

- I. Opening Prayer, Sarah Galbenski, *Student Body Vice President*
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. At the November 12th Senate meeting, Chief of Staff Aaron Benavides gave us an update on the Student Advisory Group for Campus Reopening, which included many of the victories we had in the Fall semester and room for improvement in the Spring semester. The Assistant Vice President of Student Services Christine Caron Gebhardt joined us for a presentation on Fighting Irish Care, a service now provided to Notre Dame students to have medical care access when not on campus. **SO 2021-16:** An Order to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Revise and Consolidate Article I and **SO 2021-17:** An Order to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Adopt Concise and Consolidated Election Regulation were debated and passed. The Senate then entered a recess before adjourning.
- IV. Executive Announcements
 - A. Official Senate time set for the semester. We did get our first choice- 7:45-9:15 in Jordan Hall room 105.
 - B. Senate Sweatshirts are in!
 - C. Rachel, Sarah, and Aaron were able to meet with the Student Advisory Group over break to prepare for coming back to school this semester in the winter months.
- V. General Orders
 - A. Town Hall with Vice President of Student Affairs, Ms. Erin Hoffmann Harding

1. Sarah Galbenski: Ground rules for our discussion. I know we have not had a meeting on Zoom in a while. We will be using the raised hand feature. I will be calling on people based on the order they raise their hand, with preference being given to those who have not contributed to the conversation yet.
 - a) I would also smile upon a motion to limit speaking time to two minutes, aside from perhaps the person in question, such as Thomas Davis or Erin Hoffman Harding.
 - b) Michael Murakami: I make the motion to limit speaking time to two minutes.
 - (1) Seconded
 - (2) Debate:
 - (a) Movement out of debate and into a vote
 - (b) Vote passes.
2. Erin Hoffman Harding: Since our time being on campus in November, we have been preparing for this semester and thinking about ways we can do better. The Campus Reopening Committee, we all the way since June have been able to get feedback from there, and Father John also has a reopening committee focusing on how to go about getting students to campus while still being safe and smart. I do feel for you all about how this pandemic has impacted your ability to interact with one another and to keep that community. We are grateful for you all to be coming back, though, we do wish it was starting with vaccinations and in a much more normal fashion. Of course, we do want to improve the situation from last semester, especially the number of cases on campus. This includes more frequent testing and

then the Campus Compact. One, much more frequent testing this semester, and second the Campus Contact. When talking to peers, we heard and realized we sent a lot of letters throughout the fall, which resulted in confusing and uncertainty of what was expected. I am sure one major question is about the addendum to Du Lac. We knew we would need an expected set of outcomes for there to be made mandatory testing. That is one piece of the addition to the code. It also helps us to make Covid related violations to be expedited in the process. We would like to respond swiftly but still in a case that informs the students. My hope from the email sent out last week is that students read through the compact carefully and now understand what is expected of them and what responses are like. We are ultimately hoping to achieve a healthier semester.

3. Questions:

- a) Renee Pierson: Is there a potential for the terms of the Campus Compact to be edited throughout the semester as information and situations change?
- b) Erin Hoffman Harding: There definitely is, and this can go in both directions. We might have to lay out more expectations for you all or the vaccine may become available to college students sooner than expected and have it become more relaxed. We do ask you all to be checking your emails for the most up to date information, but we will also be keeping social media up to date.
- c) Jordan Lydon: Speaking from myself and my constituents, we were a bit confused on how expediting the procedures for compact

violations and removing ability to argue against it make it more beneficial?

- d) Erin Hoffman Harding: Thank you for that Jordan. By taking swift action we may be able to have a conversation or intervention with the student. It is in no way shape or form intended to surprise students, but to allow us to address the behavior which is of concern to the entire campus community.
- e) Patrick Lee: Thank you for being here Mrs. Erin Hoffman Harding. I really appreciate you taking questions. One of the questions I had and that some of my constituents in Stanford have..... Regarding campus life as a whole, i know the compact reads as an extension of the rules and it reads much more clear than what we were given last semester. Though the residential hall rules have not been released yet, I am assuming they will be largely the same. I think the email and compact paints a picture of a semester that is kind of dreary when it is freezing and grey outside and we can only have one or two people in our rooms. Outside of class there really are not many opportunities to interact with others or if you have friends from other dorms. I am just curious as to suggestions you have for creating a balance or for changing in building policies.
- f) One of my biggest worries has always been these months of February and March. You are completely right; we are all going to have to think creatively as to how we can still interact with one another. You will probably get an email tomorrow that foreshadows some of those

broader points. Please know we have gotten feedback about the residence hall policies, and there will be changes to that and there will be more spaces offered around campus. What I can tell you is that we have heard that students need more spaces to be together and to be mindful of the mental health toll. There will be new structures on North and South Quad that will be continuations of the Student Centers, which will hopefully be spaces for students to gather. The email you got last week was important news but not the only news, there will be an email coming out tomorrow about what student life will look like.

