

**Resolution SS0910-[23]****March 24, 2010**

COMMITTEE ON MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
Shawnika Giger, Chairman

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A REEVALUATION OF PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS  
DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION AND MAINTENANCE OF RACIAL DIVERSITY  
AMONG THE STUDENT BODY**

Whereas, The University of Notre Dame du Lac's stated mission is to foster an environment where "The intellectual interchange essential to a university requires, and is enriched by, the presence and voices of diverse scholars and students" (University of Notre Dame "Mission Statement");

Whereas, Research consistently demonstrates that interracial interactions within an academic environment are linked to significant gains in analytical, problem solving, and cognitive abilities (e.g., Antonio, Chang, Hakuta, Kenny, Levin, & Milem, 2004; Bowman, 2010);

Whereas, Research has shown that "socializing with different racial groups and discussing racial issues is correlated with higher overall college satisfaction, higher retention rates, and better developed intellectual and social self-concept" (Chang, 1999);

Whereas, A current nationwide emphasis on diversity-enhancing practices by institutions of higher learning is taking place (e.g., Bowman, in press);

Whereas, The aforementioned trend reflects a recurring observation that awareness, understanding, and appreciation of diversity are crucial assets for individuals functioning in an increasingly diverse and global society;

Whereas, The Notre Dame undergraduate student body is currently comprised of less than a total of 22% racial minorities; (Institutional Research)

Whereas, The enrollment and graduation rate amongst racial minorities at Notre Dame are significantly lower than those of the majority undergraduate student body; ("Institutional Research")

Whereas, Multicultural Student Programs and Services is the central administrative body responsible for promoting a holistic cultural experience for all students, yet is not a visible resource to non-ethnic minority students;

Whereas, MSPS often serves as the clearinghouse for many efforts made to address diversity issues or areas of concern on campus;

Whereas, the current content of the diversity training for Rector Assistants and Assistant Rectors is not sufficient; and

Whereas, the current content and structure of the diversity component of student curriculum (example: Contemporary Topics courses) is not sufficient; therefore be it

*Resolved*, Student Senate encourages the Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs, and the University Committee on Cultural Diversity to evaluate the resources within MSPS so that MSPS can continue their mission in reaching the majority of students on campus;

*Resolved*, Student Senate encourages the Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs, and the University Committee on Cultural Diversity to partner with MSPS to provide more resources and support to bring those goals to completion in a manner that is effective and sustainable for the majority of students within the university;

*Resolved*, Student Senate encourages the Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs, and the University Committee on Cultural Diversity to work towards improving the diversity content of the training for Rector Assistants and Assistant Rectors;

*Resolved*, Student Senate encourages Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs, and the University Committee on Cultural Diversity to evaluate the content regarding diversity within student curriculum (example: Contemporary Topics classes);

*Resolved*, Student Senate continues to encourage the University to increase its focus on promoting minority enrollment and maintaining retention rates consistent with that of the racial majority of students.