



- I. Opening Prayer, Madison Nemeth, *Johnson Family Hall Senator*
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. There was an update on Campus Dining and the Faculty Senate. There was a discussion on what the Off-Campus Town Hall and Student Advisory Committee looked like and what their purpose are. A reminder about the Women's Leadership Forum for the coming Sunday was delivered (and it was a huge success!). If you were not able to go last week, definitely try to check it out for the October one! We welcomed four new Senators to the team! SO2021-06 about suspending some elections. Grace Stephenson delivered a presentation about FMB's fall update and discussion on the Student Union Covid-19 Financial Account, which will be decided on within the Senate at today's meeting.
 1. Michael Dugan: One of the oaths of office was at the end, but in the minutes it appeared towards the beginning
 - a) Problem fixed
 2. Minutes passed
- IV. A Presentation by the Vice President of Student Affairs, Erin Hoffmann Harding, on Campus Reopening and Adjustments to Student Life
 - A. Reconfigured spaces indoors
 - B. Encouraged outdoor seating and greatly expanded these options
 1. As of this weekend, we will be entering mode number 3. Starting tomorrow South Quad will have additional spaces for gathering outdoors.



2. Programming modifications were phase 2 (i.e. Library Lawn).
- C. Hall life modifications with off campus options and the Pangborn and Fischer Grad Residence communities.
- D. Working to better support and serve students living in singles.
- E. Student WellBeing
1. Covid Response Unit was formed this summer to care for those in quarantine and isolation and to run the testing facility
 2. Initial cases spread far faster than expected and have made necessary adjustments
 - a) Doubled the number of contact tracers
 - b) Far more volunteers to meet the needs of students
- F. Behavior mindset of students and faculty
1. Deep desire to be here is shared, and we want to encourage others to follow the rules through inspiration and encouragement instead of blaming or targeting
 2. Thoughts and concerns are more than welcome! The goal is to come together rather than apart.
- G. Title IX
1. Final decision on regulations of Title IX was released by the Department of Education after the academic year had already ended, so we did not have long to come into compliance with federal regulations and to engage in conversations

2. The same “Burden of Proof” must be standardized for faculty, students, and staff. Previously, the process was different between students and faculty, so now the University needs to deliberate and consider what preponderance of evidence will be used for all three. There is currently a committee being formed to help address this.

H. Racial Injustices within our Nation

1. Reflection on the killing of George Floyd
2. Statement and Call to Action amongst student groups that challenged the University to do better
3. Four groups have been formed within the University to address issues stemming from inequalities and injustices.
4. Continue to address where we could do better and how so

I. Questions:

1. Michael Dugan: On August 20th, the Senate passed a resolution calling for more models and data to be published. Does the University have any plan to follow Cornell to publish such data or for additional transparency?
2. Erin Hoffman Harding: Thank you for the recognition. We want to be very transparent but we are also constantly thinking about the privacy of our students. When we felt like publishing a greater breakdown was dependent on when we felt their identity would not be able to be exposed. The number of quarantine and isolation spaces is a fluid number, so because it is adjusting in that way, we have not had that particular number. It is really good

feedback for us to hear on an ongoing basis, and I am more than willing to bring these suggestions back. We have consulted many epidemiologists, but there is not a specific model we are looking at.

3. Connor Delaney: In my mind, if there were a time when students were to make mistakes it would be leading up to a game day. Is there any way in which you have prepared for this?
4. Erin Hoffman Harding: We are ramping up surveillance testing. Next week we will likely roll out saliva testing, which will greatly increase our surveillance testing capabilities. Currently, it is on a random basis, but this selection is based on current trends, such as a spike in a dorm community. We have been very pleased by the trend following the initial spike. Saturday is a risk, so it is very important for us to be vigilant. We are working to come up with as many alternatives for solutions.
5. Dan Baudendistel: How much discretion does hall staff have to enforce health and safety practices?
6. Erin Hoffman Harding: This is always the push and pull of our dorm communities. We love and cherish that communities have traditions and practices within their dorms, but we have been hearing for years about inconsistencies in promoting health guidelines within the dorms. We do leave up to rectors the discretion to fully We chose to start small and very carefully, and we hope to expand



7. Estefan Linares: What mechanisms are in place to increase the diversity of the student body?
8. Erin Hoffman Harding: In my position, I have a responsibility to care for those who are on campus right now and to create an inclusive environment for all of you. There are a couple of admissions directors heading programs to increase diversity of students admitted and enrolling. They would be the best ones to think about what these courses of action are and current recruitment efforts.
9. Michael Murakami: Will you touch on flu season and students having symptoms that are not necessarily Covid?
10. Erin Hoffman Harding: Prior to this year, the flu was not a required vaccination. It now will be because of its similarity to Covid-19. We will have a push for the vaccination in a couple of weeks, once it becomes more widely available. It will be interesting how the flu season impacts the student body this year because of other additional practices already in place for Covid-19. There was a study a few years ago about different hall communities abiding by handwashing and mask wearing, just one of these, and then regular practices. The dorm doing both experienced a much less severe flu impact than the other dorms.
11. Renee Pierson: What will outdoor programming and dorm guest policies look like as it becomes colder?



