

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

OFFICE OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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Office of the President
University of Notre Dame
400 Main Building
Notre Dame, IN, 46556

Dear Father Jenkins:

As students of the University of Notre Dame, we pride ourselves on being part of a community that is not only Catholic, but also Catholic in providing a welcoming environment for all students, faculty, and staff. While the University has made tremendous efforts to attract minority students through programs such as Spring Visitation Weekend, we feel that there has not been equal emphasis on recruiting and retaining minority faculty. As expressed in Notre Dame's Mission Statement, our "university requires, and is enriched by, the presence and voices of diverse scholars and students." It is as important to have a diverse faculty that promotes informal learning as it is to have a diverse student body that enriches informal knowledge.

Student Government has yet to receive a response to a similar letter written in March of last semester. We understand that that the Office of the President is heading initiatives, such as "10 by 2010" and "World View", but increasing minority faculty could also be integral in enhancing the holistic vision of the university. An increase in minority faculty would expand the cultural sphere on campus that students seek through study abroad programs, cultivate a sense of international scholarship on a faculty level, and reflect the increasingly globalized world in which our students will experience, interact, and shape. Father Jenkins once stated that "no university can be greater than its faculty". Therefore, we would like to encourage the recruitment and retention of minority faculty in order that we may graduate from our university with an exposure to the diverse perspectives that minority faculty would contribute. We hope that the Office of the President makes a concerted effort to realize the imperative nature of this issue and places minority faculty recruitment and retention as one of the Administration's top priorities for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Sincerely,



Maris K. Braun
Student Body Vice-President
Chairperson of the Student Senate

