

Jared Schlachet, *Student Union Parliamentarian*
Hunter Brooke, *Carroll Hall Senator*
Derick Williams, *Keough Hall Senator*
Mia Moran, *Farley Hall Senator*
Lauren Taylor, *McGlenn Hall Senator*
James Baird, *Alumni Hall Senator*
Helen Mahoney, *Pasquerilla East Hall Senator*
Luca Ripani, *Pangborn Hall Senator*

**AN ORDER TO AMEND THE SENATE BYLAWS TO ENSURE INFORMED DEBATE
AND EFFECTIVE AGENDAS**

Whereas, Section IV, Article 10 of the Bylaws of the Student Senate read as follows: “Senate Resolutions constitute a call for action and must be passed by a simple majority vote of the Senate. A resolution cannot be adopted until it has been signed by the Student Body President. If not signed within one (1) academic week, the Senate may adopt the resolution with a three-fourths vote in favor of the resolution.”;

Whereas, Section IV, Article 9 of the Bylaws of The Student Senate: “Senate Orders constitute the execution of explicitly stated powers of the Senate. All Senate Orders shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.”;

Whereas, currently, Senate Resolutions, Orders, Letters, and other business items (legislation) may exist on the agenda for as little as twenty-four hours in order to undergo debate and a vote on the floor of the Senate;

Whereas, Senate Resolutions consist of the most substantive outward-facing work put forth by The Undergraduate Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame Du Lac (or The Student Senate), containing monumental, important, or otherwise fundamentally salient requests and calls for action—and demand a significant degree of work and effort prior to passage;

Whereas, Senate Orders consist of the most substantive inward-facing work put forth by The Student Senate, containing monumental, important, or otherwise fundamentally salient alterations to the Student Union itself—and demand a significant degree of work and effort prior to passage;

Whereas, providing The Student Senate with a greater period of time to examine all legislation (including Resolutions and Orders) shall lead to enhanced consideration, thought, deliberation,

and amendment—which, in turn, shall induce a generally higher level of legislative quality and simultaneously prevent poorly-written or unpopular pieces of legislation from passing in Senate due to a concerning lack of awareness or knowledge;

Whereas, the concepts of collaboration and cooperation are central to the essence of The Student Senate and to the creation of legislation—resolutions and orders alike;

Whereas, such potential for collaboration and cooperation is severely limited and stifled when Senators and other voting members are given minimal (as little as twenty-four hours) time to consider business items;

Whereas, anecdotally, several Senators and other member of the Undergraduate Student Union have expressed concern and discontentment regarding the short period of time (as little as twenty-four hours) between the moment in which legislative items are introduced to Senate, and the moment in which a vote occurs—namely because such short periods of time greatly reduce the ability of Senators to provide informed points of debate and to allow for a knowledgeable vote;

Whereas, The Student Senate actively seeks to avoid clear issues and mistakes, especially those made in the past; in this case, rapidly forcing legislative items through to a vote—the idea being that such action would rapidly and relatively forcefully bring issues before Administration—as such a method has proven to be ineffective and detrimental in the long-term to relations between the Student Senate and the Administration of this University;

Whereas, while it would be advantageous to The Student Senate if greater periods of time were provided to examine legislation, there may arise instances in which special business items demand rapid consideration, and must be moved to a vote;

Whereas, implementing a mandate such that, unless unanimously dictated otherwise, a finalized copy of all legislation remain on the agenda for one full week before being moved to a vote, shall allow for flexibility with such pieces of legislation while simultaneously protecting the best interests of The Student Senate;

Whereas, this unanimous vote already exists in the form of tradition, but has yet to be codified—and so doing shall formally protect the interests of The Student Senate; therefore be it,

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

I. Section IV(8) of the Bylaws of the Student Senate is inserted as follows, and all subsequent clauses are renumbered accordingly:

8. All Senate business must be distributed via agenda at least one (1) week prior to its consideration by the Senate.

(a) If an item has not been on the agenda for one (1) week, then the Student Senate may vote unanimously to consider the item immediately.

It is so ordered.