12. Erin Hoffman Harding: We are beginning to brainstorm additional spaces. A few weeks ago when it was really hot, we opened up additional air conditioned spaces for students to utilize. Some of these spaces are likely going to be options as it gets colder, however, we would like feedback as to why they were not utilized much during the week it was hot. We are unsure as to how it will impact the dorm guest policy, for it has already changed a couple of times. We have seen no evidence of classroom transmission or program transmission, which is promising.
13. Neils Casperson: What is the best case scenario/ what do you hope for the student body on Saturday.
14. Erin Hoffman Harding: Best case scenario for me is utilizing the safe spaces we already have, such as Library Lawn and South Quad. Tailgating is firmly off limits, so expect strict enforcement of prohibiting parking lot use and tailgating. My hope is for us to gather together and cheer on the team. The facility is not the risk, it is how we come together that is the risk. Wear your mask, social distance, and remind others to abide by the rules.
15. Elaine Teeters: I had a constituent ask me about how conduct will be enforced for people who are not following the rules?
16. Erin Hoffman Harding: Remember the practices of reminding one another and encouraging one another. If it becomes a repeated mistake it will turn into a conversation about why these practices matter and why you are forgetting. Following this it will become a referral to the University Conduct

Process, which will end in a conversation with hall staff or a conference setting with conduct officers about what happened and why. The most serious setting would be a hearing, in which students can invite witnesses and ask questions. Each hearing is looked at individually, there is no clear path as to what is done. The teams that are considering these situations are considering each and every factor involved, but the hope is students are able to engage and understand the process. We have no desire to share the results of these hearings, but there was concern of the University not taking this seriously enough. We will not share the direct outcomes because we want to honor the privacy of students.

17. Madison Nemeth: Have there been any considerations to a return to in person dining?
18. Erin Hoffman Harding: We have found that dining is one of the biggest transmitters of Covid-19 based on information from our contact tracers, which is why locations like Modern Market are still takeout only. This is something that is on our list of cold weather issues to address.
19. Alec Breiler: Is there likely to be any change in dorm communities or the guest policies? Will we be tested before going home at the end of the semester?
20. Erin Hoffman Harding: There is no timeline for change. Every morning we talk about the trends and what we are seeing, so it is very dynamic and fluid. It is an ongoing conversation as to whether there will be mandatory testing.

If a student is going home to a high risk family member, then that is something that Sara Bea disability services can assist with. We know too that different states have different entry policies.

21. Sarah Galbenski: Thank you so much Erin for your time! We are so grateful for this conversation, and I know Erin would be more than happy to answer any more questions you may have.

Executive Announcements

J. [Stand Against Hate Week](#)

1. Last event tomorrow!

K. Community/Campus Advisory Coalition (CCAC) Update

L. COVID-19 Off-Campus Student Advisory Council Update

1. Rachel Ingal: I was appointed to the Off- Campus Student Advisory Council, which was largely formed due to the divide seen from Covid-19 and with the two week shutdown. The purpose is to really speak to the everyday life for off-campus students. We are excited to give these off-campus students a voice and to make sure they feel engaged with the student body.

M. Thank You Card Drive from 1-3 p.m. on Friday outside NDH and SDH

N. 9/11 Memorial Prayer Service on Friday at 8:46 p.m.

1. Planned by our Director of Faith and Service Sabrina Curran
2. Limited capacity at the grotto, so the event will be livestreamed

V. Appointments

- A. Sarah Galbenski: I would smile upon a motion to adjourn at 7:45

1. Michael Murakami makes the motion
2. Motion seconded and passed

B. [Appointments to the Committee on the Constitution](#)

1. Lainey Teeters makes motion to vote in block
 - a) Motion passes
2. Questions:
 - a) Michael Murakami: Senator Dugan, what do you think has changed in the last three weeks that makes you feel capable to serve on this committee?
 - b) Michael Dugan: I am very passionate about the student body and serving as a representative. I went through the constitution recently and marked things that I think are ambiguous and redundant. I like to think I would be qualified for this job from other positions I have had.
 - c) Movement out of questioning and into debate
3. Debate:
 - a) Movement to a vote
4. Unanimous vote on the appointments to the Committee on the Constitution
 - a) Thomas Davis: Congrats!! First meeting tonight on Zoom, so be there.

