

Resolution SS 2021-31

March 17, 2021

Ian Baker, *Co-Director of the Department of Student Life*
Isabel Edgar, *Co-Director of the Department of Student Life*
Eliza Smith, *Johnson Family Hall Senator*
Patrick Lee, *Stanford Hall Senator*

A RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED TRANSPARENCY IN THE NUTRITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS PROCESS

Whereas, incoming students who require dietary accommodations must independently seek out the “Food Allergy and Medical Condition Action Plan” and contact information for the campus Nutritional Counselor on separate pages of the Campus Dining website.

Whereas, students of all levels who are unfamiliar with the accommodations process, Notre Dame, or its resources, find it unclear and overwhelming.

Whereas, the University commits to “accommodating students’ food allergies, whether those allergies are mild or severe” (Food Allergy and Medical Condition Action Plan), but requires students to take initiative to begin the process.

Whereas, the accommodations process is overseen and directed by a set of University-employed medical experts, and thus aims to provide successful adaptations to the nutritional challenges faced by many students,

Whereas, this process, though administered by medical experts, is often obscure or contained, leaving students without an understanding of what counts or does not count as a dietary restriction “severe enough” for accommodation,

Whereas, there is no clearly defined medical scale that determines the severity of a person’s allergies, but opportunity is available for the Nutritional Team to provide students with information regarding what types of accommodations are associated with given levels of allergen severity,

Whereas, students are often denied accommodation by the Nutritional Team and left without a sense of direction as to how they might personally accommodate their own dietary restrictions without the aid of the counseling team.

***Resolved*, the Campus Dining Nutritional Counseling Team (referred to hereafter as “the Team”) should increase its transparency with the student body regarding the accommodations process for students with severe allergies or dietary restrictions by taking action including, but not limited to the following:**

- 1. Sending an information email to all incoming First-Year and Transfer students before they arrive at the University that includes an introduction from the Team, a copy of the “Food Allergy and Medical Condition Action Plan,” and links to previously mentioned infographics (if applicable).**

2. **Providing an explanation or infographic visualization of the step-by-step accommodations process clearly making accessible and explaining the resources available for all students who request accommodations before signing the Action Plan's binding contract for the academic year.**
3. **Providing students with a list of options, ideas, or solutions to their dietary needs if they are denied accommodations for their allergies or dietary restrictions, including an explanation of the appeals process.**
4. **Providing a comprehensive allergen guide to all students, including those who do not sign the Action Plan, which would include detailed allergen information about every food served in dining halls on campus, as well as information on cross-contamination efforts and external resources to learn about dietary restrictions.**



Rachel Ingal
Student Body President