

Samuel Godinez, *Dillon Hall Senator*
Maria Bueno, *Johnson Family Hall Senator*
Justin Aguiar, *Keough Hall Senator*
Louis Cornett, *Alumni Hall Senator*
Ryan Lally, *Dunne Hall Senator*
Kaitlyn Garcia, *Cavanaugh Hall Senator*

**AN ORDER CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM REGARDING THE BAN OF PEVS ON
CAMPUS**

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* (The Constitution) is to “formulate and advance the positions of the undergraduate student body on all issues concerning campus life”;

Whereas, on November 30, 2023, the Office of the Executive Vice President sent an email to all faculty, staff, and students prohibiting the operation, storage, and charging of Personal Electric Vehicles (PEVs) on campus, effective December 17, 2023; this ban prohibits all undergraduate students from using a PEV, such as an e-scooter, on the main campus ground, unless in the case of an electric mobility aid vehicle;

Whereas, the email reads, “Effective December 17, 2023, the operation, charging, and storage of Personal Electric Vehicles (PEVs) such as e-scooters, e-skateboards, e-hoverboards, and go-karts, including the batteries of these vehicles, will no longer be allowed on the University’s main ground”;

Whereas, the results of this decision came after University President Fr. Jenkins ordered the creation of a Working Group to review then-existing PEV protocols and regulations, and to provide policy recommendations for PEVs moving forward; the Working Group was comprised of two undergraduate students, one graduate student, two faculty members, one rector and one director of residential life from Student Affairs, one senior leader and one administrator from Campus Safety, and one senior associate athletic director;

Whereas, the PEV Working Group collected feedback from students, faculty, and staff to assess the impact that PEVs have on their personal life; the feedback was gathered across various communication channels, such as emails that students, faculty, and staff receive on a weekly basis, newsletters across several Notre Dame emails, and a specific email address for the purpose of gathering information;

Whereas, in total, the PEV Working Group received 586 responses from all of these communication channels from students, faculty, and staff regarding the impact that PEVs have had in their personal lives;

Whereas, the ban on PEVs on the main grounds of the University has been a constant topic of discussion among the undergraduate student body population, with several individuals in favor of the ban and several individuals against it;

Whereas, there currently exists no proper consensus on whether or not the undergraduate student body as a whole approves or disapproves of the ban;

Whereas, surveying the undergraduate student body would be beneficial to understand the thoughts of the largest body in the University (62.35%) is, while simultaneously ensuring that the undergraduate student body feels as though they are making their voices heard through the use of a referendum;

Whereas, according to Article XIV Section 3(a) of The Constitution, “A referendum is an instrument by which the Senate can gauge undergraduate student opinion on a certain issue by placing the issue in ballot form before the undergraduate student body. A referendum may suggest but shall not necessitate action by the Senate”;

Whereas, according to Article XIV Section 3(b) of The Constitution, “The Senate may place a referendum item in front of the undergraduate student body by a simple majority vote”;

Whereas, the opinions of the undergraduate student body would also be beneficial for administrators at the University of Notre Dame for any purpose by which they may use the results of the proposed referendum;

Whereas, the intended purpose of the referendum is for informational purposes; nevertheless, the referendum can provide the student body population with their opinions on PEVs and can reassure them that their voices are heard;

Whereas, after conversations with the Student Union Parliamentarian and the Student Body Vice President, the aforementioned individuals have agreed to consider a referendum and potentially place it alongside the next Student Body President / Student Body Vice President elections on February 7, 2024;

Whereas, the question presented to the undergraduate student body is completely optional, and students choosing to refrain from providing an opinion can choose to not answer the question;

Whereas, in the event that a referendum is conducted among the undergraduate students, the results of the referendum shall be placed alongside the results of the primary election by the Judicial Council on the email to all undergraduate students in the University of Notre Dame;

Whereas, the purpose of this referendum per the authors and cosponsors of this Senate Order is primarily for informational purposes only, and the author’s purpose is not to reverse the decision made by the University regarding the ban of PEVs; however, the information gathered as a result of the referendum can be used at the discretion of any individual or group; therefore, be it

Ordered, by the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac,

- I. That the opinion of the undergraduate student body shall be gauged via referendum on the matter of the ban of Personal Electric Vehicles on the University's main grounds.**
- II. The referendum shall include the following question to be included alongside the ballot to vote for the next Student Body President / Student Body Vice President:**
 - A. On November 30, 2023, the faculty, staff, and students of the University of Notre Dame received an email constituting a ban on Personal Electric Vehicles (PEVs) on campus. How would you describe your personal opinions on the recent ban on PEVs? (This survey is for informational purposes only and has no direct bearing on University policy).**
 - 1. Strongly Agree**
 - 2. Slightly Agree**
 - 3. Neutral / No opinion**
 - 4. Slightly disagree**
 - 5. Strongly disagree**
 - 6. Abstain**
- III. The results of the referendum shall be shared by the Judicial Council to all undergraduate Notre Dame students.**