

Campus Life Council Meeting #1

Date: Monday, October 30th, 2023 | Time: 5:00pm | Location: 415 Main Building

- I. Introductions
- II. Semester in Review for Each Group
 - A. Daniel Jung, Student Body President: From a Student Government view, we have had a productive year so far. We have had good interactions with administrators and the students seem to be happy and in a good place. Mental health is always a concern, so that is one thing at the forefront. In general, the system is operating well and we are pleased at how things are going.
 - B. Louis Cornett, Men's Hall Senator: The Senate resolutions have not been super impactful for student life. But, while this is not related to Senate, a buddy and I from Alumni have thought that Notre Dame, comparatively to other universities, does not have thoughtful conversations about world events. We are starting a program in our dorm to discuss world events like the Gaza/Israel conflicts.
 - C. Kaitlyn Garcia, Women's Hall Senator: As for Cavanaugh Hall and Senate, things are going smoothly. People around seem to be happy.
 - D. Bridget Schippers, HPC: Dorms have had great signature events, which is great to see. We have been working with UCF more closely to build community, such as including MiND training as part of Hall of the Year in addition to the GreeNDot goal.
 - E. Koryn Isa, Judicial Council: We have been trying to increase availability of the Peer Advocacy Program for those going through the OCS conduct process. Also having more conversations about the election process and loose ends in the Constitution.

- F. Belle Marchetti, Off-Campus Council: We have been focusing on safety and spreading information about what people may not realize is important when living off-campus, like locking doors. We hosted an event with NDPD and are working with the feedback we have received. Also, many people have said that living off campus can be isolating and they need to be intentional with making time to meet people, so we are trying to plan more events.
- G. Rebecca Shaffler, PrismND: It has been a great semester. PrismND has been able to host big events, such as the Welcome Back Picnic with food trucks, a gala for the 10th anniversary, as well as our weekly meetings. Also, this semester I have enjoyed living in the Undergrad Community at Fisher.
- H. Andrew Ryan, Appointee of the Student Body President: As someone in Sophomore Class Council, we have a lot of great events coming up.
- I. Daniel Driscoll, Men's Hall Rector #1: Residential Life had a day long retreat training focused on belonging. We are continuing to build that sense in the halls.
- J. Eric Styles, Men's Hall Rector #2: Rectors provide a unique perspective about student life because we have an immediate sense of how a decision lands on students and the immediate rationale behind decisions, which is a gift and a challenge; we are right in the middle of a situation, which can be a challenge. It is important to think about the high turnover of rectors and its impact on students and other rectors. We are a community of rectors and that support is disrupted. The reality is that things happening across the country with people shifting and moving are also happening to us, so we should be talking about that and hoping to do what we can about it. What rectors can bring to this group is help the council have a better sense of what works and what doesn't and about what are the effective ways of engaging difficult topics

that would relate to student life and what have been the ineffective ways to be communicative about that and what we see from the perspective of those who live with students.

- K. Elizabeth Clarke, Women's Hall Rectors #2: We are trying to provide support from a professional standpoint and figure out what the wants and needs are.
- L. Lily Condodina, SUB: SUB has been successful so far, with an attempted one to two events per week. Last week we had three events, which was a lot. We are catering to different student interests and within our seven sub committees, so I am happy with the work so far.
- M. Paul McGlinn, Faculty Senate: In the previous years Fr. Gerry was on this council, so he knows about what we do here. In general, I find that students worry way too much. They need to chill out. Grades don't matter in a few years. RELAX. Also, students need to get their faces out of the phones and look around a little bit.
- N. Laura Connelly, Office of Student Affairs: I am the CLC representative for the VP of Student Affairs. I wanted to note that the powerful thing of CLC is that ability to require a response from the VP of Student Affairs within 24 hours. However, a forceful response has been used unsuccessfully in the past. Sometimes students who care a lot about something approach administrators with a resolution and the resolution is too formal; It is a relatively impersonal way to communicate. Consider inviting Fr. Jerry to a conversation because it is a much more inviting way of bringing something up. Also, whether you feel really strongly about a direction or if you no idea direction, a conversation is much more productive. Also, according to bylaws, we can invite him to one of these meetings, especially at the beginning, which could be really helpful. I think he has accepted every student invitation he's ever gotten and he also hosts

fireside chats, open office hours, and is almost always responding “yes” to requests. I encourage thinking about that as the power we have as that group to get him directly involved in topics.

O. Collette, Chief of Staff: Within Student Government, there has been no overwhelming issue.

We are putting an emphasis on DEI initiatives, prompted by the center opening. A problematic area that we have been addressing that is an increase in date rape incidents, to which we are promoting Red Zone Awareness. We are also in transparent communication with Fr. Gerry.

