

Madison Denchfield, *Badin Hall Senator*
Elijah Jones, *Judicial Council President*

AN ORDER TO MODERNIZE OUR ELECTION RULES

Whereas, Article XV Section 1(e) of the *Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac* states, “E-mail as a source of campaigning may be used; however, the use of email automation and Listservs are prohibited. A Listserv shall be defined as any grouping of students or organizations who have not opted in to receive communication. Google Groups created for use by a Residence Hall, Student Union Organization, or University department, office, or official may not be used in campaigning.”;

Whereas, this rule was established at a time when Listservs were the primary form of communication between residence halls and student organizations;

Whereas, this rule was most likely originally established to prevent candidates from spamming students with messages they did not consent to receiving;

Whereas, over time, residence halls and student organizations opted to use alternative forms of communication, such as Slack, GroupMe, or Google Groups, instead of Listservs;

Whereas, this rule is now outdated and leaves much room for ambiguity, given that candidates are prohibited from using Listservs, but not prohibited from using other forms of communication which are identical in purpose;

Whereas, this rule has historically been interpreted differently every single year, dependent on the views of that year’s Election Council;

Whereas, this rule is exceedingly difficult for candidates to follow and for the Judicial Council to enforce, given that there is a lack of consistency regarding its interpretation;

Whereas, it is advantageous for the health of our electoral system to have rules which are justifiable, up-to-date, and consistently understood;

Whereas, this rule should be clarified, given that it is confusing, out-of-date, and variably interpreted; therefore, be it

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

That Article XV Section 1(e) of the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body is hereby amended from:

(e) E-mail as a source of campaigning may be used; however, the use of email automation and Listservs are prohibited. A Listserv shall be defined as any grouping of students or organizations who have not opted in to receive communication. Google Groups created for use by a Residence

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Hall, Student Union Organization, or University department, office, or official may not be used in campaigning.

to now read as follows

(e) E-mail as a source of campaigning may be used; however, the use of an official mailing list, group chat, or mass communication server owned or operated by any student club or organization, University department, or University office is prohibited. Unofficial mailing lists, group chats or mass communication servers within Residence Halls may be used for campaigning.

It is so ordered.



Gerald W. Vielhauer
Student Body President

Samuel Robinson, Student Union Parliamentarian

SO2526-07, April 2025

30 Affirmative, 1 Negative, 7 Abstain