

Daniel Schermerhorn, *Baumer Hall Senator*
Mary Griffin, *Lyons Hall Senator*
Mary Devoe, *Welsh Family Hall Senator*
Abraham Figueroa, *Knott Hall Senator*
Maddie Tupy, *Club Coordination Council President*

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME DU LAC TO ENSURE HOUSING FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS IN
THE GATEWAY PROGRAM**

Whereas, the Notre Dame Gateway program has provided access to on-campus housing for sophomore Gateway students upon transfer to the University of Notre Dame since its inception nine years ago;

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame prides itself on its hallmark residential life model as “one of the most distinctive features of the university’s undergraduate experience and unlike any other in American higher education”¹;

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame requires its undergraduates to live on-campus for six semesters in support of the importance of the hall-centered community aspect of the Notre Dame education;

Whereas, relationships with upperclassmen and hall staff in dorm communities are beneficial for the professional and personal development of underclassmen when adjusting to the University of Notre Dame;

Whereas, admitted University of Notre Dame first-year students are required to live on-campus and are provided the benefits of an on-campus experience, including regular access to the dining halls and campus activities;

Whereas, Notre Dame has offered a thousand-dollar stipend per semester to junior and senior students who do not have a requirement to live on campus with a goal towards encouraging older students to remain in the on-campus hall system to lead and mentor younger students;

Whereas, options such as allowing junior students to apply for an opt-out option to live off-campus with the South Bend Community, if so desired, have apparently not been considered and discounted;

¹ <https://residentiallife.nd.edu> (accessed 10/12/21)

Whereas, numerous commentaries have been made by students living in Notre Dame halls that there exist multiple unused and underused resident spaces that could be used to accommodate on-campus housing for ND Gateway 9.0 students;

Whereas, in discussions with prospective students for the ND Gateway 9.0 student class, both Holy Cross College and University of Notre Dame leadership publicly stated that, while there has never been a guarantee of on-campus Notre Dame housing for ND Gateway students upon transfer to the University of Notre Dame, ND Gateway students have been consistently provided Notre Dame on-campus housing over the past eight years;

Whereas, the Covid-19 pandemic precipitated increased enrollment for the classes of 2024 and 2025 causing a shortage of on-campus housing;

Whereas, as a result, Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame leadership, during the ND Gateway 9.0 application process, understated the likelihood that Notre Dame on-campus housing would not be available to ND Gateway 9.0 students during their sophomore year despite later commentary by the University of Notre Dame that the lack of on-campus housing for ND Gateway 9.0 students was well-known before the acceptance deadline for the Gateway 9.0 program;

Whereas, many ND Gateway 9.0 students turned down scholarships, grants, and other financial assistance from other colleges and universities to attend the ND Gateway 9.0 program based, in part, on the comments by University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College leadership that there was no reason to believe that on-campus sophomore year housing at Notre Dame would not be provided as had been done for the previous eight years;

Whereas, mandating that ND Gateway 9.0 students live off-campus in unsupervised living environments during their sophomore year creates potential situations which may be detrimental to the University of Notre Dame student experience, may risk student safety, may increase the risk of mental health problems due to social isolation;

Whereas, it is very difficult to become an active part of the Notre Dame residential life community without having the experience of living in an on-campus dorm;

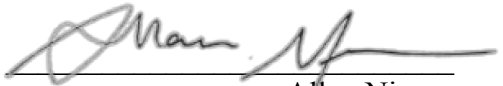
Whereas, there is major disconnect between members of a dorm living on-campus as opposed to members living off-campus due to the physical separation and lack of communication;

Whereas, University of Notre Dame leadership has provided no detail nor transparency on the options for on-campus housing for ND Gateway 9.0 students that were evaluated; therefore, be it

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

That the University of Notre Dame Division of Student Affairs and Office of Enrollment be transparent in the discussion and documentation of the remedies that have been evaluated and not pursued to solve the lack of on-campus housing for the ND Gateway 9.0 students; and

Further resolved that the University of Notre Dame provides ND Gateway 9.0 students the same unique and important opportunity for an on-campus housing experience as incoming Notre Dame first-year students.



Allan Njomo
Student Body President