Vote

- a) Passes unanimously

D. [SO 2021-10: An Order to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Prohibit Student Union Consumption of Forced Labor](#) - read by Thomas Davis

1. Questions:

- a) Benjamin Erhardt: Thomas, do you feel if we sent this back to you after we discuss debate points you all would be able to come to more of a consensus? Is it a matter of time, the vote was rather divided?

- b) Thomas Davis: Giving us more time would not help us. It is not a constitution issue, it is a university policy issue at this point. This is the best we have. I will say from committee discussion there is a lot of hesitation. This does work; it would freeze accounts from the CCC and FMB to these groups. Sending this back to us would not help.
- c) Matthew Bisner: If not from the constitution now, what option do the student senators have?
- d) Thomas Davis: A better process going forward is if you all believe this is an issue of the student union to draft a resolution to describe the position of the senate, calling on the university to take a look at products the university purchases. There are a lot of issues that come with making it a constitutional amendment. The standard mentioned here for the model criminal code is knowing and intentional. None of the products use this type of labor, so it really is not something for the students to worry about.
- e) Renee Pierson: Is there any sort of trial process for determining whether a student group knew or didn't know they were using unethical processes?
- f) Thomas Davis: There is no clearly defined process, but this gives the opportunity for the CCC and other groups to establish a system for this in their bylaws. The only workable comparison is that of the ethics commission.
- g) Ricardo Pozas Garza: I just wanted to double down on this being an internal CCC matter. If this order was enforceable, then the CCC



would seek checks and balances to ensure we are not being unfair in our processes.

- h) Sam Cannova: I think I am kind of fuzzy on at what point it is considered a product of forced labor? If Target purchases products from companies using forced labor, then we buy from Target, is that wrong?
- i) Thomas Davis: So that is the issue, like I said there is always the perfect world and we certainly are not living in it. We are buying through a supply chain, and no matter how well intentioned people are there is always murky stuff that comes up. The constitution is only as strong as its weakest link, and this presents a very weak link.
- j) Michael Murakami: How would this be addressed in reality?
- k) Thomas Davis: The clause here does not present what would come after. An example would be if an organization through CCC would request to buy a product that is blacklisted and the CCC denies it but they get it anyways. Then the CCC can come back around and say “hey, hey, hey” in which it would be caught. It could also be used for malintent or by whistleblowers. There really is no constitutional stipulation for how it must come up.
- l) Movement out of questioning and into debate.

## 2. Debate:

- a) Thomas Davis: I am going to ask you guys to vote on this, and I am advising you guys to vote it down. Voting it down would remove it from I hate to put something in Karen’s court that would affect

many logistical factors and groups. This has great intention, but in the long term it would only hurt the Constitution.

- b) Karen Kennedy: I asked the question at the beginning of how this would be implemented because there are a lot of problems this poses. I agree with Thomas that philosophically this is great and is a super honorable idea, but the problem is in the details. I do not think this is something I could sign off on as an advisor to be implemented in the Constitution because of these logistical problems.
- c) Madison Nemeth: I am on the Committee that formed this, and I definitely think in spirit the message is there, but I think it would be best implemented through a Senatorial statement or call to action to make the University aware of the stance of the Student Union. As a cosponsor I agree with Thomas and Karen and would ask you to vote this down.
- d) Ricardo Pozas Garza: I will be making the same request as Madison. It is honorable, but I agree with the problems of enforceability. I voted against bringing to the senate because I do not think this is finished. I think it is still important, but I think we need to go back to the drawing board.
- e) Michael Murakami: I thought the senate deserved to hear this, so I voted to bring it here. However, I would also request for you to vote this down.
- f) Movement out of debate and into questioning.

3. Vote does not pass

- a) Sarah Galbenski: I agree this is not the vehicle in which to address this, but i do think this is an important issue that needs to be addressed. I would advise for the Senate to seek an alternative way to address this issue, through a resolution or senatorial statement.

