

- I. Opening Prayer, Anoop Sunkara, *Duncan Hall Senator*
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Margaret Morgan, the Director of the Center for Student Support and Care, joined us for a presentation about the resources the center offers and how to best utilize them. SO 2021-21: An Order to Appoint Senators to Serve the Rest of the Term was passed, followed by Bridget Arbuckle being sworn in as the new Cavanaugh Hall Senator. SO 2021-22: An Order to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Reflect Changes to the Campus Life Council was passed with approved amendments.
 - B. Minutes approved
- IV. Executive Announcements
 - A. Student Advisory Group for Campus Reopening Update
 1. Sarah Galbenski:
 - a) At least a week or two with these current measures before further measures will be considered opening, such as 24 hour lounges, just to make sure cases stay down
 - b) University as a vaccine site for the state of Indiana was approved, which will hopefully allow us to be a vaccination site for our own community in the future.
 - c) Breaks have not been firmly decided yet, but the academic calendar is hoped to be released in the next few weeks

d) Meets biweekly, so let us know if you have any questions or concerns in the future

B. [2020-2021 Student Leadership Awards - Call for Nominations](#)

1. [Nomination Form](#) (Due March 15)

C. [Student Government 2021-2022 Application](#) (Due March 17)

1. Be sure to be thinking about what your future in Student Government looks like. I know anyone in positions you are interested in would be happy to talk about their experiences and role. You can also run to be a Senator again!

D. Women's Leadership Conference this Sunday

1. Provost Miranda will be joining us as our guest speaker. It will be on Sunday at 2, so please join us! We are so excited to be back to doing these, and we are hoping it will even be in person this time!

V. General Orders

A. [Student Union Treasurer 2021-2022 Nomination](#) - read by Grace Stephenson

1. Questions:

- a) Sarah Galbenski: Thank you Grace for that heartfelt recommendation. At this time, we will now take any questions.
- b) Sam Cannova: Meenu, you are going into banking right?
- c) Meenu Selvan: Yes.
- d) Sam Cannova: Fascinating. Given that capitalism has on its hands the blood of an untold number, how much stock and how long have you held it in Gamestop?
- e) Meenu Selvan: I am sorry I cannot hear you.

- f) Sam Cannova: Do you have diamond hands or paper hands? Have you sold your gamestop stock?
- g) Meenu Selvan: I am not mocking you Sam, I just genuinely cannot hear you. I am so sorry.
- h) Sam Cannova: Have you or have you not sold your gamestop stock?
- i) Meenu Selvan: No I have not. I am not an owner in it; I invest in the long term.
- j) Ricardo Pozas Garza: Howdy Meenu. What are you most excited about this nomination?
- k) Meenu Selvan: I have worked with some phenomenal students within FMB. They are the unsung heroes and do really meaningful work. They help facilitate student leaders work and facilitate funding for all the exciting work that goes on around campus. I want to continue being surrounded by students like that, and I want to continue being surrounded by them.
- l) Ricardo Pozas Garza: As a follow up, could you just say into the mic that I think she is qualified.
- m) Motion to end questioning and move into debate
 - (1) Seconded
 - (2) Passes

2. Debate:

- a) Renee Pierson: I want to express my support for Meenu! She is so awesome, and she is always a pleasure to work with.

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- b) Aaron Benavides: Meenu was my FUELEr and successor in the Department of Faith and Service. She is an absolute powerhouse, and I cannot recommend her enough for this role.
 - c) Ricardo Pozas Garza: I also want to support Meenu for this role. I have had the pleasure of meeting with her a couple times this semester, and she is always super helpful and fun to work with.
 - d) Motion to end debate and move into a vote
 - (1) Seconded
 - (2) Passes
 - e) Vote:
 - (1) Passes! Welcome Meenu!
3. Sarah Galbenski: Thank you Grace for your service to the Student Union
- B. [Judicial Council President 2021-2022 Nomination](#) - read by Thomas Davis
1. Questioning:
 - a) Sam Cannova: You say he has extensive Constitutional knowledge?
 - b) Thomas Davis: That is correct.
 - c) Sam Cannova: Tell me the Constitution!
 - d) David Haungs: Which Article?
 - e) Sam Cannova: Article 5!
 - f) David Haungs: This is actually one that we are currently working to reformat. I believe that one is about SUB!
 - g) Ricardo Pozas Garza: Why are you excited about this job, and what led you to accept the nomination? Also, what plans do you have for the Constitution, which was a hot topic this year?

