

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Roll Call
  - A. Roll Call Question: What kind of potato are you?
- III. Approval of Minutes - [27 October 2021](#)
- IV. Executive Announcements
  - A. New Senator!
    1. Matthew Bisner: Welcome Kayle Lauck!
  - B. [GreeNDot Compliance](#)
    1. Matthew Bisner: Please fill out this form once you are trained.
  - C. Faculty Senate Meeting, 2 November 2021
    1. Matthew Bisner: The Faculty Senate met yesterday and graduate students brought up concerns about their access to resources, specifically lower access to health and dining services than undergraduate students. It has been an issue this year in particular. Over breaks, the limited hours affect graduate students that live here. There was also a proposal to create a committee to oversee the committees to assess their efficiency and terminate those deemed inefficient. I'm not sure if that has passed.  
  
Tomorrow there will be a ton of events from the department of Health and Wellbeing for MiND the Burnout.
- V. General Orders
  - A. [SS 2122-05: A Resolution Calling For Divestment From Fossil Fuels](#)
    1. Abraham Figueroa: What would the timeframe for divestment be?

2. Annika Barron: This is more of a general call for Notre Dame to do something. By calling more generally for them to pursue complete divestment, that would allow people in the investment office who know more to develop a plan.
3. Benjamin Erhardt: Have you spoken to the investment office?
4. Annika Barron: Aidan Creeron and Matty have met with them.
5. Benjamin Erhardt: Do you know the results of those discussions?
6. Annika Barron: It was confirmed that Notre Dame has investments in the fossil fuel industry. They're definitely open to discussions, but do not have a concrete plan.
7. Abraham Figueroa: Where's the evidence that Notre Dame has not taken any action to divest? Do we need this resolution?
8. Annika Barron: The fact that it has been confirmed that we do have investments in fossil fuels shows that this resolution is needed. We believe that the silence Notre Dame has given us in terms of their investments shows that they haven't been doing that. If they were to be pursuing divestment plans, we would have heard about it.
9. Abraham Figueroa: The only company I could find of private equities that Notre Dame is investing in was Merit Energy Company which promotes environmentally conscious ways to use fossil fuels in the future. Do you want to completely remove fossil fuels even if they are promoting environmentally friendly ideals?

10. Annika Barron: We want to call Notre Dame to completely divest from fossil fuels. The basis of the fossil fuel industry business model is to collect and burn fossil fuels, which is not a sustainable practice. We believe that divesting from the industry as a whole is most sustainable.
11. Abraham Figueroa: The resolution talks about the scope of the impact, is that solely to the United States or global.
12. Veronica Slevin: Somewhere between 20 and 25% of deaths per year are attributed to fossil fuel usage worldwide. Fossil fuels are a worldwide issue. Air moves around. If we're investing in national or worldwide companies, it's a global effect.
13. Abraham Figueroa: There's been research that developing countries need fossil fuels in order to increase development. Is it inherently immoral to support fossil fuels for developing nations?
14. Veronica Slevin: That's not what we're trying to get at here. It's about where Notre Dame's investments are going.
15. Abraham Figueroa: Is investing in fossil fuels inherently immoral?
16. Annika Barron: We should divest because the fossil fuel industry has a negative impact on the global community. Notre Dame should have a commitment to protect that global community. The development of countries has little to do with what we're doing here.
17. Abraham Figueroa: What are the impacts on low-income families in the United States if we were to divest?

18. Veronica Slevin: People who are lower income typically live with less infrastructure, less well-funded areas or less governmental action to fix that. There are substantial health differences between those communities and wealthier communities. Fossil fuel emissions disproportionately affect lower-income communities.

19. Debate

- a) Thomas Davis: I might suggest, if the intent is to address the investment office, perhaps address the investment office rather than the University.
- b) Abraham Figueroa: Is there a time limit on debate?
- c) Jacob Lowry: Motion to set time limit on speaking during debate to two minutes. Is there anything that can't be said in two minutes?
- d) Motion to limit speaking time to two minutes.
- e) Danny Schermerhorn: As of 2017, the University had been investing about 4% of their entire investments in fossil fuels, which is a lofty sum. This is something that we need to pursue. The only thing I disagree on is that we don't go far enough into a path to make this better.
- f) Annika Barron: One of the major impacts of divestment is it then encourages others to do the same. A more concrete plan is something to pursue in the future, but we decided to keep it a more general call for action to the investment office and people who would know more than student senators.

