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February 7, 2001

Letter Regarding the Final Exam Schedule for Fall 2001

Mr. Mark Roche
Chairperson, Undergraduate Committee of
The Academic Council
Dean, College of Arts and Letters
137 O'Shaughnessy

Dear Mr. Roche:

Thank you for allowing our committee to attend the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting on December 4th, 2000, and to present our proposals regarding the academic calendar for the Fall 2001 semester. We appreciate your willingness to listen and consider our scenarios. Although the results are not what we hoped, we respect the committee's decision.

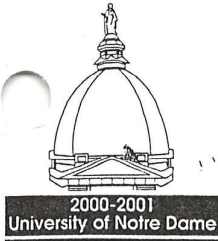
We received the impression that the Undergraduate Studies Committee did not oppose our position, but felt the proposals arrived too late and did not warrant a third debate in the Academic Council. We want to reiterate that we came to you with the backing of the student body as shown by the unanimous approval of our resolution by Student Senate. We hope that the opinion of the student body will hold strong consideration when this decision arises again in the creation of the Fall 2007 Academic Calendar.

While we do not wish to debate the issues again, the following are a few points that we hope your committee will gain from our presentation and consider in the future:

1. Students treat final exams as a very serious matter and value their study days highly. We depend on adequate time to read, synthesize, and absorb the material taught throughout the semester.
2. It is in the best interest of the students to have a consistent exam schedule from year to year. The academic calendar should always allow four study days at the end of each semester.

Academic delegate Susan Roberts summed up our concerns when she posited that the current Fall 2001 schedule puts the "crunch" primarily on the students. We offered compromising scenarios in which the faculty, administration, and students would each make sacrifices. Unfortunately, time constraints prevented these scenarios from being feasible. We would like to quote a statement that hangs in the Office of the Registrar that brings the situation into perspective. It reads:

"The student is the most important person on campus. Without students, there is no reason for this university to exist."

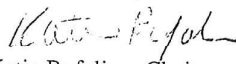



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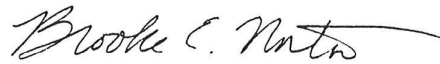
We hope that student concerns will always be taken seriously. Thank you for holding our comments, suggestions, and assertions in the deepest respect, and we hope to be involved in any future decisions on this issue.

In Notre Dame,

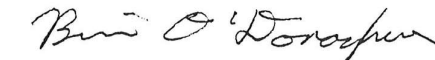

Katie Bufalino, Chair
Senate Committee on
Academic Affairs


Bill Ferreira
Senate Committee on
Academic Affairs

I, Brooke Elizabeth Norton, Chairman of the Student Union Senate, do certify that Resolution S0001-25 was considered, debated, and passed according to proper legislative procedure with twenty-six Student Senators voting in the affirmative on Wednesday, February 7, 2001.


Brooke Elizabeth Norton

Now, therefore, I, Brian Patrick O'Donoghue, President of the University of Notre Dame's Undergraduate Student Body, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame, have set my hand this seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand and one.


Brian Patrick O'Donoghue