

Benjamin Erhardt, *Keough Hall Senator*
Elizabeth Gonzalez, *Ryan Hall Senator*
David Haungs, *Judicial Council President*
Zachary Cortez, *Siegfried Hall Senator*
Maddie Tupy, *Club Coordination Council President*
Emma Eckstein, *Howard Hall Senator*
Luke Blazek, *Pangborn Hall Senator*

AN ORDER TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ADJUST THE METHODS OF STUDENT UNION FUNDS ALLOCATIONS

Whereas, Article III, Section 3(d) of the *Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac* states that the Senate “shall establish the fiscal policies of the Student Union and supervise the proper implementation of these policies;”

Whereas, Article XVI, Section 3(b) of the *Constitution* dictates that 40% of Student Union funds to be allocated annually by the Financial Management Board (FMB) must be made available to student clubs and organizations;

Whereas, Article XVI, Section 3(d) of the *Constitution* dictates that 59% of Student Union funds to be allocated annually by FMB must be distributed amongst Student Union organizations;

Whereas, all aspects of managing funding (including, but not limited to the following: creating a budget, requesting funds, arguing for the merit of the request, fulfilling requirements for funding, supplementing income with fundraisers and dues, spending funding responsibly, and accommodating new ideas in light of former budgetary restrictions) are important in developing a sense of personal responsibility and ethical leadership habits that prepare students of Notre Dame to become a “force for good”¹ in the greater society;

Whereas, many undergraduate students are a member of a student club or organization, which indicates to the co-sponsors of this Order that student clubs are foundational to many students’ collegiate experiences at Notre Dame;

Whereas, club officers have repeatedly indicated to the Club Coordination Council (CCC) that a lack of funding constrains their ability to achieve their clubs’ missions and enrich the holistic collegiate experience of their clubs’ members;

Whereas, CCC President Maddie Tupy shared in a December 1, 2021 [presentation](#) to the Senate that the CCC allocations to clubs typically cover “no more than 15% of club projected expenses;”

Whereas, the CCC creates a final adjusted request for each club by setting an absolute cap on the amount of money allocated to any given club, imposing an additional maximum allocation of

¹ [Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C](#)

five times the amount of money fundraised by the club, and deprioritizing portions of club requests that are not central to the club's mission through a "tiering" system;

Whereas, even after significantly cutting down on clubs' requests, the CCC still only has sufficient money to fund 50 to 60% of clubs' final adjusted requests in a typical year;

Whereas, based on [data](#) from the Office of the Student Union Treasurer, since the 2017-2018 Student Union term, an average of 80.66% of Student Union organization funding requests have been fulfilled through FMB allocations;

Whereas, this figure only changes by 0.3% if the fiscal years impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are neglected;

Whereas, it is therefore apparent that Student Union Organizations receive a far higher percentage of their allocation requests than clubs even after club requests have been adjusted downwards;

Whereas, if the percentage of final adjusted club requests that are fulfilled is taken to be 60%, equalizing this percentage with the percentage of Student Union Organization requests fulfilled would require that 7% of the funds available for allocation are shifted from Student Union Organizations to clubs, such that Student Union Organizations receive 52% of the funds and clubs receive 47% (see Appendix for calculations);

Whereas, the most consistent feedback obtained by the sponsors of this amendment has been a desire to avoid harming the financial standing of Residence Halls by shifting money away from Student Union Organizations, including Hall President's Council (HPC);

Whereas, Residence Halls, like clubs, receive allocations from a Student Union Organization (HPC) rather than from FMB directly, but unlike clubs, are not currently afforded a consistent line item in the budget;

Whereas, based on the aforementioned data from the Office of the Student Union Treasurer, over the past five years, HPC has received 16% of total allocated funds on average, and 90% of HPC's allocated funds have been allocated to Residence Halls; therefore, be it

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

I. Article XVI, Section 3(b) of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

(b) 47% of the funds available for FMB allocation shall be allotted to the line item "Clubs and Organizations" as the minimum amount designated for distribution by the Club Coordination Council with final review by the Financial Management Board.

II. Article XVI, Section 3(d) of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

(d) 37% of available funds shall be distributed among the following Student Union organizations:

III. Article XVI, Section 3(c) is inserted into the *Constitution*, and all subsequent subsections and references thereof and thereto are renumbered accordingly:

(c) 15% of available funds shall be allotted to the line item “Residence Halls” as the minimum amount designated for distribution by the Hall Presidents Council with final review by the Financial Management Board.

It is so ordered.

Allan Njomo
Student Body President

Appendix

Definitions:

Symbol	Description
c_{current}	Current fraction of funds going to clubs
s_{current}	Current fraction of funds going to Student Union Organizations
c_{ideal}	Ideal fraction of funds going to clubs
s_{ideal}	Ideal fraction of funds going to Student Union Organizations
T	Total amount of funds available
r_c	Final adjusted club request
r_s	Total Student Union Organization Request

Analysis:

Currently,

$$0.6 = \frac{\text{amount going to clubs}}{\text{final adjusted club requests}} = \frac{c_{\text{current}}T}{r_c}, \quad (1)$$

so,

$$r_c = \frac{c_{\text{current}}T}{0.6}. \quad (2)$$

Similarly,

$$0.8 = \frac{\text{amount going to Student Union Organizations}}{\text{Student Union Organizations requests}} = \frac{s_{\text{current}}T}{r_s}, \quad (3)$$

so,

$$r_s = \frac{s_{\text{current}}T}{0.8}. \quad (4)$$

Ideally, the percent of final adjusted club requests fulfilled equals the percent of Student Union Organization requests fulfilled, so

$$\frac{c_{\text{ideal}}T}{r_c} = \frac{s_{\text{ideal}}T}{r_s} \Rightarrow \frac{c_{\text{ideal}}}{s_{\text{ideal}}} = \frac{\cancel{T}r_c}{\cancel{T}r_s} = \frac{r_c}{r_s}. \quad (5)$$

Now, substitute the values of r_c and r_s derived in Equations 2 and 4, respectively:

$$\frac{c_{\text{ideal}}}{s_{\text{ideal}}} = \frac{\frac{c_{\text{current}}T}{0.6}}{\frac{s_{\text{current}}T}{0.8}} \Rightarrow \frac{c_{\text{ideal}}}{s_{\text{ideal}}} = \frac{c_{\text{current}}}{s_{\text{current}}} \left(\frac{8}{6} \right). \quad (6)$$

In other words, the ratio of the fraction of funds going to clubs to the fraction going to Student Union Organizations should increase $\frac{4}{3}$ times. So,

$$\frac{c_{\text{ideal}}}{s_{\text{ideal}}} = \left(\frac{0.40}{0.59} \right) \left(\frac{4}{3} \right) = 0.9039. \quad (7)$$

So,

$$c_{\text{ideal}} = 0.9039s_{\text{ideal}}. \quad (8)$$

We still want

$$c_{\text{ideal}} + s_{\text{ideal}} = 0.99. \quad (9)$$

Substitute in c_{ideal} :

$$s_{\text{ideal}} + 0.9039s_{\text{ideal}} = 0.99, \quad (10)$$

so,

$$1.9039s_{\text{ideal}} = 0.99. \quad (11)$$

Thus,

$$s_{\text{ideal}} = 0.5200. \quad (12)$$

So ideally, Student Union Organizations should get exactly 52% of funds and clubs should get exactly 47%.