

**Addendum****20 March 2024**

Members of the Student Senate,

Throughout these past weeks, I have received mixed feelings regarding SS2324-11, A Resolution to Update the NDH Wall. There have been several individuals who have shown unwavering support for the Resolution, as well as those who have publicly opposed it. Please feel rest assured that I have taken all of these arguments into consideration. Furthermore, I thank all who have freely expressed their opinions in public and private. From last meeting's debate, I noticed several misconceptions and concerns that I wish to address before you.

The goal of this Resolution is to establish a coherent, promising plan to continually include new residence halls from the North Quad community in the North Dining Hall (NDH) wall. The issue first became apparent to me as a result of Johnson Family Hall's absence from the wall for almost half a decade. From my conversations with the Office of Facilities Design and Operations and the Office of Residential Life, I learned that there did not exist a plan to solve the issue of absences in the NDH wall. Given these concerns, I held multiple meetings and conversations with several University administrators. I believe that, to prevent an issue akin to Johnson Family Hall's absence for almost half a decade, I ought to encompass a Resolution that not only calls for the inclusion of remaining residence halls not listed on the wall, but also establishes concrete plans to include a residence hall's signature in the event that the dorm opens its doors to undergraduate students. That way, administrators may be able to look back on the Resolution and update the name as necessary.

However, this also entails that residence halls no longer listed as undergraduate residence halls in North Quad should be removed as well. Given that the NDH wall is meant to be an accurate reflection of the present composition of North Quad, it felt unnecessary to maintain, or even include, residence halls already discontinued. As North Quad continues to change, space may become limited in the wall, and hence ensuring that the NDH wall is a manifestation of the present composition of the North Quad community benefits all parties involved. This is also congruent with historical precedent, as Grace Hall and Flanner Hall, former North Quad residence halls discontinued before the beginning of the 21st century, are not listed in the NDH wall. Nonetheless, I acknowledged that former residents currently studying in Notre Dame may still feel an attachment to their former residence hall. As such, I approved a compromise where the signature of the former residence hall will remain listed and cannot be removed until the last undergraduate class from the former residence hall graduates from Notre Dame. There will always be a Fifth-Year, and even Sixth-Year, student still studying or working on campus, and we cannot be held accountable for that, especially as they most likely no longer reside in an undergraduate residence hall.

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In regards to Zahm Hall, I believe that, because Zahm Hall is a discontinued residence hall, the residence hall's signature ought to be removed from the NDH wall. My belief was further reinforced when taking into account that the last class of former residents who resided in Zahm Hall, not Alumni or Breen-Phillips for example, will be graduating this year. I was under the presumption that this would not be a controversial issue and would not overshadow the essence of the Resolution. I was wrong. Last meeting's debate showed overwhelming support to maintain Zahm Hall in the NDH wall, primarily because it currently operates as a swing dorm for several residence halls undergoing renovations. Most importantly, it was argued, Fisher Hall, whose residents will reside in the building formerly associated with Zahm Hall for the next two years, will not have representation in the NDH wall even while its residents will regularly attend it. Although I maintain my belief that Zahm Hall's signature should be removed because it is not representative of Fisher Hall, I have taken those concerns into consideration.

I rejected the possibility of a friendly amendment regarding swing dorms because these opinions were not discussed with any administrators beforehand. Introducing a friendly amendment without previous discussion could generate distrust among administrators – something I wished to avoid. My intent was to respect the working relationship that administrators currently have with student leaders. But as a result of the objections raised, I have discussed these concerns with representatives from the Office of Residential Life and have agreed to maintain the signature of a residence hall already discontinued in the NDH wall, provided that they operate as a swing dorm and presently house undergraduate students. Through this manner, their names will remain intact while still maintaining the faithful representation of the present structure of North Quad. This provision includes Zahm Hall. However, we cannot, and should not, make any promises that these residence hall's signature will remain intact in the event that the building no longer houses undergraduate students.

Finally, I wish to clarify some of my personal convictions. My intentions have always been, and will always be, positive. I bear no distaste nor dislike towards any residence hall, past or present. I took this obligation freely even as I fail to belong in any official capacity to a residence hall located in North Quad. My only interest has been to establish fairness and justice in the process to continually update the NDH wall. I made a promise that I would do everything in my capacity to ensure Johnson Family Hall is represented in the NDH wall, and I intend to keep it.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Godinez

*Dillon Hall Senator*