

## **To the Student Body of Notre Dame:**

Think back to the day when you received the link to an online portal that boldly proclaimed, “Welcome Home.” In the immediate euphoria of the moment you were probably consumed with visions of football games, the dome shining at sunset, and snowy strolls through the campus in winter. While Notre Dame is, and always will be, the picture perfect moments that make up a beautiful calendar, it is also so much more than that. The Notre Dame experience is the first time you pull an all-nighter with your newfound family, the first time you may face a real failure, or perhaps the first time you get to stay in one place for four years in a row. For all of us, Notre Dame means and looks like something vastly different, which is what makes our University truly beautiful. Despite the different images of Notre Dame that mark the memory of our time as domers, we all began in the same way, by being welcomed home.

Our mission is to make this home under the dome a true home for all. We have been incredibly fortunate to serve in leadership positions on campus which have shown us more views of the Notre Dame experience than we could have ever imagined. Images such as Asian Allure, the Keenan Revue, Siegfried's Day of Man, Voices of Faith performances, and PemCo performances have taught us that the Notre Dame experience looks different for everyone. We want to highlight those differences more as a unifying call - an example of how we all work to make Notre Dame a more inclusive, tolerant, forward-thinking institution through the different ways that we mark our mark on Notre Dame.

We are running on three main points: Student Empowerment, Gender Relations, and Dorm Reform. At the crux of our campaign and our vision for Notre Dame is the decentralization of student engagement on campus. To put it simply, just because we are the two names on this ticket does not mean that we are the two people to come up with all of the answers. In order to form a beautiful and dynamic mosaic of the Notre Dame family, we must center the voices of others in the discussion of how to create the Notre Dame that we want to call our home. This campaign has been created in collaboration with students whose Notre Dame experience has been marked by leadership within SCIA, PrismND, HPC, athletic organizations, Show Some Skin, First Year and Notre Dame Unfiltered, African Students Association, Student Government, Glee Club, StaND for IX, ISSLP, and many other incredible groups. This campaign promises to empower students by truly putting the myriad ideas, innovations, and passions of students first. Students become empowered when they are able to leverage all University resources possible to bolster their cause, and that is exactly what we want to do. We also promise to make this university a more tolerant place for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, social or economic class. Making Notre Dame a physical home is also extremely important to us which is why we are committed to dorm reform as our third point.

We believe that it is time to truly make the picture of a Notre Dame experience a more diverse and vibrant one. We believe that it is time that not only student government leaders are heard on campus. We believe that it is finally time to Empower ND and we are incredibly excited to begin that journey with all of you leading the way.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth and Patrick



## *Student Empowerment*

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

1. Increase Affordability
  - a. Reduce cost of JPW
  - b. Audit and find room for growth in the student enrichment fund
  - c. Reduce/cover laundry costs
  - d. Obtain more funding for unpaid internships
  - e. Subsidize ubers to take students off campus for service work
  - f. More affordable access to on-campus dining for off-campus students
2. Protecting diversity
  - a. Nondiscrimination clause in reference to gender identity and sexual orientation
  - b. Help advertise diversity club events
  - c. Support diversity in faculty hiring
  - d. Re-work Walk the Walk to include more student centered events
  - e. Add hair products for black students to the Huddle
3. Accessibility
  - a. Partner with Access-ABLE of Notre Dame
    - i. Some of the bathrooms in newer buildings on campus claim to be handicap accessible, but they don't have automatic door openers, so many students in wheelchairs can't actually use them, one of many accessibility problems Notre Dame faces. We want to make campus accessible for all and pledge to work for students of all abilities.
4. More support for international students
  - a. Having the official university email account send about notices about major cultural festivals on campus
  - b. Increase international products in the huddle
5. Continue to support DACA students by working with the leaders of SCIA, and other students, to create policy for our DACA students to feel welcome at Notre Dame
6. Supporting low socioeconomic status students more
  - a. Working with the leaders of JPW to reduce funding and trying to direct costs to alleviate the direct costs of the events