- g) Carsen Thompson: This is regarding one of the specifics of the compact. What would loss of net id access mean, given that it is so important to our day to day actions.
- h) Erin Hoffman Harding: This is really only an outcome related to prematriculation testing because of how important we feel it is to get tested before entering the campus community. It does carry that consequence of access to different facilities. At this point, that is the most likely utilization of it.
- i) Thomas Davis: Thank you so much for how much time and effort you have committed to this. I know how much we all have missed campus and how much Our Lady's campus has missed us. My main concern is the lack of student representation in this process. There was not a lot of information on who would be represented on the panel, but I believe this concern stems from benchmarking with peer

institutions. After doing some research, there were similarities to the Campus Compact. One of the peer institutions that I found and was quite impressed with is Stanford University. They have a compact review panel, made up of students, faculty, and staff. Will there be a student perspective available on this process, and if not I would like to strongly emphasize that suggestion? I respect how much we need to be stewards of the south bend community.

- j) Erin Hoffman Harding: The administrators on the process would be our trained conduct officers. Noone has asked this, but I feel it is important to tell you all. There is a person on the other side of this process, who will be working closely with students and care deeply for students. They are all student affairs professionals. The question I would like to ask back is what student input you think would be particularly valuable because I can think of potential ways in which student input would be helpful? We can talk about it if we have time, or me and you can talk one on one sometime soon.
- k) Sarah Galbenski: Yes, great question. We can come back to this question at the end if we have time or if the two of you want to continue this conversation privately.
- l) Grace Franco: One thing that me and my constituents noticed were the severity of the consequences. It is largely the same rules but it seems like expulsion and suspension being thrown around a lot more. Are you concerned that these harsh punishments will result in more resentment to administration rather than motivating students, like

with the ripped up Almost There signs? Do you think it would be better to be more motivating and incentivizing?

m) Erin Hoffman Harding: Thanks Grace. Let me try to be thoughtful and transparent in my response. It is not my wish or the wish of anyone in Administration for a student to be expelled. We had a lot of conversation about at what point a student might be dismissed and sent home. Situations that may contemplate expulsion are last resort and will have warnings before. Last semester our compliance rate with surveillance testing was good but not great. We really need 100% compliance for us to be successful, and it is the responsibility of everyone. To your point about positive incentives, we would definitely welcome that. For example, compliance with the daily health check is very important. We would be very open to positive incentives about this. We will certainly look to adjusting rules if the vaccine comes out way faster or if one day in March we are consistently having no cases. We certainly do not want to restrict your Notre Dame experience, but we do not want to risk having someone be seriously ill and end up in the hospital or worse. We want you to have an in person experience and this is how we are going to be best able to do that.

n) Maggie Allen: Hi, thank you so much for being here. This is providing a lot of clarity. A question some of my constituents in Flaherty have is related to the COVID-19 hotline. They are worried it might create a hostile environment on campus by encouraging people

to rat out one another. They are also concerned about people making false claims about students on campus, which we of course hope does not happen. How do you plan to combat this, and what would be done if it is found information reported is false?

- o) Erin Hoffman Harding: Maggie, you described the pros and cons of the form well. It creates an avenue for students. False information is something confronted well in university policies even outside of Covid-19, for example if someone falsely accused someone of a Title IX case. This is meant to be swift but not robotic, and it will not be taken lightly and without question. Many other universities are using a similar forum for students to report on, so it is not unique to Notre Dame.
- p) Dan Law: Thank you so much for being here Mrs. Hoffman Harding. I have a question about Section B Point 3. This leaves students without knowing whether or not the case was handled equitably, not knowing how similar cases were handled for other students. If you are unable to enumerate certain punishments outside of surveillance testing, don't you think us as Student Government are responsible for making sure there are proper forms of audit to be aware of certain punishments and what students are receiving for certain violations- to ensure they are equitable and not varying student by student? One of my Dillon Hall constituents said, "The only defect in the administrative process I could see is if the

University realizes your parents are big donors”, so that is a concern a lot of my constituents had.

