

**Resolution SS 2324-13****20 March 2024**

Samuel Godinez, *Dillon Hall Senator*  
Aidan Rezner, *Student Body Vice President*  
Maria Bueno, *Johnson Family Hall Senator*  
Joseph Tunney, *Fisher Hall Senator*  
Andrew Ryan, *Sorin Hall Senator*  
Lindy Skube, *Flaherty Hall Senator*  
Kaitlyn Garcia, *Cavanaugh Hall Senator*  
Yara Obeidi, *Ryan Hall Senator*

**A RESOLUTION TO UPDATE THE HALL FLAGS ON THE TRACK IN THE SMITH CENTER**

*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*, a tenet of the University of Notre Dame’s mission is to continually improve and to provide an equitable background to everyone in Our Lady’s University;

*Whereas*, the Strategic Plan of the University of Notre Dame currently reads, “[W]e will maintain current and develop new initiatives designed to attract students of high academic potential and diverse backgrounds and provide a supportive community when they are here, all in the context of Notre Dame’s distinctive Catholic mission”;<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, the Track in the Smith Center located on the fourth floor of Duncan Student Center currently displays in-shape flags of all the current residence halls of the University of Notre Dame, alongside their dorm crest, mascot name, and opening year;

*Whereas*, the display of these flags in the Track Center has been outdated for a number of years, currently omitting Johnson Family Hall and Baumer Hall, the newest residence halls on campus at the time of writing, and including Zahm Hall, a residence hall discontinued in 2021;

*Whereas*, Johnson Family Hall already has an opening year (2020), a dorm crest,<sup>2</sup> and a mascot name (Valkyries), and has thus far established a residence hall identity sufficient for recognition on the current display in the Track of the Smith Center, akin to other residence halls currently represented on the Track in the Smith Center, but it has yet to be included alongside them; likewise, Baumer Hall already has an opening year (2020<sup>3</sup>), a dorm crest<sup>4</sup>, and a mascot name (Buccaneers), and has thus far established a residence hall identity sufficient for recognition on

<sup>1</sup> “Enhancement Areas.” *University of Notre Dame*, 2014, <https://strategicplan2014.nd.edu/university-plan/undergraduate-education/enhancement-areas/>

<sup>2</sup> [744 × 899](#)

<sup>3</sup> The residence hall opened in the year 2019 and operated as a swing dorm for Dillon Hall as they underwent renovations, but Baumer Hall became its own dormitory in 2020, in the midst of the COVID pandemic. <https://residentiallife.nd.edu/undergraduate/halls/baumer-hall/>

<sup>4</sup> [1,200 × 1,451](#)

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the current display in the Track of the Smith Center;

*Whereas*, the Track Center of the Smith Center should reflect the present status of residence halls in its most updated form to ensure that no residents from any of the aforementioned residence halls feel excluded from the residential communities that the University of Notre Dame seeks to promote;

*Whereas*, Zahm Hall, alternatively referred to as Zahm House, has been discontinued since 2021 by the University of Notre Dame and, given that its last cohort of students will be graduating from Notre Dame this year, maintaining its inclusion is counterproductive to the purpose of the display of the flags of residence halls;

*Whereas*, this issue would not have progressed without the dedication of Senator Maria Bueno of Johnson Family Hall, who actively listened to the concerns of her constituents and tirelessly advocated for its advancement; her efforts in addressing this concern has yielded significant progress on this issue;

*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; Mark Williams, Drew Loso, and Veronica Ballinger, representatives of RecSports; and Karen Kennedy and Dan Rohmiller, representatives of Residential Life;

*Whereas*, Senator Samuel Godinez met with the representatives of RecSports – Mark Williams, Director of RecSports; Drew Loso, Associate Director of Facilities, Operations, & Risk Management in RecSports; and Veronica Ballinger, Assistant Director of Communication & Engagement in RecSports – and the Student Senate is entirely grateful for their invaluable support and assistance on this matter, especially as they expressed a true willingness to include Johnson Family Hall in particular in the Track of the Smith Center;

*Whereas*, Samuel Godinez and Student Body Vice President Aidan Rezner further met with representatives of Residential Life – Karen Kennedy, Associate Vice President of Residential Life; and Dan Rohmiller, Director of Residential Life: Housing – to discuss this issue within a broader strategic time frame;

*Whereas*, in the meeting, the aforementioned administrators remained open to the possibility of establishing a structure for the design of the Track Center in Duncan Student Center to be continually updated to ensure that no residence hall remains excluded from the broad Notre Dame community;