- h) David Haungs: The goal is to reach the benchmarks Matthew mentioned in his presentation last year. The length definitely remains a big problem and something that we are working on. Frankly, I am a law nerd. I love the interpretive game.
- i) Isabella Garcia: Motion to end questioning and move into a debate
 - (1) Seconded
 - (2) Vote passes

2. Debate:

- a) Eliza Smith: I just want to back this nomination. I have had the pleasure of working with him through Sorin Scholars, and he is the kindest person ever. Noone loves the Constitution like he does, and he always likes my Groupme messages
- b) Ben Erhardt: He lives down the hall, and I would like to second all that. He is such a nice kid and very deserving of this nomination! He is very diligent and on top of his responsibilities
- c) Blake Johnson: I do not know him well, but in times I have emailed him he answers quicker than anyone i know, which is much appreciated. I think he would be a great leader of the Judicial Council.
- d) Sarah Galbenski: I can second that! He responds very swiftly!
- e) Ben: I motion to end debate and move into a vote
 - (1) Seconded
 - (2) Vote passes
- f) Vote:
 - (1) Passes

(2) Sarah Galbenski: Congrats David! We are excited to work with you and see your work in the Student Union.

- C. [SS 2021-27: A Resolution Voicing Student Concerns about Notre Dame's Recent Adjustments to Campus Life Policies and Calling the Campus Life Council to Action](#)
- summarized by Ben Erhardt

1. Additional comments by Ben Erhardt:

- a) Main points listed on page 3
- b) University leadership is so out of touch is more understandable than saying that University leadership does not just care about student wellbeing. There is definitely a disconnect on information despite all the different working groups-- there are so many links in the chain, making it difficult for the average student to access the information. Students are oftentimes unaware of all the conversations and steps that are being taken in regards to advocating for campus modifications, as well as University reasoning behind different measures.
- c) Issue with the us versus them mentality is its increasing in frequency and students are becoming more and more frustrated. Inconsistencies are disappointing but not really surprising at this point.

2. Questioning:

- a) Patrick Lee: This resolution has been a long time in the making. Ben did a lot of research and worked with a lot of different people. We want to be aware of rationale, we want what the University says and decides to be consistent, we want all students to be treated fairly and

equally, and we want to have a role in the final decision making as well. I know it is a lengthy resolution, but it is really great, although I might be a little biased.

- b) Isabella Garcia: Motion to end questioning and move into a debate
 - (1) Seconded
 - (2) Passes

3. Debate

- a) Aaron Benavides: I want to thank all the cosponsors of this resolution. It is really great and really thorough, and it does echo a lot of concerns we have been bringing to the committee. I agree with you 100%. I do want to express my concern about gearing the CLC for action because and the regular communication with them, as you know, it is quite difficult to call the CLC to action-- it is a nightmare. The Student advisory group for campus reopening has a lot better representation, particularly in terms of grad students. It might not be as efficient as it should be if we were to go to the CLC. I think it would also be great if you could define regular and proactive to make this a stronger argument and stronger case.
- b) Ben Erhardt: That is a good point and admittedly my own concern. My hope is for the long term goals for the CLC. The next big issue we might be facing here is the off campus differentiation policy since the 6 semester requirement seems to be kicking back into place, so this is bound to become a big issue soon. The goal is to kickstart the CLC working relationship with administration and to leverage the

importance it has in providing feedback and ideally garnering a rapid response. Again, I think the setup of CLC is very representative of the components of the University.

- c) Mairead Pfaff: Thank you guys; obviously a lot of hard work went into this. I can say from a SUB perspective, this semester has been really frustrating being behind the curve on what events are okay or not. We had one movie watch the first week, in a Debart classroom, less than 50 people, yet no more of these were able to be held. We are doing grab and go, distance everything, and are still being met with many restrictions and obstacles but being given no reason as to why. Thank you for writing this because it is really frustrating being told no with no explanation or evidence as to what is wrong with certain activities.
- d) Natalie Ortega: I was on the JPW committee, and I know that was really frustrating. The University would just tell us no for every idea or suggestion we had. We asked to move it to the Fall because that seemed to be what the student consensus was, but the University said no. We tried to do parts in person for the Juniors even though the family component was virtual, but the University said no that is not allowed. We kept having to reformat our plans to fit what the University wanted for an event that no one wanted with all the rules. They told us no time and time again but never gave a reason as to why or seemed to listen to the student voice.



