JUDICIAL COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

TO: The Student Senate of The University of Notre Dame du lac
FROM: Kyle Lauckner, Student Union Parliamentarian
DATE: November 1, 2026
RE: SO2627-15 and SO2627-16, Senate Orders to Clarify Executive Cabinet Department Attendance & Policy

MEMORANDUM

The Committee on the Constitution has concluded its review of the Order to Clarify Department Attendance and the Order to Clarify Executive Cabinet Department Attendance Policy and is prepared to present its findings and recommendations to the Student Senate.

During its review, the Committee examined the legislation introduced by Parliamentarian Kyle Lauckner, Senator Caroline Cure, Senator Olivia Skora, Senator Anna Benson, and Senator Militza Algredo-Huerta to address department attendance expectations and formal policy standards. Under Article IV, Section 3(c)(1) of the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame du Lac, each Senator is required to serve on at least one department. However, the Senate Bylaws did not clearly specify whether attendance is mandatory, nor did all Executive Cabinet Departments maintain formal attendance policies. Taking no legislative action leaves room for arbitrary enforcement, which could result in a Senator being unfairly punished for absences relative to other department members. To resolve this issue, the proposed orders specify that department attendance is mandatory under Section VIII(2) of the Senate Bylaws and mandate under Article IV, Section 3(e) of the Constitution that all standing and regularly meeting ad hoc departments establish and publish a formal attendance policy.

During the Committee's proceedings, members engaged in questioning and debate regarding both pieces of legislation. Debate in the affirmative, led by Parliamentarian Kyle Lauckner, emphasized that these pieces will ensure that members' rights are protected and establish clear rules across all student government bodies. Member Meredith Sullivan contributed to the discussion, noting that it is particularly important for groups that do not meet regularly to have an attendance policy because they need more members to attend at the fewer meetings they do have, suggesting it might be better to remove the "that meet regularly" clause altogether in future revisions. Following questioning and debate, the committee voted on each order individually, and both orders passed.

Committee Recommendation: After thorough review, the Committee on the Constitution is in favor of this legislation and recommends its approval by the Student Senate. The Committee concluded that clarifying attendance expectations in the Bylaws and requiring formal attendance policies in the Constitution provides a necessary remedy that protects Senators' rights, eliminates procedural ambiguity, and ensures fair operational standards across all Executive Cabinet departments.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Lauckner
Student Union Parliamentarian
Chair of the Committee on the Constitution