



Resolution SS1516-17

March 23, 2016

ALEX FINCHER, SENATOR OF BADIN HALL
ISABEL FOX, SENATOR OF RYAN HALL
TAYLOR STILL, SENATOR OF PANGBORN HALL

approved 21-0-6

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE HONORARY DEGREE AWARDED
TO MR. WILLIAM H. ("BILL") COSBY BE REVOKED**

Whereas, Mr. Cosby received a doctorate *honoris causa* in 1990;

Whereas, a Notre Dame degree confers the privilege and responsibility of high moral integrity and concern for the common good;

Whereas, Mr. Cosby admitted under oath to using illegal sedatives to coerce women into sexual intercourse;

Whereas, Mr. Cosby is currently involved in over fifty allegations related to sexual assault, battery, and drugging women;

Whereas, official University spokespersons have declared that they are committed "to doing all we can to prevent sexual assault";

Whereas, we should strive to send a message of support to survivors, family members of Mr. Cosby's victims, and all of those similarly affected;

Whereas, Mr. Cosby's association with these behaviors is in direct conflict with the University's stance, as stated in du Lac, that "Sexual assault is inconsistent with the University's values and incompatible with the safe, healthy environment that the Notre Dame community expects";

Whereas, our enforcement of Title IX is integrated in our Catholic morals and identity as a University, and as stated by the Vice President for Student Affairs "we must commit ourselves to create a community that fulfills our mission by looking out for one another, caring compassionately for those who have suffered violence";

Whereas, the grand majority of our peer institutions that have bestowed Mr. Cosby an honorary degree are either in the process or have already revoked it;

Whereas, there is currently no available information on how the process by which these degrees are awarded;

Resolved, that it is the recommendation of the Student Senate that the University of Notre Dame should rescind Mr. Cosby's honorary degree and clarify the process by which these degrees are awarded.

Further resolved, that the University also