- e) Ricardo Pozas Garza: Thank you Ben for all the hard work you have put into this. It has been an honor being a cosponsor. I would think all of you are members of clubs. With COVID-19 and the University restrictions, it has been really difficult for clubs to garner interest and support. Despite classes being able to happen in person, it has been hard for clubs to meet in person, especially depending on the size of the club. Outreach and fundraising opportunities have been limited. This is the first year where we do not have to say no to anyone in allocation because there is just so much money sitting there. I think this is really important in bridging that gap and making sure there are ways for students to engage going forward. The University needs to be more transparent with their decisions and to be more responsive to the student voice and concerns.
- f) Sam Cannova: A different lens to look at this through is we are not just worried about COVID-19 issues but concerns as to how the student body is at odds with the University administration. 12 months ago we were sent home due to COVID-19 but 15 months ago things were on the rise with the senior exclusion policy and 6 semesters on campus rule. That really shook the grounds of student life, and it created a tense atmosphere in Notre Dame with students generally expressing discontent towards these new policies. There was a pretty similar time of tension between students and the administration in the late 60s and early 70s which resulted in the Student Life Council (now known as the CLC), the very fruitful

solution way back then. It, like it is today, was $\frac{1}{3}$ students, $\frac{1}{3}$ rectors, $\frac{1}{3}$ admins. The Observer and students would go to these meetings to observe what would happen. They met every week, that was basically where shit went down. What came out was if there was a resolution that came out of it, it actually had legislative power too because of the three parts of stakeholders. Anything passed there would go straight to the desk of the president. This was one of the most important things on Father Hesburgh's agenda and on the Student Union's agenda. Over the years, probably for good reasons and good outcomes, tensions lowered and the student life council became the campus life council, its legislative power shifting to more advisory powers like we have here in the Senate. Lately, its power in about the last decade has not been used much at all, so it is now much less common for other students and Observer writers to be there. It meets biweekly I believe. That is to say, the CLC has been an immensely critical tool in times of high tension and issues between the student body and the administration, so I commend you for trying to put it back on that pedestal as a tool that can reunify the University. For that reason, I really like this bill and I really recommend young students keep in mind what the CLC can be used for as they have much more time at Notre Dame to go.

- g) Ben Erhardt: Thank you for that Sam. That is kind of the reason why I am eager to kick this into high gear. I am here for two more years after this semester, and I really want everyone to enjoy those two

years and beyond. I know, like Ricardo said, there is no easy solution to this, but you have to start somewhere. I think we have not been using the CLC to the fullest of its potential. If the purpose of the CLC is to bridge communication between those three parts, then I think that is just what we need to be utilizing during a time like this. Last I checked we are in a time of critical need, and we have been in a time of critical need. We might as well start leveraging this body in a way we have not tried in some time. If it does not work, then we go back to the drawing board or we keep trying to improve the system as is. Thank you Sam, I really appreciate your contribution and that history. I was not aware of that information at all so thank you.

h) Bianca Burnett: I represent Pangborn Hall, and we are almost entirely transfer students. Pretty much everyone is trying to meet people, and last semester it was great with almost everyone participating in dorm events. Now that we cannot this has been really difficult and we have gotten a lot of complaints about inability to meet people and engage in the campus community. These tensions are very real.

i) Renee Pierson: Motion to move from debate to a vote

(1) Seconded

(2) passes

4. Vote:

a) Passes!

D. [SS 2021-28: A Resolution Requesting a Full-Day Observance of MLK Day](#) - read by

Eliza Smith

1. Questioning:

a) Elaine Teeters: motion to end questioning and move into debate

(1) Seconded

(2) Passes

2. Debate:

a) Dan Baudendistel: I just want you to commend you in this resolution.

