

Order SO2021-26

March 31, 2021

Kaya Lawrence, *Director of Diversity and Inclusion*

Estefan Linares, *Chair of Diversity Council*

Rachel Ingal, *Student Body President*

Sarah Galbenski, *Student Body Vice President*

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**AN ORDER PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY TO ESTABLISH DIVERSITY COUNCIL
AS A SPECIAL INTEREST ORGANIZATION**

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame believes in its commitment to respect the dignity of every person, build a Notre Dame community in which all can flourish, and live in solidarity with all, particularly the most vulnerable, according to the Principles of Diversity and Inclusion;

Whereas, the Spirit of Inclusion affirms the University's commitment to welcome all people, regardless of color, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, social or economic class, and nationality, on the basis of all persons as God's creations;

Whereas, national racial justice movements have called upon a necessary and utmost need to lift the voices of underrepresented minorities in our Notre Dame community so that we may progress towards a more diverse and inclusive future;

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame recognizes in its mission statement that "The intellectual interchange essential to a university requires, and is enriched by, the presence and voices of diverse scholars and students";

Whereas, Catholic Social Teaching calls for each person to commit himself or herself to the care and the good of all others, including people from BIPOC and immigrant communities, who comprise a common global family, and Pope Francis recognizes a need to acknowledge and apologize for the Church's history with indigenous people;

Whereas, BIPOC and immigrant communities play an integral role in the Catholic church past and present, and especially in Notre Dame's identity as a Catholic institution, and allowing diverse voices to permeate campus discussions would align with Notre Dame's Catholic identity inasmuch as it allows students to better care for the BIPOC and immigrant community members of their global family;

Whereas, the Black Student Association clubs requested specific changes to make campus more inclusive and diverse in the light of the Black Lives Matter protests, which can be materialized by Diversity Council's policy work;

Whereas, Diversity Council's relationship with Multicultural Student Programs and Services (MSPS) already parallels to that of a special interest organization that requires minimal funding, rather than a club;

Whereas, Diversity Council has a seat on the Student Senate and speaking privileges, which are circumstances typically designated to student organizations rather than clubs;

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame claims to stand in support of our Multicultural communities and therefore needs a body specifically tasked to work on improving the institution where it falls short and, at times, works against the needs of our BIPOC communities;

Whereas, Student Affairs would benefit from the sustained input of students of color and other marginalized students in the areas of Campus Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Student Life, Academic Relations, and Recruitment and Outreach;

Whereas, pursuant to Article XI Section 2, representatives of Diversity Council have engaged in conversations with other special interest organizations about these proposed changes.

Ordered by the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac,

That the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body, pursuant to Section (I)(4) of the same, is hereby amended as follows:

I. Article XI Section 1 Clause (a) (6) is inserted as follows:

(6) Diversity Council of Notre Dame.

(A) The Diversity Council shall serve as a forum where students may collaborate with faculty and University administrators regarding matters affecting the traditionally marginalized and underrepresented students.

Rachel Ingal
Student Body President