

SS0506-17

**Student Senate Resolution**

**Creating a Committee to Investigate the Methods and Means Necessary to Incorporate Cultural Competencies within the Notre Dame Curricula**

Faculty senate,  
vague in  
language?

- study abroad
- too broad
- what it will bring to univ. instead of new committee
- resistance because of requirement load

**WHEREAS** the University of Notre Dame's President, Rev. John Jenkins C.S.C. has identified diversity in his Inaugural and Faculty Addresses as an important area of focus during his presidential tenure and expressed a personal responsibility to incorporate diversity into academic life at the University; and

**WHEREAS** the incorporation of cultural competencies within the Notre Dame curricula is paramount to the University's mission which recognizes that, "the intellectual interchange essential to a university requires, and is enriched by, the presence and voices of diverse scholars and students"; and

**WHEREAS** the 1996-1999 ad-hoc Committee on Cultural Diversity, the 2004-2005 Faculty Learning Committee on Diversity, and the Offices of Student Affairs and Multicultural Student Programs and Services represent a historical consensus among University constituents that have previously considered and strongly recommended the incorporation of cultural competencies within the Notre Dame curricula; and

**WHEREAS** the University's comprehensive goal for diversity is not simply to increase enrollment of underrepresented students, but to cultivate a more rich and vibrant intellectual life for all of its students; and

**WHEREAS** the incorporation of cultural competencies within the Notre Dame curricula is in concert with the Congregation of the Holy Cross' Catholic obligation to engage the universality of our world Church through academic inquiry; and

**WHEREAS** globalizing forces are transcending the geographic borders that once separated cultures, courses that provide the ability to navigate diverse populations are increasingly relevant in today's global marketplace; and

**WHEREAS** the University has expressed a commitment to continuously improve the curricula at the undergraduate level; and

**WHEREAS** the improvements necessary to incorporate cultural competencies within the Notre Dame curricula require a sustained effort from students, faculty, and administrators; and

**RECOGNIZING** the stated support of this renewed pursuit by the Board of Trustee's Social Values and Responsibilities Committee, and the 2005-2006 University Committee on Cultural Diversity;

SS0506-18

**Student Senate Resolution  
South Bend Public Nuisance Ordinance**

**Recognizing** that the concerns of residents of the City of South Bend with regard to unacceptable and disrespectful behavior of students of the University of Notre Dame are legitimate; and that these concerns warrant the attention of not only the Common Council of the City of South Bend, but the Notre Dame Student Body; and

**Recognizing** that the complaints illustrate a greater problem in the frayed relations between South Bend residents and Notre Dame students; that distorted and harmful perceptions exist within both groups; and that improvements will only be made through combined efforts and sustained communication; and

**Whereas** Substitute Bill No. 40-05, amends Chapter 13, Article 5, Section 13-75.5 of the South Bend Municipal Code "to expand the scope of prohibited conduct which may generate an action to abate a public nuisance" and was passed on July 25, 2005 in response to residents' voiced concerns; and

**Whereas** the amended Public Nuisance Ordinance directs the City to notify the owner and occupants of a property if prohibited conduct has occurred on the premise through a "Notice to Abate" letter after one violation of §13-75.5 rather than three violations; and the letter, addressed to the occupants of the property, reads, "The public nuisance must be abated immediately. The owner and all occupants will be held responsible for any violation of §13-75.5 which occurs after this Notice to Abate"; and

**Whereas** "Eviction Proceedings as a defense" was added to the Ordinance hours before its passage in deference to the owners who contended they should not be held responsible for the behavior of their tenants; and this provision frees owners from all liability if they pursue eviction proceedings to completion within thirty days after having received notice of prohibited conduct; and

**Whereas** a notice to abate implies an opportunity to abate; and the active encouragement of eviction after notice of the first offense is inconsistent with the prescribed procedure of the Ordinance by eliminating the opportunity to abate; and

**Whereas** several Notre Dame students are currently facing eviction after a first offense; and due to legal fees, time costs, and a weakened ability to secure future housing, eviction as a punishment for a first offense is more harsh from the perspective of the student than the fine of no more than \$2,500, as prescribed by the ordinance after the second offense; and

**Whereas** owners are provided a defense through other provisions of the ordinance, which reads, "In determining the amount of the fine to be imposed, the Court may consider