- g) Abraham Figueroa: What does the senate make of complete divestment? Does that include indirect investments in fossil fuels?
- h) Veronica Slevin: Part of what the resolution says is scope 1 and scope 2 emissions. Scope 1 is direct and scope 2 is more indirect. We're focused right now on scope 1 and scope 2. Additionally, Notre Dame has a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.
- i) Abraham Figueroa: If we were to completely divest from direct investments to fossil fuels, how would that affect the revenue and the endowment and financial aid to students?
- j) Annika Barron: It would not affect the endowment. A study was done at Dayton University. They chose to divest in 2016 or 2017 and did not see an impact on their endowment. There was a 2016 report that found no difference in returns when universities chose to divest. There also is a consensus that fossil fuels are not as beneficial anyways, and have actually performed worse than the market on average in recent history. The fossil fuel industry is losing some of their subsidies. Besides the moral incentives, companies are also talking about the good economic effect. Renewable energy is where the market is heading.
- k) Maclane Farrel: It appears that the resolution's intent is that the investment office find another way to invest, maybe in another sector of the market, so it wouldn't harm financial aid or students.
- l) Meenu Selvan: What are the next steps if this is passed?

- m) Benjamin Erhardt: I think student senators may not be the most qualified to dictate what divestment strategies may look like. The investment office does have that knowledge. I think the investment office could answer the effect of financial aid and the endowment. I think it would be good to follow up with the investment office.
- n) Thomas Davis: The only issue I have is the final whereas clause, the truth of that statement, if it's factual. I would propose an amendment to strike the final whereas clause. If the investment office sees something that is a blatantly false statement, you might lose credibility.
- o) Madeline Smith: You could say "substantial action" instead of striking the whole clause.
- p) Abraham Figueroa: I would agree that it should be taken out. We don't have information about whether the University's action is substantial or not.
- q) Isabelle Keren: Should we make it less accusatory and say whether or not they have taken action, they haven't made it clear to students or clarified their stance.
- r) Veronica Slevin: I like that idea. If they were to completely divest, there would be at least a news article.
- s) Maclane Farrel: I would suggest an amendment "Whereas the University of Notre Dame's current stance on divestment remains unknown." That's pretty neutral.

- t) Thomas Davis: I accept the amendment to the amendment.
- u) Christian Quilon: I respect the sentiment the resolution is bringing to the table, but I don't think divestment is going to do what needs to be done given the timeliness and urgency of the problem of climate change. If Notre Dame divests, who's to say they won't get other investors. Fossil fuels have always been the means of fuel for how we get around. I think attacking one industry isn't going to solve a problem, because they will just get other investors.
- v) Cooper Scholl: I think the resolution sends a mixed message because the University has clear standards about their stance on environmental protection and emissions. We don't have any influence over the investment office besides suggestions and we aren't really qualified to make that suggestion. We will likely not have a significant public impact, and I don't see the necessity for this resolution.
- w) Emma Eckstein: The resolution is urging the University to take a more serious look into it. I don't think anyone expects Notre Dame divesting will fix the climate emergency issue. Is it going to hurt anything for us to do this?
- x) James Brunette: Notre Dame would be foregoing their voting rights as a shareholder. I think this divestment could be counterproductive because of their loss of voting rights on certain topics. By holding on to shares, they could push companies toward

a more sustainable future. Other investors may also step in and pick up their shares.

y) Annika Barron: The shareholder argument makes sense for something like the automobile industry, where you can push them to move toward renewable energy, without changing their business model of creating cars. As a shareholder, you can encourage sustainability, but the practice of burning fossil fuels is inherently bad for the environment. The shareholder argument has not been feasible with the fossil fuel industry in the past. The Catholic Church has called for divestment and disinvestment. If there's a moral issue with how business is run, the precedence is that you do not invest in that industry.

z) Maclane Farrel: We as the senate should use our voices to get a meeting with the investment office.

aa) Christian Quilon: Motion to vote by ballot.

bb) Motion passes.

