

Resolution SS0910-[14]

February 24, 2010

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
AUSTIN HOLLER, CHAIRMAN**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING EDUCATION AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE  
DISSOLUTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND POLICY STUDIES**

Whereas, Since 2003, two departments have been responsible for educating undergraduates in the field of economics: the Department of Economics and Econometrics (ECOE) and the Department of Economics and Policy Studies (ECOP);

Whereas, The two departments have different purposes and equally serve the needs of the undergraduate student body;

Whereas, Through coursework, research, and extracurricular activities, undergraduate students have critically engaged economics within its broader historical and social context while acquiring mathematical fluency and grounding in neoclassical thought;

Whereas, John McGreevy, I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, made a recommendation last semester to dissolve ECOP stating that this change will increase economic diversity and strengthen economic conversations, although no specific plan or resolution has been clearly articulated;

Whereas, Some professors from the ECOP will be offered positions in the remaining ECOE, while others will be dispersed to different institutes; *within the university*

Whereas, These decisions were made exclusively at the administrative level, independent of any student input, and exhibit a general lack of disclosure;

Whereas, In 2009, approximately 350 undergraduates declared Economics as their major (primary or otherwise) and approximately 50 additional first-year students chose Economics as their projected field of study;

Whereas, The discussions surrounding the dissolution of ECOP have focused on personality differences, departmental rankings, academic freedom, and the identity of the economics discipline, but very little discussion has concerned the 400 undergraduate economics majors and the greater undergraduate population;

Whereas, Students are upset by the absence of transparency and lack of student involvement in the decision-making process, and that no efforts have been made to educate the undergraduate student body or gauge their opinion on the dissolution of ECOP; and

Whereas, Students are concerned that the closing of the department may signal a narrowing of the vibrant economic conversation at Notre Dame and may set an unwelcome precedent for future academic decisions about undergraduate academic life; therefore, be it

\* poor precedent  
\* econ majors found out via observer

Process

*Resolved*, That Academic Council postpone the dissolution of the Department of Economics and Policy Studies until substantial student input has been gathered and weighed;

*Resolved*, That faculty and administrators make an effort to actively educate the student body about the reasoning behind the dissolution of the department as well as the process by which this dissolution is to be carried out; and

*Resolved*, That student input be actively sought out and considered in any future situations of this nature.

too Broad?  
→  
magnitude  
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