III. Ratifying the Campus Life Council Bylaws

A. Discussion

1. Rebecca Shaffler: Can I request one change in bylaws? It says we need three rectors from men’s and women’s dorms. I want to make sure the Undergraduate Community at Fisher is being represented.
2. Eric Style: You could say undergraduate community, not resident hall.
3. Megan Moore: It depends on how long rector has been a rector.
4. Rebecca Shaffler: I want to see the possibility that Fisher is considered. It might also apply to Senators.
5. Eric Style: It could be fixed by changing the language from hall to community.
6. Daniel Jung: We can approve the bylaws, then make an amendment after.
7. Rebecca Shaffler: Yes, because it specifies men and women, but Fisher is both.

B. Bylaws are approved.

IV. Objectives of Campus Life Council

A. Daniel Jung: In general Campus Life Council, this can take a few different forms. I looked at past CLCs to see what they did and sought to bring about. I found that in the past they either

split people into smaller tasks forces/committees to work on different things, or they all worked on a specific report. As the CLC, we can create resolutions for faculty senate or student senate, and we can pass resolutions within the council. The biggest benefit is getting everyone in a room from different organizations and hearing from each other. Here are some ideas I got from looking at past CLCs: Domer Dollar and Flex Points, Alcohol, Student Safety, Disorientations, DEI, Minorities, Gender/LGBTQ, Off-Campus Interactions, NDDP, Dorm Policies/Residential Life, Dating Culture, Moreau, Academics, Honor Code, Strategic Planning, Social Spaces, Parietals

V. Brainstorm Session: The Year Ahead

- A. Daniel: Let's focus on what are some things that are of interest that the community can be better in? We can consider mental health, world events, rector turnover, the Undergraduate Community at fisher, or political polarization, aligning with Fr Jenkins' democracy Initiative. For example, the upcoming drag show this weekend. It is clear that it is very polarizing, regardless of anyone's perspective. There are two sides that don't want to engage with each other.
- B. Eric Style: I thought there wasn't a drag show.
- C. Megan Moore: There is one.
- D. Eric Style: Is it on or off campus?
- E. Megan Moore: There is a symposium on Friday afternoon and on Friday night, Blair St.Clair is performing.
- F. Eric Styles: Inteteststing. I have no problem with it, but I thought the compromise was off campus.

- G. Daniel Jung: Maybe we can talk about mental health and the rector view. How do you see it playing out and what have you seen?
- H. Megan Moore: From my perspective, it is an issue regularly. Whether someone has dealt with it for a long time and is sharing their experience or what they are going through so we know and are on the same page as them, or if it is a moment of crisis, it is at the forefront of what the job is. Head staff and RAs have lots of training, or at least some training that we go through to help accompany students, but even two nights ago, one of my ARs dealt with a student in crisis and called the help line and was rerouted 2-3 times. This is very concerning. We need to streamline assistance support, especially in dire situations.
- I. Paul McGlinn: What do you mean rerouted? It kept doing what?
- J. Megan Moore: It was an automatic message. So my AR then called a second option, then hit multiple buttons. It wasn't until a third number that she got to where she intended to go. A helpline shouldn't be playing such games.
- K. Paul McGlinn: As Student Body President, you meet with the Board of Trustees once a semester, right?
- L. Daniel Jung: Yes.
- M. Paul McGlinn: This is something you should bring to the Board of trustees. They will make it happen. Let them know that something isn't working and they can get the right person on it.
- N. Bridget Schippers: Last week I was part of the Student Wellbeing Committee. We talked about the possibility of some kind of peer to peer support in the dorms. What is the rector feedback? A lot of what people are saying is people don't know what resources to go to get help. We considered an interactive wellness tool where someone could answer a few questions and it

would say “here are the relevant resources”. But, even that has a delay. I am happy to hear feedback and share it with them.

- O. Elizabeth Clarke: There is already the Step Care Model, an initiative that came out that defines mental health issues and starts at green and goes to red. It defines what we mean by mental health. Is it a crisis or basic needs? All things are basic needs, but what exactly are we talking about? The model gives definitions of situations and says “call this number” depending on the situation. It is on a gradient. I don’t know if you’ve seen it.
- P. Eric Styles: My first response would be that first peer to peer assistance is hall staff. RAs are undergraduate students. They have more training on crisis management and support; They don’t know all, but they know more than most students. We could talk to students about reaching out to RAs or other head staff. They need someone that is safe. If there is a need for more training, though we could always need more, then it could help them deal better. If I was hearing from rectors and my own hall staff that they were overwhelmed, I would offer a different solution, but I’m not hearing that yet. People are overwhelmed during a crisis and students only come to us when they don’t know what else to do. But, a crisis is so acute that they need absolute and immediate help. If things aren’t terrible, we call that a yellow and offer feedback and resources. I have no problem walking a student to UCC to do an intake; students don’t know they can do that and that they can just walk in and talk to someone. Students forget that they can just talk to someone versus only seeing a one to one counselor once a week. There are support groups. The first thing would be if RAs are saying they are overwhelmed, then train a new group, but we are not yet there.
- Q. Paul McGlenn: Is hall staff trained?