It is very well researched and very important. My one concern about it is student stress. This has already been a huge concern this school year with students being very overwhelmed and burned out. I think this could potentially add to student stress with problems scheduling things like labs, since that would mean an entire week of lab being missed. I am just concerned this would be to the detriment of student stress.

b) Grace Franco: While I am sure there is a thought process behind the two hour gap, I think this is something that deserves a full day of devotion to. I know many people are unable to go to the programming in those two hours due to other conflicts, so it is super important for students to have the time to reflect and think about the state of diversity and inclusion. I am not a science person, so I do not know how stressful it would be for labs to be altered, but I think regardless of this it is an important decision to vote in favor for.

c) Renee Pierson: As this would go into effect two semesters from now, we can see from the mini breaks this semester that it is possible to rearrange the schedule to accommodate for a missed day being

incorporated into one week. The only difference is one day as opposed to three, and the intention of these mini breaks are to alleviate student stress.

- d) Elaine Teeters: I just want to reiterate what Renee said. I am a science person in two labs this semester, but the mini break we have had so far has not negatively impacted how stressed I am. If anything it helped alleviate some of my stress having a week off from labs due to the mini break, opening up time in my schedule I would not have had otherwise. I agree though that this is an important move for the University to make in honoring and recognition of MLK day as opposed to being contingent on student stress. I think this is a very well written and needed resolution.
- e) Libby Messmann: First I want to thank Eliza for all the hard work she put into this. It is very well done and clear she put a lot of time into this. Regardless of labs and scheduling, I think this is so important to pass. I was looking through the survey responses attached to the resolution and some words that stuck out to me are “saddening”, “distasteful”, and “insensitive” in regards to the fact that we do not already have MLK day completely off. I definitely think this is a step that the students want and that the University should take moving forward.
- f) Blake Johnson: I wanted to commend you Eliza; this is so well stated and a great step forward for making black students and students of color recognition. Thank you so much.

- g) Connor Delaney: Thanks so much Eliza for crafting this resolution. I do think it is so representative of what we as a University desire to strive towards, and I think it is important for students to have a time for reflection about the state of diversity on our campus and in our nation.
- h) Ricardo Pozas Garza: I have a couple points to make, so please bare with me. I am reminded somewhat of a resolution last semester about conflicts it would be impossible to get a break from. First of all, I think it is very possible to schedule a semester in which a day can be dedicated to a memorial as important as this one, which is particularly made clear by the mini breaks this semester. The climate in our nation these last few months makes it even more important that we come together in observance of MLK Day. Eliza did excellent benchmarking with peer institutions that have implemented a full day already to MLK Day.
- i) Anisha Jaipuria: Just echoing that, a few of my friends last year were talking about how they could not attend the MLK day service because of conflicts. This is a great way to move forward and to allow time for all students to reflect and stand in solidarity. I think as an international student, the University is striving towards diversity and inclusion.
- j) Dan Baudendistel: Just to be clear, I didn't mean to compare MLK Day to chem labs or anything. I just really want to clarify that. I was just trying to make the point that we talked almost every week about

student stress, so I just wanted to bring up the topic as to how having a full day off could negatively impact that.

- k) Estefan Linares: Hey everybody! I represent the Diversity Council, and it has been a minute since I have talked. Dan, that is a valid point. Honestly, I get it. I think the mini breaks have made it difficult for professors, forcing them to be accommodating in their class schedules. In many ways the mini breaks for me are very similar in terms of them being intended to be used as reflective days. I know I took full advantage of that, but I know this would be in a very different way. Speaking on behalf of international students, I know sometimes we can feel tired and underrepresented here, so I think just one day as a collective, even if it is in honor of black Americans, I think it would mean a lot for all racial groups on campus. This would give students a day with options as to how they can choose to educate themselves, reflect, grow, and learn.
- l) Natalie Ortega: I just wanted to echo everyone else, and I would also like to add this would encourage the University to do more than just tossing around the photo of Father Hesburgh and MLK. I know it is upsetting as a marginalized student to see the same photo being used time and time again and being called racial justice. I also think this is so important, regardless of student academic stress.
- m) Eliza Smith: To Dan's point, I completely hear you. We talked about stress in our meeting. This comes from my heart. We take Good Friday off in honor of those who practice Christianity, and we

prioritize being able to reflect on what that sentiment means to us and our faith. It is hurtful for individuals who have been historically beaten, discriminated against here on campus but also out in the world. I understand students are stressed, I myself have been, especially with this not being a normal semester. I pray that we never deal with this again, but this is in hopes of a normal semester in which we would have our typical breaks. This is not a way to try to get another day off of school. There is time for the university and professors to see how this would fit into their own schedules and modifications. I ultimately feel like this is a very small ask, so I urge you guys to vote in favor.

