

FOLLOWING INTERNAL REVIEW
ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

David Haungs, *Judicial Council President*
Madison Nemeth, *Student Union Parliamentarian*
Thomas Davis, *Off-Campus Council President*
Katherine McLaughlin, *Student Union Board Executive Director*

**AN ORDER TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT BODY TO REVISE ARTICLES III, V, IX, & XV**

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac (“the Constitution”) outlines the composition of the Student Union Board (“SUB”);

Whereas, Article V, Section 2(b) reads: “One undergraduate student from each dorm shall be elected to represent his or her dorm’s interests to the Student Union Board”;

Whereas, the Off-Campus community is not represented on SUB, thus depriving it of communication between its leaders and SUB and reducing the ability for the two groups to collaborate in their shared programming interests;

Whereas, Article III, Section 2 describes the composition of the Senate;

Whereas, Article III, Section 2(a) reads: “The voting membership of the Senate shall be composed of the following: (1) One elected Senator per undergraduate residence hall. (2) One elected off-campus undergraduate Senator. (3) Four Class Presidents. (4) Club Coordination Council President, or a Designated Representative. (5) Off-Campus President.”;

Whereas, despite making up approximately 23% of the student population over the last decade according to the Registrar, the off-campus community is only represented in less than 6% of the seats apportioned by residence;

Whereas, the imbalance in representation between on-campus and off-campus students hinders the Senate’s ability to “formulate and advance the position of the undergraduate student body” (Constitution Article III, Section 1(a));

Whereas, the University’s 2021-2022 Common Data Set indicates that 22% of the undergraduate student body resides off campus;

Whereas, the proportion of undergraduate students residing off campus reflected in the 2021-2022 Common Data Set best represents the estimated proportion of undergraduate students residing off campus in the future given the six-semester on-campus residential policy which took effect starting with the graduating Class of 2022;

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Whereas, of the students residing off campus during the 2021-2022 academic year, 67% were members of the Class of 2022, 31% were members of the Class of 2023, 2% were members of the Class of 2024;

Whereas, it is reasonable to assume that the percentage of members of the Class of 2024 currently residing off campus is appropriately reflective of percentage of members of the sophomore and junior classes in the future residing off campus;

Whereas, after considering anecdotal evidence of exceptions to the Six Semester Residential Policy due to COVID-19 and past population data, it is reasonable to assume that roughly 18% of the student population, which is the current percentage of the members of the Class of 2022 currently residing off-campus, is reflective of the total percentage of students residing off-campus in the future;

Whereas, the largest residence hall on campus, McGlenn Hall, is allocated one seat in the Student Senate to represent at most 272 residents;

Whereas, on a basis proportionate to one seat in the Student Senate per 272 residents, the off-campus community, estimated to include roughly 1600 students, should be residentially represented by at least five seats in the Student Senate;

Whereas, the off-campus community is currently residentially represented by only two seats in the Student Senate;

Whereas, amending the composition of SUB and the Senate necessitates a corresponding amendment to election procedures; therefore be it

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

That the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body, pursuant to Article I, Section 5 of the same, is hereby amended as follows:


- I. Article III, Section 2(a) reads as follows: “The voting membership of the Senate shall be composed of the following: (1) One elected Senator per undergraduate residence hall. (2) Three elected off-campus undergraduate Senators. (3) Four Class Presidents. (4) Club Coordination Council President, or a Designated Representative. (5) Off-Campus President and Vice President”**
- II. Article III, Section 2(b) reads as follows: “Each residence hall Senator shall be elected by the undergraduate residents of his or her hall each year. Students who currently reside off-campus or will during the fall semester shall elect three undergraduate students to serve as the Off-Campus Senator each year.”**
- III. Article IX, Section 2(c) reads as follows: “Off-Campus Senators. (1) The Off-Campus Senators shall be elected by the students who will reside off-campus at the beginning of the next academic semester and those currently off campus. (2) The**

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Off-Campus Senators shall serve one-year terms beginning on May 1st of the year elected.”

- IV. Article XV, Section 4 reads as follows: “Off-Campus Elections. (a) The election shall be held on or before the third full week of April of each year. (b) The Off-Campus President and Vice-President, the Off-Campus Senators, and the Off-Campus Student Union Board Representative must reside off-campus during the following academic year. Having a university-provided, on-campus residence during the following academic year disqualifies a person from this office. (c) Candidates for Off-Campus President and Vice-President must run on the same ticket. Students may not split tickets when voting. (d) Each off-campus student may vote for three candidates in the Off-Campus Senator election, and the three candidates which receive the most votes shall win the election. (e) Students currently living off-campus and students living off-campus during the following academic year are eligible to vote for Off-Campus elected positions.”**
- V. Article XV, Section 5(a) reads as follows: “To win any single-seat election, a candidate/ticket must receive a majority of valid votes cast. There shall be an option for the voter to abstain on the ballot, but a vote to abstain will not count as a valid vote.”**

It is so ordered.



Allan Njomo
Student Body President