*Whereas*, in the coming years, several new residence halls will be created and integrated as part of the University's community of residence halls; each of these new residence halls will adopt its own distinctive dorm crest and mascot name, for which they will be associated with;

*Whereas*, given the changes that will occur in residence halls in the near future, it is reasonable for this Resolution to encompass guidelines to continually update the display of the flags in the Track of the Smith Center, aligning with the evolving structure of the residence halls listed by the University of Notre Dame;

*Whereas*, given that residence halls take time to truly create a community, including their dorm crest and mascot name, each residence hall should be given adequate time – at minimum two years – to establish an identity without feeling any sense of haste or pressure to do so; afterwards, the Hall Staff of the residence hall will send all necessary materials to the Office of Residential Life, RecSports, and the Office of Facilities Design and Operations to request their inclusion in the Track of the Smith Center; the aforementioned administrative offices will then take adequate steps in the next summer, provided they have adequate time to do so, to ensure that the residence hall is encompassed with the remainder of the rest of the residence halls;

*Whereas*, the intention of this Resolution is not to remove residence halls from the Track in the Smith Center while the last undergraduate class who once resided in the removed dorm continues studying at the University of Notre Dame as undergraduate students, since former residents currently studying may still feel a sense of belonging with their former residence hall; 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 administrators from RecSports and the Office of Facilities Design and Operations, update the current structure of the residence halls flags located on the Track of the Smith Center in accordance with the suggested actions that should be taken in respect to each dorm as follows:**
  - **Johnson Family Hall should be added into the Track of the Smith Center at its earliest convenience;**
  - **Baumer Hall should also be added into the Track of the Smith Center alongside Johnson Family Hall;**
  - **Zahm Hall, given that it is no longer listed as a residence hall in the University of Notre Dame, and there appears to be no plans of reopening the residence hall as it previously stood, should have its flag removed from the Track in the Smith Center;**
  - **The Undergraduate Community in Fischer (Fischer Undergrad) opened in the Spring of 2023, and although it is listed as a residence hall, it has not had adequate time to establish an identity; thus, the lead author and cosponsors of this Resolution strongly recommend that the Hall Staff of Fischer Undergrad inform the Office of Residential Life, RecSports, and the Office of Facilities Design and Operations of their residence hall information once they establish an identity;**
  - **The new men's residence hall, whose name has not been announced at the time of writing, should take a minimum of 2 years, as previously recommended, to establish a permanent identity before sending its**

information to the aforementioned administrative office to warrant its inclusion in the Track of the Smith Center;

- Pangborn Hall is currently not listed in the Track of the Smith Center, but because its residents will relocate to the new men’s residence hall in a permanent capacity, it is reasonable that their residents take time to develop a community in their new residence hall, rather than being presented in the Track of the Smith Center as the current building closes;
  - Fisher Hall will relocate to the building formerly associated with Zahm Hall; its residents will continue to refer to themselves as belonging to Fisher Hall, and henceforth its flag should remain in the Track Center until the last undergraduate class who once resided in the residence hall and identified themselves under the name of Fisher Hall graduates from Notre Dame;
2. Any new residence hall that has opened its doors, or will open its doors, must wait at minimum two years after its opening to request its inclusion in the Smith Center, and must communicate their dorm’s opening year, its dorm crest and mascot name to the Office of Residential Life, RecSports, and the Office of Facilities Design and Operations; once the aforementioned administrative offices receive the documents necessary to include the residence hall in the Smith Center, they will take swift action to ensure that any updates to the structure of the flags occur in the next summer, provided that they have reasonable time to make all necessary updates, ensuring that no residence hall is omitted from the display of the residence halls in the Smith Center;
  3. The Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac strongly recommends, in conjunction with the opinions of Ms. Karen Kennedy and Mr. Dan Rohmiller, that in the event that the University of Notre Dame discontinues a residence hall, the Office of Residential Life, RecSports, and the Office of Facilities Design and Operations maintain a dorm flag in the Smith Center until the last undergraduate class who once resided in the residence hall graduates from the University of Notre Dame;
  4. Administrators of the Office of Residential Life, RecSports, 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 Track of the Smith Center whenever changes occur in the structure of residence halls in the University of Notre Dame;
  5. All administrators who took the time to meet to discuss this issue – including Mark Williams, Drew Loso, Veronica Ballinger, Karen Kennedy, and 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*

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Daniel Jung

*Student Body President*