E. [A Discussion Regarding P2021-02: A Petitioned Resolution Calling for the Implementation of an Optional Pass/No-Credit Grading System for the Fall Semester 2020](#) - read by Matthew Bisner

1. Matthew Bisner yields his time to the cosigners
2. Ella Murphy: One of the concerns was how the University could implement this so far in the semester. Another concern was how this would help for those planning to go to different forms of Graduate School. I can say as a Freshman, it has been an especially difficult transition to Notre Dame. I have been quarantined twice. I think quarantine puts a really big burden on students and their ability to perform academically well. It takes up essentially two days moving there and then out, and it can be very anxiety inducing to be in an isolated format where all of your living spaces are the same. Quarantine is not the cause of a lot of people that wind up in it- you could do everything right and then still end up in quarantine, unable to exercise, be outside, or actively participate in class. I think we also tend to forget people who have anxiety, ADHD, and other learning problems. I had one friend who literally could not do any work the entire week she was in quarantine due to ADHD and an inability to focus in the space where she eats and sleeps.

3. Olivia Rubin: I am here to back up Ella's personal experiences, which I know we all have, with the numbers. The Kessler6 exam is used to measure levels of distress in adults, which is put into four different categories 13.46% of people our age is the usual average of severe distress, but more than 50% of the student body is experiencing severe psychological distress. It is clear there is an ongoing mental health crisis going on at Notre Dame due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I do not think this is a catch-all solution, but at this point in the semester I think this is the best we can do. We think it would be very valuable to the student body and mental health.
4. Connor Patrick: The University has made many attempts to try to alleviate student stress through restoration week, opportunities for yoga, etc. The problem is many students simply do not have the time to attend these restoration events. Our wonderful Provost has sent out to the faculty nonbinding ways to alleviate stress for students. I serve on the Student Services Advisory Council. In many of our meetings we find ourselves wondering how we can help our students. The problem is we really do not know. We can have options like painting and yoga, but that is not going to help give students the time to do these things. A lot of our ideas presupposes students have the time to go to these events, which clearly is not the case. This semester is not normal. We have had no fall break, no break at all, and there is a pandemic impacting our world. A virus that has killed our loved ones, many of our friends and family. It has created a major mental health crisis on campus. Even if I might not need to use this option, think about the person who may- the person who lost a loved one, the person who has been

in and out of quarantine 3, 5 times, the person who is struggling to focus- I ask you to think about that person who would greatly benefit from having this option.

5. Michael Dugan: to bring this all together. Many other universities are changing their grading options. At MIT, you cannot fail a class. USC changed their grading system to where students can change to pass/fail till the end of class. Stanford has done a similar thing, continuing their Spring policies through the Fall at the order of the Faculty Senate. These are three of our academic peers. Other universities are experiencing many of the same things we are. The resolution passed tonight, I want to thank you all because that will be a huge help in the spring, but what are we going to do about the fall? We think this is something that will quickly sweep away people's overwhelming burnout and stress. We do not think this will alleviate the pressure, but just stop the stress from accumulating more. It doesn't mean withdrawing from classes or adding an extra semester, which is really sad to see happen because of external circumstances. Dropping classes. I ask you all today to consider the legislation in front of you, and consider the 15 % of the student body that has already signed onto the petition.
6. Dan Baudendistel: Thank you for this. I read this, but I think it misrepresents that there have been other events such as the Harvestfest used to support the wellbeing of students. We are not the only people going through this right now, so why are we going to you need to take pride in your work and by taking this opportunity again you are just taking the easy way out and not having your grades reflect the competitive level of the school we go to.