- R. Eric Styles: Yes, they at least know resources exist and they can get to those things in a couple of taps.
- S. Daniel Driscoll: Question for students. Is there a stigma about reaching out to RAs?
- T. Kaitlyn Garcia: Possibly, I joke that hall staff is an “op”. It is hard because they still have authority over you.
- U. Megan Monroe: Hearing that, if there was a middle ground where there were peers that were trained on a volunteer basis, but that isn’t a mandatory reporter, it may encourage a person. They could do a baton handoff to head staff as needed. It might make people more comfortable.
- V. Eric Style: That could be hard to come by. In the past when I worked in Campus Ministry, when we trained volunteers, they became mandatory reporters. The institution may not be able to let that happen. I think the question is how to get people to know the ways that already exist within hall staff. Hall staff do not document after the fact generally. Let’s say a week ago you got drunk and want to talk to RA or you have roommate conflict with alcohol, hall staff typically don’t talk about documentation, we talk about it as a roommate conflict, not as an alcohol issue. Obviously it is an alcohol issue, but hall staff have the ability to do that. Other people don’t have that ability to open up the conversation. Sometimes students keep lying until the RA tells them they won’t report it. When you train students to do leadership roles or to listen, they end up being mandatory reporters.
- W. Collette Doyle: What training goes on within peer to peer support. You said you did that with Hall Staff, and I assume hall staff training is more heightened and repetitive. How do we make sure peers aren’t overwhelmed? What would that process be?

- X. Eric Style: I don't know. For us, it was an hour, maybe an hour and half. When we talk about mandatory reporters, we emphasize going up, but not across.
- Y. Daniel Driscoll: This is the same question that Cav answered, but how do men's halls see their RAs in that role?
- Z. Louis Cornett: Last year we had a good group. This year's group is good, but last year was fantastic. Any incoming freshman wouldn't have hesitated to open up. It is the same for this year. The women's hall staff are harsher on residents than men's hall staff. Men seem more comfortable going up to RAs. I couldn't say the same for women's hall staff. I would say men don't have that issue in their dorm.
- AA. Kaitlyn Garcia: I wouldn't say hall staff is out to get me. But, there is a different level of expectation in men's versus women's dorms. Men have more leeway. In a women's dorm, you are more likely to be reported and documented.
- BB. Paul McGlinn: Historically it has always been that way.
- CC. Daniel Driscoll: Every week hall staff has a meeting and asks about the people that they've encountered on the fringes or that need attention. We discuss persons of concern if it is appropriate to bring it up. My experience is that guys are very tuned in to looking out for guys who are having issues and concerns and students are approaching regularly.
- DD. Paul McGlinn: I find that in my space, academic anxieties are the launching point for mental health issues. There is heightened anxiety about grades and success.
- EE. Megan Moore: Not be devil's advocate, but grades do matter. When applying to med school, you can only have so many Cs. I've had a number of girls crying because their dream is one

thing and that is starting to dwindle because class is too difficult. The real thing to figure out is how does that spiral start and stop before it gets out of control?

FF. Daniel Driscoll: That's where the starting point is.

GG. Eric Style: This is developmental. It is appropriate for the age. In late teens and early twenties, stress is normal. It is still a crisis, but also fairly predictable. There is lots of stress that comes with learning how to be an adult. What a student feels is the most important thing in the world this year may not be in five years. That's part of growing. Part of what we see is that there is a diminished capacity to accept that that's what is happening. Students are supposed to feel that way, sorry. Welcome to adulthood. We all felt this way. This is not to diminish how they feel, but it is normal.

HH. Laura Connelly: Maybe we can introduce Christine Caron Gebhardt. I also have the step care model pulled up that could be beneficial.

II. Paul McGlinn: Is that posted?

JJ. Elizabeth Clark: They are mostly handed out and posted, but the RAs share the resources.

KK. Collette Doyle: We are working on a Step Care Model Week after break to have a series of events tailored towards resources tailored to that day to understand the model.