

Resolution SS 2324-09**29 November 2023**

Samuel Godinez, *Dillon Hall Senator*
Lindy Skube, *Flaherty Hall Senator*
Justin Aguiar, *Keough Hall Senator*
Kaitlyn Garcia, *Cavanaugh Hall Senator*
Ryan Murray, *Carroll Hall Senator*
Clayton Chauncey, *Knott Hall Senator*
Avery Gahler, *Badin Hall Senator*
Yara Obeidi, *Ryan Hall Senator*
Justice Walker, *Farley Hall Senator*

A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MOREAU PROGRAM

Whereas, the purpose of the Student Senate per Article III Section 1(a) of the *Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac* is to “formulate and advance the positions of the undergraduate student body on all issues concerning campus life”;

Whereas, the Moreau First Year Experience (FYE) course “helps new students to integrate their academic, co-curricular, and residential experiences”;¹

Whereas, the Moreau FYE course’s structure consists of two seminars that a First-Year student must take in their fall semester and spring semester respectively;

Whereas, according to an article published by [ND Works](#),² the Moreau Program Committee is currently reviewing the existing structure of the Moreau FYE course and has considered changing the programming structure that a Notre Dame student must take;

Whereas, according to an [Observer](#)³ article, there is a possibility that the second seminar of the course could be offered in the fall semester of a student’s senior year, as opposed to the spring semester of a student’s first year; these changes, according to the article, will not affect current students, nor Class of 2028 students, but rather subsequent class years;

Whereas, a Senior Moreau course would be divided by majors, and students would enroll in a Moreau course depending on their majors (i.e., a Finance major would enroll in a Finance Moreau), which would be taught by faculty professors of the major’s department;

Whereas, in order to ensure that faculty professors are available to teach a Senior Moreau course, the Moreau Program Committee is considering placing the Senior Moreau course as a

¹ “Moreau First Year Experience - Core Curriculum.” *University of Notre Dame*. <https://corecurriculum.nd.edu>

² Kate Morgan. “Moreau First Year Experience expands; appoints inaugural faculty director.” *ND Works*, Oct. 2 2023.

³ Ethan Chiang. “Moreau Program expansion to reposition second seminar requirement, includes experiential learning opportunities.” *The Observer*, Oct. 11 2023.

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requirement for a student's major, as opposed to a separate core curriculum, and adding the Senior Moreau course as one of the courses that a professor can teach within their field of study;

Whereas, according to James C. Mattison III, Wilsey Family Associate Professor of Theology and Faculty Director of the Moreau Programming Committee, several department chairs have already been in communication with the Moreau Programming Committee to potentially implement the proposed Senior Moreau course;

Whereas, the Senior Moreau course would focus on a student's professional opportunities and developments relating to the career fields that are usually associated with the student's major, with the possibility to contemplate certain career fields outside of the classroom, such as potential field trips to Chicago or Washington, D.C.;

Whereas, the purpose of the Moreau FYE course is to ensure "students come to understand the complexity and expectations of the Notre Dame community, take advantage of crucial academic and University resources, learn how to cultivate and maintain a healthy and well-balanced lifestyle, become aware of and engage with a variety of communities, heighten their understanding of diversity and inclusion, and think deeply about their academic, creative, professional, and spiritual lives";⁴

Whereas, the current program for First-Year students fulfills the purpose of the Moreau FYE course, as First-Year students learn how to navigate the resources that Notre Dame provides, how to maintain a work-life balance, how to engage with diverse opinions and backgrounds, and more;

Whereas, the suggested proposal of having the second Moreau course in the fall semester of a student's Senior year will limit a student in their First-Year from understanding all of the resources and advice available to them in a condensed seminar in their fall semester;

Whereas, a research paper published by an undergraduate student from Johnson C. Smith University found that college First-Year students reported having a higher percentage of "more stressful experiences" as opposed to college Seniors;⁵

Whereas, a survey from CollegeData found that almost 50% of college First-Year students reported that their biggest challenge was adjusting to the academic needs of a higher institution, with another 17% reporting that their biggest challenge was maintaining a work-life balance;⁶

Whereas, the Moreau course helps, aids, and assists First-Year students undergoing a dramatic change in their lives, further showing the importance of offering a year-long Moreau course to

⁴ "Moreau First Year Experience - Core Curriculum."