- q) Erin Hoffman Harding: Let me reflect a couple comments regarding your concern. Philosophically, if if A, then B is something we consider. The reason for testing being most direct like that is because it is much more black and white. What really went the other way for us is to allow for individuality and circumstance. COME BACK. Consistency-- the team of community standards does calibrate against quite regularity. What this requires of course is a sense of trust. These people are in it for the right reason, to help students and allow them to grow. I cannot provide a list of punishments for certain violations, but they are certainly there for the welfare of students. It is important for us to understand the student circumstances- not who they are, their background, our relationship with them, or the student’s relationship with the university. Trust between students and staff is a value incredibly important to me, especially given the situation we find ourselves.
- r) Dan Law: Would it be possible in your position and that of the Office of Community Standards for us as student senate to see a log of these cases with what they did and what punishment they received without disclosing personal information?
- s) Erin Hoffman Harding: First of all, I am very open to conversation about that. I would like to rope in the heads of the Office of Community Standards about what information we are able to share.

We would not be opposed to giving you all a better sense of what to expect.

- t) Alec Breiler: I have a question about the reporting process and notification process. Some of the guys in O'Neill had questions about how much weight do these reports have, and what do you do with that report once you get it?
- u) Erin Hoffman Harding: Let me clarify the report. The report is not anonymous; it is confidential. A student has an opportunity to say they would prefer not to be known by another student. We do not want to be getting reports from people outside of the University or with fake gmail addresses. There is a human at the other end of this process and the student is notified. A student is not presumed guilty, and the recommended outcome will not be made automatically. We do need students to respond, so it is important to keep checking and to respond. Let me give you a really tangible example. Perhaps the outcome is a reminder. Perhaps there is a picture sent in at the exact moment you took a drink in the student center in Duncan Student Center. What I anticipate is we will respond to that report with a written reminder with "Hey, don't forget to wear your mask. It keeps all of us safe".
- v) Elaine Teeters: I think everyone agrees that COVID-19 is a huge issue and important to prevent for safety purposes. However, last semester clearly indicated how difficult the restrictions and changes affected mental health and how severe of an issue that was. I was

wondering if the university had any plans for how to combat burnout and student mental health problems.

- w) Erin Hoffman Harding: That is definitely a big concern of ours, especially being the Winter months. We definitely heard your feedback about needing some breaks and forms of stress relief. Although we may not have fully solved the break problem, we are adding in a few mini breaks. The Provost has been working very hard on this, and emailed faculty about the mini breaks and making sure not to schedule exams for the day after. In the letter I am going to share tomorrow, we did hear feedback and additional tools. Regarding meditation apps, there are good news to share next week. The McDonald Center is working to build on what we learned positively and what we needed to change for restoration week. Fighting Irish Cares is an additional way to get support, so if you have not had a chance be sure to check that out. It does have the opportunity for mental health care as well. There are six pilot residence halls going through a brand new intensive training from the Lily foundation, designed around community wellbeing and resilience, which we hope will have a really powerful impact on campus.
- x) Michael Murakami: You mention photos being one of the modes of evidence. I wanted to know what kind of amnesty students receive? It is no secret college students drink. If a picture gets sent in of a COVID violation, but the student is also drinking would those

violations be compounded? Would students be at risk of four or five different charges as a result of one picture being sent in?

- y) Erin Hoffman Harding: Let me give you a technical answer and what I hope is a more helpful answer. I want to be honest to the code, right. If we received a report, and a picture might be an important example, let's say someone being hazed, it is precisely contemplated in the photo and other types of concerns and that would be a real reason for the office of community standards to go through a hearing. So that is in the code and is an option. I hope all of you are hearing a spirit from me that we are trying to keep a community that is healthy and safe. We do not monitor you, and we are not trying to catch you. There are no vans driving around campus or cameras trying to catch people breaking rules. We are trying to provide an avenue to share information, but this goes back to trust and who the people are at the other end of the process. We might be worried you have a problem with alcohol and talk to you about being safe, but this process is designed to try to keep the community safe. It is not amnesty; I do not want to give you the wrong idea. But the objective is not to get you in trouble for anything and everything possible, the objective is to keep the community safe.
- z) Michael Murakami: So essentially if it is not dangerous or something that would happen without risk that does maybe violate other rules, the student is not at risk of a double charge?

- aa) Erin Hoffman Harding: It is not amnesty Michael. I do not want to give you an impression of what it is not. I still might want to talk to you about what decisions led to that evening, but it is not the objective to pile on different violations. We are just concerned for you guys, and drinking especially is an enormous problem on Notre Dame's campus. I know we have a lot of work hard, play hard at very dangerous levels of drinking. I think it is important to acknowledge that and to let you know that we care for you.
- bb) Bianca Burnett: The question from my constituents was regarding the weekly testing and how flexible that would be. For instance, if an issue arose that did not allow a student to show up in their typical day or they simply forgot and made an effort to reschedule. Is that possible or is it pretty cut and dry?
- cc) Erin Hoffman Harding: It is pretty cut and dry, but primarily because it is a capacity question. This goes back to the beginning when we talked about net ids. We thought the frequent testing was so important, but the capacity does not allow for students to return on other days. That is why we gave students the agency about which day fit best with their schedule and the longer 9-7 time span.
- dd) Henry Jackson: Hi Mrs. Hoffman Harding! I am beyond grateful to be coming back. With the compact and rules sounding a little Orwellian in nature, my concern is people might be less willing to get in contact with the appropriate resources for emergency issues, such as drinking or Title IX offense. Will there be some form of amnesty

for students who report emergency issues if COVID rules were broken?

