

Resolution SS 2324-11**21 February 2024**

Samuel Godinez, *Dillon Hall Senator*
Maria Bueno, *Johnson Family Hall Senator*
Aidan Rezner, *Student Body Vice President*
Maeve Miller, *McGlenn Hall Senator*
Clayton Chauncey, *Knott Hall Senator*
Lindy Skube, *Flaherty Hall Senator*
Kaitlyn Garcia, *Cavanaugh Hall Senator*
Dorian Khoshyomn, *Stanford Hall Senator*
Jacob Zybura, *Duncan Hall Senator*
Ryan Murray, *Carroll Hall Senator*
Bella Vasquez, *Pasquerilla East Hall Senator*
Andrew Ryan, *Sorin Hall Senator*

A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE NDH WALL

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, Johnson Family Hall (JFam) is a women’s residence hall that opened its doors during the Fall semester of 2020, currently standing as the most recent addition of residence halls in the Notre Dame community, with plans for further expansion of residence halls to be developed in the coming months;

Whereas, Zahm Hall, alternatively referred to as Zahm House, is a former men’s residence hall that was discontinued by the University of Notre Dame in 2021 but has operated as a “swing hall” – a residence hall temporarily housing residents from another dorm as they undergo renovations – since its discontinuation;

Whereas, inaugurated in the Spring of 2023, the Undergraduate Community in Fischer is located in the Fischer Graduate Residences, and houses approximately 80 sophomores, juniors, and seniors living in apartments of two students per unit, containing a bathroom and a kitchen in each;

Whereas, a new men’s residence hall, whose name has not been announced at the time of writing, is set to be inaugurated in the Summer of 2024, and the community currently living in Pangborn Hall will be transferred into the new men’s residence hall;

Whereas, North Dining Hall (NDH), one of the dining halls located at Notre Dame, currently displays a wall in the lobby area with the residence hall names of all of the undergraduate residence halls affiliated with the “North Quad” community – dorms belonging to North, Mod, and East Quad – with the most recent renovations completed in 2018;

Whereas, the NDH wall has remained outdated, as it currently excludes JFam, despite its status

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as a residence hall for almost half a decade;

Whereas, anecdotally, several residents of JFam have expressed levels of discontent and dissatisfaction towards the hall's lack of presence in NDH, feeling excluded from the rest of the North Quad community and from its neighboring dorms;

Whereas, this issue has persisted in the Notre Dame campus since the dorm's opening in 2020, and although there have been conversations about placing the residence hall in the NDH wall in conjunction with other residence halls that will open its doors later in the future, this issue would be better suited to be resolved immediately rather than postponing it for later, as cited per an email sent by Ms. Julie Boynton, Director of Interior Architecture in the Office of Facilities Design and Operations;

Whereas, the Undergraduate Community at Fischer is currently listed as a residence hall per the University of Notre Dame, and hence it would be reasonable to include them in the NDH wall alongside the rest of the residence halls;

Whereas, the du Lac: A Guide to Student Life website currently reads, "The University of Notre Dame strives for a spirit of inclusion among the members of this community for distinct reasons articulated in our Christian tradition";

Whereas, it is in the opinions of the lead author and the cosponsors that inclusivity could be improved among the Notre Dame community by updating the NDH wall so that its format is reflective of the North Quad community at large;

Whereas, the original version of this Resolution encompassed guidelines to remove Zahm Hall from the NDH wall; however, due to the aforementioned dorm's status as a swing hall, many have argued that its signage should remain on the NDH wall, contingent that it continues to house undergraduate students;

Whereas, several administrators representing multiple organizations in the University of Notre Dame have been contacted regarding this issue, including Anthony Polotto, Julie Boynton, and Joline Lock, representatives in the Office of Facilities Design and Operations; Luigi Alberganti, representative in Campus Dining; and Karen Kennedy and Dan Rohmiller, representatives of Residential Life;

Whereas, all of these administrators have expressed a willingness to incorporate JFam and Fischer Undergrad into the NDH wall, and have made multiple concerted efforts to communicate with one another to ensure the inclusion of JFam into the NDH wall;

Whereas, Senator Samuel Godinez of Dillon Hall has made considerable efforts to communicate with all of the administrators above, including the initiation of several productive meetings and conversations, despite lacking any affiliation with the North Quad community; his efforts have yielded progress in addressing the outdated structure of the NDH wall;

