

Samuel Robinson, *Student Union Parliamentarian*

Madison Denchfield, *Badin Hall Senator*

Matthew Dunn, *Baumer Hall Senator*

Elijah Jones, *Judicial Council President*

Kyle Lauckner, *Dunne Hall Senator*

Anna Kate Carlisle, *McGlinn Hall Senator*

Connor Klimek, *O'Neill Hall Senator*

AN ORDER TO UPDATE AND APPROVE THE BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT SENATE

Whereas, Section XIII (1) of the Bylaws of the Student Senate states, “The Senate shall, no later than April 30th, conduct a process of internal review and reform of these Bylaws and the sections of the Constitution pertaining to the Senate. The Senate shall, having made necessary changes, vote by a two-thirds majority to approve these Bylaws for a term of one year prior to May 1st. Following the approval of these Bylaws, the Chairperson shall present these Bylaws to the Student Union Ethics Commission.”;

Whereas, the bylaws of the Student Senate must correctly reflect the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac;

Whereas, according to Article II Section 2(a) of the Constitution, “The Student Body Vice-President shall serve as the Chairperson of the Senate and ensure its efficient and effective operation;”

Whereas, according to Article XII Section 3(d)(1) of the Constitution, “The Parliamentarian shall advise the Chairperson of the Senate and Campus Life Council regarding parliamentary procedure and *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*;”

Whereas, according to Article II Section 4(e) of the Constitution, “The Student Union Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation of minutes of the aforementioned Student Union meetings and distribute the minutes to the members of the Senate as well as students, faculty, and staff through the Senate website;”

Whereas, according to Section II(4) of the Bylaws of the Student Senate, “The Chairperson or the Parliamentarian may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Senate;”

Whereas, according to Section II(4) of the Bylaws of the Student Senate, “The Secretary may be removed for cause at the discretion of the Chairperson;”

Whereas, the Vice President is constitutionally required to serve as the Chairperson of the Senate and cannot be removed from their role except in cases of impeachment or resignation;

Whereas, the Student Union Parliamentarian is constitutionally required to advise the Chairperson of the Senate on parliamentary procedure and cannot be removed from their role except in cases of impeachment or resignation;

Whereas, according to Article I Section 2(b) of the Constitution, “Nothing in the bylaws shall come into conflict with this Constitution;”

Whereas, the constitutionally required duties of the Student Body Vice-President, Student Union Parliamentarian, and Student Union Secretary may only be altered by a Senatorial Order and not by a supermajority vote;

Whereas, the Senate has ordered that all recordings of Senate meetings be posted on the Student Government YouTube account within one week of said meeting for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 terms;

Whereas, neither the *Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac*, nor the Bylaws of the Student Senate, currently specify a procedure for the administration of a closed vote;

Whereas, this can lead to inconsistency regarding who is able to review the results of a closed vote, and when the results are to be announced to the Student Senate;

Whereas, the results of a closed vote should be announced promptly, as would the results of a vote that is not closed;

Whereas, amending the Bylaws to provide a clear procedure for how a closed vote is conducted would eliminate inconsistency and ensure that members of the Senate are informed of the results of a closed vote promptly;

Whereas, Article III, Section 3(b) of the *Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac* (the Constitution) states “Each residence hall Senator shall be elected by the undergraduate residents of his or her hall each year.”;

Whereas, each Senator serves as an elected representative of their respective hall’s interests;

Whereas, allowing all legislation to be heard ensures that every Senator has an equal opportunity to represent their hall’s interests;

Whereas, all students of the University of Notre Dame du Lac should have access to Senate meetings to promote engagement and uphold the principles of an open and representative government;

Whereas, each of these rules is honored in practice, but there is no section of the Constitution or the Bylaws that enforces them;

Whereas, given the importance of these practices, our Bylaws should be updated to reflect them; therefore, be it

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

That the Bylaws of the Student Senate are hereby amended to read as follows:

I. Section IV (19) is hereby inserted as follows and all subsections and references thereafter and thereof are renumbered accordingly:

19. All objectively reasonable legislation brought forward by a member of the Student Senate shall either be placed on the agenda and considered by the Student Senate, assigned to a relevant committee, or both.

II. Section IV (6) is hereby amended from:

(6) All meetings of the Senate shall be open to any member of the University community. The Senate may close a meeting at any time by a two-thirds vote. If a motion is made to close a meeting, the vote to do so shall be automatically closed and that motion shall be debatable before the vote occurs. The portion of the minutes and video pertaining to the closed meeting of the Senate shall not be published online or released to any individual not present at the time of the meeting.

to now read as follows and all subsections and references thereafter and thereof are renumbered accordingly:

(6) Every member of the University community reserves the right to be present at all meetings of the Student Senate, unless the Student Senate has voted to close the meeting. This right shall not be restricted or infringed upon in any capacity. The Senate may close a meeting at any time by a two-thirds vote. If a motion is made to close a meeting, the vote to do so shall be automatically closed and that motion shall be debatable before the vote occurs. The portion of the minutes and video pertaining to the closed meeting of the Senate shall not be published online or released to any individual not present at the time of the meeting.

III. Section IV (7) is hereby inserted after Section IV (6).

(7) In the event of a closed vote, the ballot may only be viewed by the Student Union Parliamentarian and the Student Body Vice President, or the acting Student Union Parliamentarian or acting Chair if either officeholder, respectively, is not present. The

results of the vote must be shared with all present members of the Student Senate prior to the conclusion of the meeting in which it is held.

Any and all subsections and references thereafter and thereof are renumbered accordingly.

IV. Section II(4) is hereby amended from:

(4) The Chairperson or the Parliamentarian may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. Written notice of a motion to remove must be given to all members at least 72 hours in advance of the meetings at which such a motion is voted upon. The Secretary may be removed for cause at the discretion of the Chairperson. If removed, the vacant office shall be filled by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

to now read as follows and all subsections and references thereafter and thereof are renumbered accordingly:

(4) The Chairperson may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Senate in the event that the Chairperson is not the current Student Body Vice-President. Written notice of a motion to remove must be given to all members at least 72 hours in advance of the meetings at which such a motion is voted upon. If removed, the vacant office shall be filled by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

V. Section IV(8) is hereby amended from:

(8) All Senate meetings are to be digitally recorded. These recordings shall be freely and readily made available to all members of the University community in a public fashion.

to now read as follows and all subsections and references thereafter and thereof are renumbered accordingly:

(8) All Senate meetings are to be digitally recorded. These recordings shall be freely and readily made available to all members of the University community in a public fashion, via Notre Dame Student Government social media, within one week of the meeting's conclusion.

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

That the Bylaws of the Student Senate of the Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac be approved for the 2025-2026 term and be submitted to the Judicial Council for review.

It is so ordered.



Samuel Robinson
Student Union Parliamentarian

Samuel Robinson, Student Union Parliamentarian

SO2526-06, April 2025

32 Affirmative, 1 Negative, 5 Abstain