7. Henry Jackson: I think a lot of students are in distress. Harvest Fest was amazing but I do not think it is a suitable solution. I do not think passing this waters down the degree we are receiving, as seen by other top tier schools doing something similar. I think that is a perspective of prestige. Freshman have had to adjust through the two week lockdown, a new environment, new people, which is a lot going on all on its own. Their senior years were ruined, and now they come here and cannot even experience college fully and are being thrown into the deep end with school. At this point we are living in a new, difficult world and I think this resolution reflects the struggle in this and the adjustment period we are all having.
8. Michael murakami: Since we are almost out of table, I motion to table this discussion to next week.
9. Sarah Galbenski: Do I hear a second on that motion?
10. Lainey Teeters: In all honesty, I do not think we should postpone this. It is already super close to the end of the semester as it is, but the closer it gets the more unlikely the administration will do anything about it if it does get voted on.
11. Sarah Galbenski: I would smile upon a motion to extend meeting time for ten minutes to 7:40, which would give us just enough time to continue our conversation while still getting out of the building in a timely manner.
12. Point of inquiry by Michael Murakami about the state of his motion
13. Motion to table the discussion is not passed
14. Jordan Lydon: I disagree with you dan. Harvard's academic council passed something similar to this. Even if we pass this it does not mean the university

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has to do anything about it. We as Senators are supposed to advocate for the student body and their mental health.

15. Renee Pierson: There was also a pass fail option last semester, I think it is important to consider some people at home had an easier time than they are having this semester. I think this pass fail option is just as warranted as it was next semester, if not more so now that we have the same stresses of the pandemic and school along with all of our extracurricular activities.
16. Grace Franco: Just to add on to what others are saying, I think it is important to emphasise that this decision is optimal. People wanting to go to grad school do not have to take this option. I really disagree with the idea that this is being disguised as a mental health issue for people to be able to take a cop out. If this is an option, you do not have to take it!
17. Natalie Ortega: Asking for help is not a sign for weakness. Other schools are doing similar options, and we have the additional difficult situation of students that passed away in a tragedy. Our circumstances are not their circumstances and visa versa.
18. Grace Stephenson: To the sponsors of this, thank you. As a student who is fully online, I want to say thank you. I am in Spain and the S is silent. I think everybody knows these times are unprecedented. I do not think a grade unless it is failing would be negative to an employer or grad schools. Professors are already adjusting lots of grades, which must apply to everyone. I think Senators need to advocate for the student body and at least be a messenger from the student body to the administration of what the student body needs.

19. Isabella Garcia: Since the agenda was sent out two days ago, I have been hearing many I have been hearing this would be a great option to have even from people who would not choose this for themselves. I have sticky notes all over my door and have had a bunch of people stop me in support of this. Three months ago literally feels like a lifetime ago, so keep in mind we are going through a difficult semester in what has already been a difficult year. Having this option in place would allow for the stress to be taken off of some students just knowing it is a possibility.
20. Madison Nemeth: I agree, but i did want to offer to yield my time to the signers of the petition.
21. Michael Dugan: Dan, I think some of your points are well intentioned. If you are working hard and mentally A-OK, you do not have to take this option. If you work hard, you should be able to keep and show those results, which is exactly what this does. You're increasing the budget of student time. What this allows us to do is to alleviate primarily academic stress and in turn stress piling up on people. I do not think this is disguising as a mental health problem, which I personally found deeply insulting. We genuinely believe what we put down, not because we all need it. I do think this issue should be addressed on the basis of its merits. I cannot think of the last time a petition got signed by 15% of the student body. Thank you I yield back to Madison.
22. Sarah Galbesnki: We only have four minutes left, and I want to hear you all. In the interest of time, I think it is best if we vote on whether to take this to a vote. So sorry we have to cut our discussion short, but I think we have had lots of great points be raised.



- a) All in favor of taking this to a vote, please raise your hand.
- b) Goes to a vote
- c) 30 in favor 4 oppose, 1 abstain

F. Joint Presentation by the Student Union Ethics Commission and the Committee on the Constitution

1. Will be our first order of business at our next meeting

VI. New Business

- A. SO 2021-14: An Order to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Revise the Student Union Board
- B. SO 2021-15: An Order to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Revise the Hall Presidents' Council
- C. SO 2021-16: An Order to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Revise the Class Councils

VII. Announcements

- A. You are required to complete green dot training by January 1 by the constitution. If you have had this training at another time you are good!
- B. Shoutout Sarah for being the best Spanish student in Indiana!!!!

VIII. Adjournment