

Resolution SS0809-19

December 10, 2008

COMMITTEE ON GENDER ISSUES
LAUREN CUMMINGS, CO-CHAIRMAN
PATRICK TIGHE, CO-CHAIRMAN

A RESOLUTION PROPOSING A REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY'S SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

Whereas, The Office of Residence Life and Housing states that "The University of Notre Dame is committed to providing a campus environment that fosters inquiry, faith, scholarship, and community" and that "misconduct such as rape or any form of sexual assault has no place in any community – least of all in a Catholic university setting;"

Whereas, Multiple studies have found that approximately one in four college women survive rape or attempted rape, showing that sexual assault is an issue that affects many Notre Dame students;

Whereas, Of the 3,315 students who ranked the top three issues they wanted the Gender Issues Committee to address on the student survey, 61% listed sexual assault/rape as one of their top three issues, and 18% ranked sexual assault/rape as their most important issue;

Whereas, The University recognizes sexual assault is never the survivor's fault, and that neither the survivor's behavior nor the use of drugs or alcohol excuse sexual assault;

Whereas, Students have approached members of the Gender Issues Committee voicing their dissatisfaction with the University's sexual assault policy presented in *du Lac*;

Whereas, The University's current resources for victims and disciplinary options often do not satisfy the needs of survivors; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Student Senate requests that members of Student Affairs, the Office of Residence Life and Housing, the Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention, The Gender Relations Center, and Student Government review and evaluate the effectiveness of the University's sexual assault, rape, and sexual misconduct policy, resources for victims of sexual assault, and the University's disciplinary options available to victims of sexual assault.

Resolved, That Student Senate requests that Student Affairs be helpful and assist Student Government in its efforts to review and evaluate the University's sexual assault, rape, and sexual misconduct policy.

