

Benjamin Erhardt, *Keough Hall Senator*
Ethan Terrell, *Co-Director of Student Life*
Claire Murphy, *Co-Director of Student Life*
Claire Crafts, *Press Secretary & Director of Communications*
David Haungs, *Judicial Council President*
Daniel Schermerhorn, *Baumer Hall Senator*

AN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A SEMESTERLY STUDENT LIFE SURVEY

Whereas, the purpose of Senate per Article III, Section 1(a) of the *Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac* is to “formulate and advance the position of the undergraduate student body on all issues concerning campus life;”

Whereas, the purpose of the Executive Cabinet’s Department of Student Life per Article IV, Section 3(m) of the *Constitution* is to “serve as the gateway department for the handling of student issues as they may arise and ensure that there is a diversity of student voices incorporated into the larger framework of student government;”

Whereas, during the 2021-2022 Student Union term, Senate has heard and debated only five (5) resolutions not bestowing emeritus status on former executive Student Union leaders, indicating a relative lack in student life issues being discussed and initiatives pursued by the Senate;

Whereas, anecdotal evidence suggests that residence hall senators have generally struggled to field input from their constituents to inform them in their pursuance of Senate initiatives throughout the current term;

Whereas, a report¹ presented to the Senate Committee on the Constitution on January 24, 2022 indicated the following (from an in-person survey sample of 104 students):

- 91.35% of students believe awareness of the Student Union must be increased;
- 66% of students cannot name a single initiative that any Student Union organization has conducted during their time at Notre Dame;
- There are a variety of student life issues that students believe the Student Union should address, including (but not limited to) dining hall, diversity and inclusion, bullying, mental health, financial, and residential life housing issues;

Whereas, while the sample of students surveyed in the aforementioned report is small compared to the greater undergraduate population at Notre Dame, the results overwhelmingly indicate that a number of student life issues are going unaddressed by Senate and other organizations in the Student Union (or if they are addressed, students are unaware that their student leaders are pursuing initiatives in their interest);

¹ From [Evaluating Notre Dame Student Knowledge & Opinions Regarding the Notre Dame Student Union: A Report](#) by Department of First Undergraduate Experience in Leadership (FUEL) member Hunter Brooke.

Whereas, it is in the belief of the co-sponsors of this order that conducting a survey of the entirety of Notre Dame's undergraduate student population once per academic semester will (1) produce data that will enable student leaders to more efficiently pursue initiatives that are desired by students and (2) allow students to interact directly with and witness their student leaders actively pursuing their needs;

Whereas, representatives from both the Senate and the Executive Cabinet held a meeting on February 11, 2022 to discuss the idea of a establishing a semesterly student life survey, at which they reached a consensus that the proposed survey outlined in this Order can be feasibly developed and administered by students leaders and is sufficient to fulfill the needs of the Senate; therefore, be it

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

The *Bylaws of the Student Senate* be amended as follows to establish the administration of a Student Life Survey during each academic semester:

I. The following clause is inserted into Section VII, and is to read as follows:

3. The Senate shall task the Department of Student Life and Department of Communications of the Executive Cabinet to administer a Student Life Survey for the duration of one academic week during the months of April and October. The purpose of the Survey will be to determine what questions, concerns, or ideas students have regarding student life at Notre Dame to assist members of the Senate in their work to advance the position of the undergraduate student body. A report containing the results of each Survey must be presented to the Senate no later than its second meeting following the conclusion of each administration of the Survey. The results of each Survey must additionally be presented in the transition document of the outgoing Senate.

It is so ordered.