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March 28, 2001

An Open Letter Regarding Sophomore Advising

Ava Preacher
Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Letters
101 O'Shaughnessy Hall

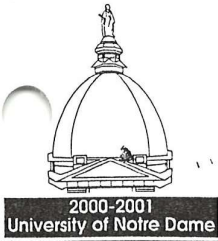
Dear Dean Preacher:

We are writing to ask you to consider a new initiative that would foster collaboration between the College of Arts and Letters and the residence halls. Specifically, we envision a peer advising program that would insure that students who have not declared their major receive guidance as they make important decisions about their future.

We recognize that the College has done a phenomenal job providing students with pertinent resources and knowledgeable advisors. The College is equipped with both faculty and staff advisors who provide extensive office hours along with several informational programs about majors and careers in order to become actively involved with the students.

Unfortunately, a number of students enrolled in the College of Arts and Letters are undecided or confused about which major to declare and therefore are in need of advising. Oftentimes, students have difficulty finding a specific advisor who could provide guidance. For this reason, we have spoken with Dean Dian Murray about a new initiative in the College of Arts and Letters. This initiative would entail advising sophomores in the process of choosing a major. Dean Murray was open to the idea of expanding advising in the college. She also suggested that the College collaborate with peers in the dorms to ensure that students receive appropriate and sustained guidance after their first year.

Specifically, we have in mind a peer advising program that will promote personal relations among the undecided student and the student advisor, who would reside in the same residence hall as the advisee. The idea of students working together with the College of Arts and Letters to reach out to undecided students can be very beneficial to both students and the staff. Dean Murray suggested initial training and monthly meetings for the student advisors. This would provide more time for the staff to establish personal relations with their students. Students may feel more comfortable in a less formal setting discussing their major with another student who can provide an experienced student's perspective.




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We thank the College of Arts and Letters for your kind consideration of this new idea for the expansion of advising in the college. We hope to continue collaborating with the College of Arts and Letters in order to create this expansion for the benefit of the students.

In Notre Dame,
The Committee on Academic Affairs

I, Brooke Elizabeth Norton, Chairman of the Student Union Senate, do certify that Resolution S0001-39 was considered, debated, and passed according to proper legislative procedure with twenty-five Student Senators voting in the affirmative on Wednesday, March 28, 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 twenty-eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and one.


Brian Patrick O'Donoghue