ee) Erin Hoffman Harding: Amnesty for themselves?

ff) Henry Jackson: Yes ma'am.

gg) Erin Hoffman Harding: I am not super refreshed on Du Lac rules, but I am so glad to hear this is a concern from students. A promise back from me is to bring more up to date the “Expectation of Responsibility, which is in the regular part of Du Lac. Where I was really well versed in today was the compact, but concerns about these topics a few years ago resulted in this addition to Du Lac. This encourages students to do the right thing and to get help. There is a person at the other end of the puzzle. I will share that provision with you and exactly how it works and is spelled out. I want you to bring concerning behavior to us without concern of getting in trouble. Because it is my job to look out for you all and protect your wellbeing, we might want to talk to you and make sure you are okay. Do the right thing, but we might still want to talk to you about the situation you were in.

hh) Thomas Davis: Thanks for the opportunity to follow up Sarah. I am going to save my previous question to follow up with you at a later time. I do have a question relating to the Judicial Council. In terms of determining when a student is in good standing in terms of their discipline, and this is an important issue of representation. Every student must be in good standing with OCS to hold office within the

Student Union. With elections coming up my question is COVID probations, and if that COVID probationary period would have the same effects on disciplinary standings and students ability to hold office?

- ii) Erin Hoffman Harding: I am only going to halfway answer your question Thomas, so this is another one I am going to have to get back to you on. What I will tell you is that COVID probation is not reportable under the University conduct records reporting- that is a new status. What I do not think we discussed is how this would impact eligibility for office, so let me get back to you with a more precise answer on that.
- jj) Sarah Galbenski: Thank you so much Erin for being here with us tonight and for answering all of our questions. We really appreciate it. As I promised the Senators, if you or any of your constituents have any further questions, direct those questions to Aaron, Rachel, or I and we will get those to Mrs. Hoffman Harding's office. We really appreciate this opportunity to engage in dialogue with you and for you giving your time.
- kk) Thanks all of you for such short notice and for all of your thoughtful questions. Please travel safely back to school, and know that we miss you. We cannot wait for you all to be back.
- ll) Sarah Galbesnki: Thanks Erin; have a wonderful night. Alright folks, that was a really productive forum. Our vision in creating this forum was to allow you guys to see the behind the scenes decision making

but also to advocate for your constituents. It also creates valuable connections between the Senate and Administration; if anything piques your interest you are more than welcome to write up a piece of legislation surrounding it for a future meeting. Thank you all so much for engaging and for the respect that was shown. Thanks guys.

B. [Judicial Council President Nomination](#) - read by Sarah Galbenski

1. Questions:

- a) Michael Murakami: motion to move out of questioning and into debate

(1) Seconded

(2) Questioning has ended

2. Debate:

- a) Michael Murakami: Motion to end debate and move into a vote.

(1) Seconded

(2) Sarah Galbenski : I do believe Thomas has the proper temperament and knowledge to take on this role. I have been working with him for about the last year now, so I strongly encourage you all to vote for him. I try to stay impartial, but it is hard for me to in this case. He has all the skills and experience needed to fulfill his duties in this role

3. Thomas Davis is voted on as Judicial Council President unanimously.

- a) Thomas Davis: Thank you all. I am very honored and excited to serve in this role.

C. [Tentative Student Union Parliamentarian Nomination](#) - read by Thomas Davis

1. Questions:

a) Michael Murakami: motion to end questioning and move into debate

(1) Seconded

(2) Questioning has ended

2. Debate:

a) Michael Murakami: Motion to end debate and move into a vote

(1) Seconded

(2) Unanimous vote approved.

b) Sarah Galbenski: Congrats Madison, I am really excited to have a new seatmate and to work with you in Jordan.

VI. New Business

VII. Announcements

A. Thomas Davis: Tentatively, the information session for the President and Vice President election will be coming up, and an email will be going out to the entire student body. My advice to all of you is to stay as far away from the elections and from showing support as possible. It is against the rules, and it would be a shame for some minor show of support to be interpreted as endorsement.

B. Madison Nemeth: Thank you guys for confirming me, but on that point I will be resigning as Senator. If you are interested or know someone who is, be keeping that in mind.

VIII. Adjournment