⁵ Aiesha Shondray Gaither. "Stress Differences between College Freshmen and Senior Students." *Department of Psychology in John C. Smith University*, Fall 2000.

⁶ "Transitioning to College: Here's What Students Have to Say." *CollegeData*, <https://www.collegedata.com/resources/transition-to-college/transition-to-college-survey-result>

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First-Year students;

Whereas, although college First-Year students demonstrably experience more stress than college Seniors, the latter have more responsibilities in their personal and academic lives in comparison to the former;

Whereas, these responsibilities can include, but are not limited to, contemplating their lives outside of undergraduate school (such as applying for employment or graduate school), studying for more academically burdensome classes, writing and researching a capstone project, and much more;

Whereas, if the Senior Moreau course is divided by major, this would place complications for students when enrolling for classes, as they would have to modify their schedule to fit their preferred Senior Moreau course;

Whereas, this has the potential to restrict certain students from registering in courses essential for graduation, or courses they would otherwise take out of genuine interest for the subject, in order to accommodate the Senior Moreau course;

Whereas, students who are mandated to take required courses within their designated majors will suffer as a result of the integration of a Senior Moreau course, as the required courses needed to progress within their major may not be offered at their convenience, causing potential delays in course selection that may affect the courses they could take in later semesters and potentially disrupting study abroad plans if they cannot take the required courses at some point in their academic career;

Whereas, those who are enrolled in “smaller majors”—those that have fewer students enrolled in the major (such as Studio Arts majors)⁷—will have difficulties fitting in a Senior Moreau course as there will be fewer slots, if only one slot open, which will pose challenges during class enrollment that could result in students being unable to enroll in other courses necessary for their major or minor;

Whereas, the inclusion of faculty professors as Senior Moreau professors would preclude these professors from teaching other courses that they would prefer to teach in order to accommodate the Senior Moreau course in their teaching schedule;

Whereas, according to the [Masachusetts Daily Collegian](https://www.massdailycollegian.com), most registration problems are caused by “a scarcity of teaching professors”,⁸ this issue could emerge in the University if professors cannot provide the courses they would normally offer in order to integrate the Senior Moreau course into their teaching schedule;

⁷ Only eight graduates majored in Studio Arts as their major in Notre Dame, according to Niche <https://www.niche.com/colleges/university-of-notre-dame/majors/>

⁸ Rhithika Senthilkumar. “Course registration is unnecessarily difficult: It’s not just a ‘freshman issue.’” *Massachusetts Daily Collegian*, Nov. 15 2018.

Whereas, this means that a department may provide a fewer number of courses during the fall semesters, restricting students' options in course selection because faculty professors would have to teach a Senior Moreau course and potentially limit the amount of courses they offer;

Whereas, numerous students have also expressed concern that the Senior Moreau course would be more academically burdensome as opposed to the current Moreau program as faculty professors could set higher standards for the course and could evaluate it more rigorously, resulting in stricter grades;

Whereas, networking opportunities could be beneficial for Senior students, but the feasibility of the Moreau program to travel every student in the Senior Moreau course to other cities, such as Chicago and Washington, is questionable due to financial constraints;

Whereas, it is clear that there are increased benefits for the Moreau course to be offered as a year-long course to First-Year students as opposed to separate courses offered in the fall semesters of a student's first and last years, and that a Senior Moreau course would prove challenging for both faculty professors and students alike; therefore, be it

***Resolved*, that the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac calls on the Moreau Program Committee to maintain the Moreau course exclusive to First-Year students, consistent with the contemporary traditional program structure as presently experienced by current Notre Dame students.**



Daniel Jung
Student Body President