

Resolution SS0910-[20]

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS  
MS. RACHEL ROSEBERRY, CHAIRMAN**A RESOLUTION PROPOSING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR DISPLACED HAITIAN STUDENTS**

Whereas, The earthquakes in Haiti on January 12 have caused hundreds of thousands of deaths;

Whereas, The earthquakes have affected at least 3 million Haitians, approximately one third of the nation's population<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, College and university students at institutions in Port au Prince, Haiti's capital and largest city, have lost their ability to receive an education due to the earthquakes;

Whereas, A recent *New York Times* article assessing the state of higher education in Haiti reports, "Haiti's best universities are in wreckage" and "The obliteration of higher education is expected to have longstanding effects on this devastated country"<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas, The severity of the earthquakes in Haiti requires charity from all, especially an institution deriving its mission from the work of Jesus Christ;

Whereas, The University of Notre Dame has been blessed with abundant financial and educational resources, even in this period of economic downturn;

Whereas, The Mission Statement of the University of Notre Dame reads, "The University seeks to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that burden the lives of so many. The aim is to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice"<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas, The University has a strong presence in Haiti through the Notre Dame Haiti Program and the Holy Cross Mission Center in Haiti; and

Whereas, The University should feel institutional solidarity with colleges and universities affected by the earthquakes in Haiti; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That That Student Senate urges the administration of the University of Notre Dame to investigate the possibility of granting admission for the Fall 2010 semester to a number of students displaced by the January 12 earthquakes who are currently enrolled in Haitian colleges or universities;

*Resolved*, That any such admissions program should investigate the possibility of offering education to these students at no cost to the displaced students for the 2010-2011 academic year; and

*Resolved*, That although such an initiative should not financially overburden the University, the motivation for this initiative should be rooted first in charity and should offer education to a sufficient number of displaced Haitian students.

<sup>1</sup> "Haiti." NYTimes.com. January 14, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Marc Lacey, "Education Was Also Leveled by Quake in Haiti." *The New York Times*. February 14, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> "Mission Statement." University of Notre Dame. <http://nd.edu/aboutnd/mission-statement/>. 2007.

let Ryan answer  
every question