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Whereas, Samuel Godinez and Student Body Vice President Aidan Rezner met with Karen Kennedy, the Associate Vice President of Residential Life, and Dan Rohmiller, the Director of Residential Life: Housing Operations, to discuss these matters in a meeting on February 12, 2024;

Whereas, both Ms. Karen Kennedy and Mr. Dan Rohmiller expressed a willingness to update the NDH wall in its present form of residence halls affiliated with North Quad in the Summer of 2024, which would include the addition of JFam, Fischer Undergrad, and the new men's residence hall;

Whereas, the main purpose of this Resolution is to update the NDH wall in its current form; however, given that the University of Notre Dame has made strides to include and remove several residence halls in recent years, most recently by announcing the removal of Pangborn Hall and Fisher Hall, it would seem more logical for the Resolution to encompass guidelines for the NDH wall to be continuously updated as the present structure of residence halls affiliated with North Quad changes;

Whereas, in the event that a residence hall is included in the Notre Dame community, specifically in North Quad, or a residence hall is removed from the University, the NDH wall ought to be updated to include a residence hall within a one year timeframe to ensure its accuracy and reflection of the entire North Quad community;

Whereas, each summer, the Office of Residential Life will assess new additions to the North Quad community and set forth an operational action plan to update the NDH wall; if the structure of North Quad does not change during that given period, no changes are necessitated in the NDH wall; if a residence hall is added, the NDH wall will be updated to represent these changes in the summer; if a residence hall is discontinued, the Office of Residential Life will wait for four years until the last generation of the residents from the discontinued residence hall graduates; if a residence hall is discontinued but operates as a swing hall, the signage of the residence hall can remain contingent that it houses undergraduate students;

Whereas, the intention of this Resolution is not to remove residence halls from the NDH wall while the last undergraduate class who once resided in the removed dorm continue studying at the University of Notre Dame as undergraduate students, since several former residents currently studying may still feel a sense of belonging with their former residence hall;

Whereas, a discontinued residence hall turned into a swing hall can maintain its signage in the NDH wall because students originally from a residence hall in South Quad temporarily residing in the building may not be represented in the NDH wall; thus, they may feel represented in the NDH wall by the building they temporarily reside in; however, once a discontinued residence hall turned swing hall no longer houses undergraduate students, its name should be removed from the NDH wall, to ensure the aforementioned wall remains a faithful representation of the composition of North Quad;

Whereas, this process would initiate collaboration between the Office of Residential Life and the Office of Facilities Design and Operations, with approval from Campus Dining, to constantly update the NDH wall to reflect the concurring changes to the North Quad community and ensure that all affiliated residence halls are duly represented and included in perpetuity;

Whereas, based on conversations with Ms. Karen Kennedy and Mr. Dan Rohmiller, the Office of Residential Life will work towards allocating financial resources for such developments and anticipate that these changes will occur in the summer; therefore, be it

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

- 1. The Office of Residential Life, in conjunction with the Office of Facilities Design and Operations and Campus Dining, update the North Dining Hall wall to the current structure of residence halls in North Quad, which includes the addition of Johnson Family Hall, the Undergraduate Community in Fischer, and the new men's residence hall, during the Summer of 2024;**
- 2. In the event that a residence hall is included from the residence halls commonly affiliated with North Quad, the Office of Residential Life, guided by the aforementioned provision, will undertake the task of updating the NDH wall within a one year frame of the residence hall's opening, specifically in the summer of that year, thus maintaining accuracy in the NDH wall as a faithful reflection of the dynamic composition of the North Quad community, while giving considerable time to the aforementioned administrative offices to conduct the necessary updates;**
- 3. The lead author and cosponsors of this Resolution suggest that, in conjunction with the opinion of representatives of the Office of Residential Life, the signage of a former residence hall should not be removed until the last undergraduate class who once resided in the residence hall graduates; furthermore, if the discontinued residence hall still houses undergraduate students on a temporary basis, its signage can remain in the NDH wall until it no longer houses undergraduate students;**
- 4. Administrators of the Office of Residential Life and the Office of Facilities Design and Operations may be able to look back on this Resolution for future reference, thus preventing the necessity to repetitively introduce a Resolution to include or remove a residence hall from the NDH wall whenever changes occur in the North Quad community;**
- 5. All administrators involved in addressing this issue – especially Ms. Karen Kennedy and Mr. Dan Rohmiller – are extended the highest appreciation and gratitude by the undergraduate student body, recognizing their dedicated efforts in writing correspondence and conducting meetings with members of the Student Senate on this issue.**



Daniel Jung

Daniel Jung

Student Body President