VI. General Orders

A. [SS 2021-16: A Resolution to Commit to Anti-Racist Action at Notre Dame](#)



1. Questions:

- a) Michael Dugan: It does not look like the Student Government is committing to any solidified action, more like it is looking for the University to keep what it is doing?
- b) Sarah Galbenski: It aligns the Senate with the views and actions of SRI, BSA, and it encourages collaboration and commitment to the racial injustices task force and student wellbeing. It is a spiritual commitment to bear fruit to action and justice further down the line through further resolutions discussed shaped on the mindset established here.
- c) Michael Dugan: Why not have the Senate commit to particular steps we can strive after?
- d) Sarah Galbenski: I think this is actually a preliminary resolution. A Student Senate group focused on racial injustices and prevention was formed and in the limited time we had after our first meeting last weekend we wrote up this resolution. We will continue to put forth additional resolutions as we continue meeting and working towards change.
- e) Michael Dugan: Have you talked to any representatives or administrators?



- f) Sarah Galbenski: It has been with student organizers to get their points of view, as well as Erin Hoffman Harding, Paige Jackson, Erin Oliver, and Consuela Wilson.
- g) Michael Dugan: Have you talked to them about what happened recently with the Strike For Black Lives?
- h) Sarah Galbenski: Yes, it is an ongoing conversation and not limited to one thing or another.
- i) Neils Casperson: What was the strike about and did it garner the change and attention desired?
- j) Meilin Scanish: The point of the strike was to encourage faculty members to not financially support private prisons, which is part of the retirement plan Notre Dame currently offers. It is starting the dialogue that we really want to inform future more action-based resolutions.
- k) Neils Casperson: Do you have a strategy of where these funds would go?
- l) Meilin Scanish: I am not completely familiar with the particulars, but I have friends who are a part of SRI that could speak more on this information. First and foremost, the goal is to divest these funds and then followed by options of where this money could go.
- m) Sam Cannova: Where did you get your mask Sarah, it is beautiful?



n) Sarah Galbenski: Thank you for noticing! I have five of them and got them from Vera Bradley.

2. Debate:

a) Michael Dugan: We are not voting substantively on any single idea. If we are calling on Notre Dame to commit to what it has already committed to. What I am seeing here today is not the Senate taking a stand, which we should do and which these students deserve. I do not think we should punt, which is what this is. I really urge all of you to table this to work on it more and to create a more substantial, goal driven resolution.

b) Patrick Lee: I actually strongly disagree with you Mike. It is the right thing to do to support the groups listed here. The people who wrote this bill are extremely competent at what they do, but they are acknowledging that they might not have the best tools to create the desired change as SRI or BSA may.

c) Henry Jackson: I have to disagree as well with Mike. Statements matter. As we have seen in the US, it is important to reaffirm what has been said otherwise intention is forgotten.

d) Benjamin Erhardt: I have to come in a middle line with this. It is nothing new, so I think it is important to continue to engage with these groups. I also do not want to dismiss the fact that there are



important steps that have been made, but the commitment to future actions developing as well.

- e) Madison Nemeth: I want to echo what Patrick said. No offense, this is not the most diverse group of students. I do not think we should be making decisions for something we all cannot truly understand and represent. I think this is a great idea to pledge our support to these other student groups who are more well equipped and knowledgeable.
- f) Elaine Teeters: I agree. I think this resolution commits us to a dialogue with these other student groups.
- g) Natalie Ortega: I do not think institutional racism is something that can be turned over overnight. This is just the first step in a series of many. It is something that is gradual, and we need to have the dialogue before forcing a course of action.
- h) Isabella Garcia: Being able to recommit ourselves to creating an anti-racist campus community, must start with this to point us in the right direction and formally recognizes our group might not be best equipped to address these problems.
- i) Michael Dugan: I think there are concrete things we could have that the co-sponsors would likely support. This reads as if the University is already doing the things we wish them to keep doing rather than promoting change.

- j) Blake Johnson: I do not think passing this resolution means we cannot do anything major. We have the whole year, so I support this resolution.
- k) Natalie Ortega: I do not necessarily feel like a white man should be the first to say how we should move forward. We have a long way to go. This was made up by a very diverse group of people who know what they are talking about, so I do not think we should not pass this just because it does not commit to anything solid.
- l) Aaron Benavides: This has been a continued conversation from the summer into the fall. Our goal is to amplify student voices and to connect necessary groups, such as ND SRI and the students who led the strike, with administration. This is the first step of many, but I do not think the administration has met with ND SRI and the students who led the strike.
- m) Michael Dugan: It was my misunderstanding that the University has been meeting with these groups, but if that is not the case then this is a step forward and I remove my objections.

3. Movement out of debate and into a vote

- a) Vote on resolution passes

B. [SO 2021-07: An Order to Make \\$10,000 Available from the Student Union COVID-19 Response Financial Account](#)

- 1. Motion to table until next week's meeting



- a) Passed and Moved to next week's Senate meeting

VII. New Business

- A. SO 2021-08: An Order to Suspend Late-Comer FCC Elections
- B. SO 2021-09: An Order Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body Replacing the Executive Programming Board with the Executive Committee

VIII. Announcements

- A. Isabella Garcia: Tonight in Washington Hall-- stand up comedy! I will be performing.
- B. Madison Nemeth: My grandfather is fighting for his life right now. If you could keep him in your prayers or if you do not pray send up good vibes that would be greatly appreciated.

IX. Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn passed