20. Maclane Farrel: What actions should we take to schedule a meeting with the investment office or heads of investment?

21. Matthew Bisner: The investment office has a website.

22. Meenu Selvan: I can give you a name.

23. Resolution passes



B. [SS 2122-06: A Resolution Urging The Administration Of The University Of](#)

[Notre Dame Du Lac To Ensure Housing For Transfer Students In The Gateway](#)

[Program](#)

1. Matthew Bisner: Any discussion we have can be recorded in the minutes, but will have to be ratified next week.
2. Maclane Farrel: Is there a way to dispense with the reading of the letter, record all that testimony, and make it available to the senate? Senators can take the time to go through the testimony and make a vote.
3. Matthew Bisner: Absolutely.
4. Danny Schermerhorn: The resolution was written by Holy Cross students, so their testimony is presented very well in the resolution itself and it's very well written and laid out.
5. Liam Redmond: All of our points are in the resolution. We are gateway 9.0. We're not guaranteed on-campus housing but they always told us we would likely get it. They recently told us we're not going to get it, so start looking for leases. As a sophomore in college, that's scary, that's a lot. We met with Res Life and they gave us no explanation why and turned down suggestions or ideas. We turned to Danny as a way of looking for answers or solutions.
6. Robert Corrato: There's been 100% placement of gateway students into dorms for the past 8 years. When we got this email, everything went crazy at Holy Cross. All of the Gateways were talking to their parents at the end of class. We met with Res Life and we're trying to get a meeting with Fr.

Olinger. Our parents are doing a ton to get a meeting and answers, but there's not much progress. We're trying to take this into our own hands.

7. Liam Redmond: It's an issue that they're not we're not housing, but it's a bigger issue why they're not discussing what's going on. There's empty rooms or study rooms that could be used.
8. Danny Schermerhorn: Thank you guys again. We'll try to get it passed and work on meetings with the Division of Student Affairs. They haven't made any steps toward even a temporary solution to this problem.
9. David Haungs: I agree that the most egregious thing is that there's no explanation given for why. I would maybe suggest that the second resolve statement be saved for later. It doesn't look as genuine that we're asking them a question without considering what they have to say. After their response, you can add a more specific rebuttal.
10. Danny Schermerhorn: I had a conversation with Mary and Matt over this. We were going to push this resolution to the floor today. We want to do both of those resolve statements, but they might have to be in different resolutions or a resolution and letter of inquiry. We'll go over that next week. If you guys have any input, let me know.
11. Madison Nemeth: A letter is inquiring for information from the Division Student Affairs, orally communicated by the Student Body President. A resolution doesn't have to be orally communicated to a certain group.

## VI. New Business

A. Discussion on University Counseling Center and Mental Health Resources, Dr.

Christine Conway, *Director, UCC*

1. New Emotional Regulation Skills Group, info [here](#).

VII. Announcements

A. Mary Devoe: Welsh Fam Hoedown Throwdown is tomorrow from 5-7 p.m. on South Quad.

B. Thomas Davis: A week from today is the off-campus housing fair in Duncan from 11-1.

C. Maclane Farrel: Fisher Car Smash is this Friday 3-6 p.m. in front of Stonehenge.

D. Kate Mclaughlin: Acousticafe is in Hagerty this Thursday from 9-11 p.m. and there's a hypnotist tomorrow at 7 p.m.

E. Isabelle Keren: This Friday is the Johnson Family Hall Family Feud in Lafun Ballroom at 7-8:30, our first signature event.

F. Benjamin Erhardt: Keough Chariot Week is next week so our chariot races will be next weekend.

G. David Haungs: Judicial council will be hosting a showcase on spring elections for students to learn more about elected positions. What I'm looking for is a class of 2021 senator to answer questions about what you do here.

H. Danny Schermerhorn: The final four of the Baumer Hall ping pong tournament is this Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment