

UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

PASSED 20-0-0

OFFICE OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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October 10, 2007

Dear Director of Undergraduate Studies,

On behalf of the undergraduate student body, the Student Senate strongly supports a formal proposal of restructuring the undergraduate Peace Studies minor curriculum to incorporate a global track. Every student, school administrator, faculty member, and staff is a member of the global community, and we have the capacity and responsibility to positively shape the world that we share. In order to do so, we must first understand the contemporary world, its issues, potentials, and multifaceted interconnections, and we believe this initiative would facilitate such global understanding among undergraduates.

In spring 2007, the Student Senate Committee on Social Concerns received information about sustainability and global education from a representative of Uppsala University in Sweden. The material outlined the significance of global education at the collegiate level. Combined with the heightened concerns of the student body following the 2006 University Forum on Global Health and issues brought forth by the University's low sustainability score, this information catalyzed the Committee on Social Concerns' action in response to the campus sentiment. The Committee researched courses offered by the University and identified numerous classes with global implications that could be assembled to create a curriculum for an official global studies concentration. In addition, the Committee considered similar concentrations offered by peer institutions for reference and used the acquired information to present an informal proposal for such a global studies program to the Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Stuart Greene. With the help of Dean Greene, the Committee found interested faculty members that would support and help realize our global studies initiative. Since then, the Social Concerns Committee has been in contact with Professor Weigert of the Sociology department and professors within the Kroc Institute, including Professor Smith and Dr. Dashti-Gibson. Our research and interaction with faculty has led us to believe that a Global Studies concentration would be an important, positive, and well-received addition to the undergraduate curriculum.

As an influential and socially aware member of the academic, Catholic, and international communities, the University of Notre Dame should offer a means by which students can address and focus their studies on the complex issues of our interconnected world. Thank you again for your support and the Student Senate and the Social Concerns Committee look forward to working with you in the realization of this worthwhile initiative.

Sincerely,



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

10/12/2017