n) Renee Pierson: Motion to end debate and move into a vote

(1) Seconded

(2) Passes

3. Vote:

a) Resolution passes! 35 in favor and 2 abstain

E. [SS 2021-29: A Resolution Requesting Benchmarks for COVID-19 Protocols](#) - read

by Maggie Allen

1. Questioning:

a) Ben Erhardt: Are you suggesting the University adopt the benchmark system of the state of Indiana or that Notre Dame comes up with our own university benchmarks?

b) Maggie Allen: We are asking our own COVID-19 Response Unit to come up with a campus benchmarking system. Although we do

impact the St. Joseph community, we are a part of our own community here on campus and our research is more indicative of what is happening on campus. I reference Indiana and Illinois because they have really solid benchmarking techniques for a large population. It was to provide examples of what benchmarking looks like, but our data and our benchmarking should be unique to Notre Dame.

- c) Ben Erhardt: These Notre Dame benchmarks... are these benchmarks going to be implemented at the beginning of the month and will reset each month or will they be case by case? I am a little confused about in what way the benchmarks will be used.
- d) Maggie Allen: I did leave it open ended just for interpretation based off the data. I do think it could be wise to use a range of data, for example a positivity rate from one number to another number as opposed to an on and off switch. I cannot entirely say whether it will be based on one day to the next or more so the 7 day trend. The University tends to prefer using the 7 day trend, which could be smart so we do not react too quickly on shifting responses. Once the benchmarks are here, that is more so something we can address and work through. For now, I really just wanted to push for the value of benchmarking.
- e) Bianca Burnett: Do you think you would do different benchmarks based on individual dorms, such as if one dorm has low cases and another has an increasingly high number of cases?

- f) Maggie Allen: I definitely understand what you are saying. I think that is a bit of a challenge. With those 24 hour spaces, that would be a benchmark to consider because it is contingent on different dorm populations. A lot of the benchmarks should be generalized because we also want to use them as goals that bring together the campus community rather than kind of pitting groups against one another. It is not just an incentive but something to bring us together and to work together as a community.
- g) Henry Jackson: May I be cheeky and motion to end questioning and move to debate.

(1) Seconded

(2) Passes

2. Debate:

- a) Thomas Davis: Well reasoned and actionable resolution; this is a perfect model of a great, workable resolution. I would suggest that it should be addressed to CLC for direct, actionable request.
- b) Karen Kennedy: If you do that, also Division of Student Affairs and Division of Operations and Campus Safety
- c) Motion to make friendly amendment
- (1) Passes
- d) Ben Erhardt: My resolution earlier was very broad and not achievable in one or two steps. Thank you Maggie and Mike for this actionable step that we can take in working with the CLC. It works greatly in favor with our previously passed resolution, so thank you guys.

- e) Eliza Smith: I encourage you all to support this resolution. It will help students raise morale and give them some idea of what decisions the University is likely to make. The idea of achievable goals students can reach is a great resolution.
- f) Ricardo Pozas Garza: Awesome guys. Motion to end debate and move into a vote.

(1) Seconded

(2) Passes

3. Vote:

- a) Passes!

VI. New Business

- A. A Presentation Regarding Winter Reallocations and Spring Allocations, Ricardo Pozas Garza, *Club Coordination Council President*
- B. Election of Senate Representatives to the CLC in Accordance with the New Bylaws
- C. SS 2021-30: A Resolution Addressing Consistency in the Dining Hall Accommodations for Students with Severe Allergies
- D. SS 2021-31: A Resolution Advocating for Increased Transparency in the Nutritional Accommodations Process
- E. SS 2021-32: A Resolution Requesting the Reinstallation of the Basketball Rims to the Bookstore Basketball Courts at the University of Notre Dame

VII. Announcements

- A. Renee Pierson: Sophomore study break 11:30-1 Sunday Afternoon
- B. Aaron Benavides: Board of trustees approved CLC bylaws
- C. Mairead Pfaff: SUB showing Tenant this weekend on South Quad

D. Blake: Off campus housing fair sign up on offcampus@nd.edu

E. Thomas Davis: Please do not sign petitions!

F. Michael Murakami: Motion to adjourn

1. Seconded

2. Passes

VIII. Adjournment