

To whom it may concern:

Over the past decades, the University of Notre Dame has changed according to modern needs while still maintaining its core mission of upholding the traditions of a Catholic University. At its heart, Notre Dame is characterized as "a Catholic academic community presupposed that no genuine search for the truth in the human or the cosmic order is alien to the life of faith." The University has also been committed to providing "a forum where, through free inquiry and open discussion, the various lines of Catholic thought may intersect with all the forms of knowledge found in the arts, sciences, professions, and every other area of human scholarship." When change is required either in the field of academics or in student residential life, the University makes a strong effort to make policy that truly benefits the University as a whole.

We, as the University Affairs Committee of the Student Senate, applaud the efforts of the University's willingness to obtain student input in the major decisions made on campus. Efforts through the Honor Code Committee, Student Government, Academic Council, and various task forces have become integral venues for student input. Students, representing the majority of the University's population, can be drastically affected by all University policies. Thus, when University policies are made with a large degree of student input, the policies will truly benefit the greater Notre Dame community and will be a fair representation of the students' interests.

Nonetheless, Notre Dame is not exclusively an academic community for students. For nine months out of the year, Notre Dame is our home. Changes across campus have a direct impact on our lives, both personally and academically. As students, we want to work together with the University to maintain an "environment of teaching and learning which fosters the development in its students of these disciplined habits of mind, body and spirit which characterize educated, skilled and free human beings." In areas where student input is limited, we urge you to consider increasing student participation and communication. There is no harm in receiving increased input from students, who represent the largest and most significant group on this campus. As we have begun this new millennium for the University, please continue to include student input in University policy decisions and changes. Together, we can all strive to make Notre Dame a beacon of academic freedom and a University committed to "pursuit and sharing of truth" for all future generations of students.