- b. Making football ticket discounting more stable and not dependent on donors
  - c. Work with the admissions office to see if there is a way to lower the Notre Dame application fund
- 7. Increase incentivizes for RA positions as they often tend to be disproportionately white
- 8. Bolstering support and programing for Race Relations Week and Walk the Walk Week
- 9. Work to create a cultural competency requirement for graduation requirements
- 10. Bring a big speaker to campus in the first semester to discuss diversity and inclusion
- 11. Work with the administration to increase the diversity in faculty hires
- 12. Mandatory diversity training for all students
  - a. Start first with training for all first-years and leaders on campus
  - b. Also support training for staff
  - c. Work to make this a peer-led initiative
- 13. Develop policies and practices that enhance opportunities to engage diversity in the residential system
- 14. Create incentives for student organizations to provide interorganizational, culturally diverse student programs
- 15. Calls for the associate provost and director of institutional diversity to provide periodic assessments of diversity-related climate issues
- 16. Sponsor a bi-semester forum aimed at an ongoing community discussion about diversity, similar to the Kroc Institute's recent "Confronting Whiteness" Talk

## **Sustainability**

- 1. Reducing environmental impact
  - a. Launch an initiative to bring composting to campus in both the dining halls and dorms
  - b. Publicize food sharing
  - c. Implement Cultivate Culinary: a dining hall food waste campaign
  - d. Crack down on recycling; Make sure trash/recycling bins get the correct color bag; Do they really recycle the top half of the green trash cans?
  - e. Promote recycling printed material at the end of each semester
  - f. Working more with Food Rescue ND to increase visibility around campus of their work
  - g. Bring back the donate a meal initiative
  - h. Continuing to be "tray inconvenient" and work towards a tray-free campus
- 2. Reduce energy use
  - a. Push for more energy efficient lighting in dorms, classroom buildings, and administration buildings
  - b. Continue to host in-dorm competitions, such as "Mega Watt madness" to encourage reducing energy use

3. Student activism
  - a. Form an environmental coalition with peer institution student governments
  - b. Find out how to host “green certified” events
  - c. Support Fossil Free ND and GreeND in their campaigns
4. Game Day Recycling and Sustainability

## Student Life

1. Supporting students’ right to free speech
  - a. Support the creation of a Free Speech Square on campus
  - b. Starting a campaign to make Notre Dame’s Open Speaker policy more known
2. Supporting political engagement
  - a. Connect with NDVotes for voter registration efforts
3. Push for more student involvement in SAO decisions
  - a. Create a student advisory body within SAO in which students can help to accept and respond to SAO360 requests
4. Infrastructure
  - a. Limebike parking spots
  - b. Fix the puddles
  - c. Fix buses to Chicago
    - i. Work with student startups that are trying to coordinate better bus systems
    - ii. In the meantime, create a live google sheet that lists groups of people who are trying to uber/lyft to Chicago to help coordinate the organization of students traveling to the airports
  - d. Becoming a part of the conversation about the express train to Chicago from South Bend
5. Campus Dining
  - a. Spotlight on Dorm Eateries- feature in LaFun/DSC
  - b. Roll over Flex Points from each semester
  - c. Allow flex points to be used at the on-campus pizza place
  - d. Continue to look into the changes in organization and the third party providers that the University is considering to work with
  - e. In accordance with Notre Dame’s commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, demand just wages for dining hall employees
6. Arts
  - a. Advocating for students to receive course credit for PEMCo, Opera, A-Cappella Choir, Glee Club, etc.
    - i. Trying to count these courses towards the fine arts requirement

- b. Use university resources to promote student art, design, productions, etc.
    - i. Using the official Notre Dame email account to send out notices about student projects
  - c. Continuing to feature student artwork in the Duncan Student Center
  - d. Further supporting Show Some Skin by showing monologues in Moreau courses and other campus outlets
- 7. Athletics
  - a. Increase financial aid opportunities for club athletics
  - b. Continue Green Dot training for athletic teams
  - c. Put nets around the beach volleyball courts
  - d. Creating more support around athletics events other than football
    - i. Using the student government webpage
- 8. Student Activities
  - a. Give credit cards to all of the class councils/heads of student groups that need one
  - b. Work with SAO to create a “mega calendar” of all events organized through SAO360
- 9. Health and Wellness
  - a. Grades for your finals stand if you have to leave campus before finals for mental health or family problems
  - b. Mental health resources--make sure students get placed back in their dorms if they have to leave campus
  - c. Ability to purchase drop-in system for gym classes
- 10. Faith and Service
  - a. Social Justice and Catholicism speaker series
  - b. Priests from the community to give mass
  - c. Have interfaith services more regularly
  - d. Partner with Campus Ministries to promote transportation for students to get off campus for religious services
  - e. Priest of the Week series
- 11. Student Government
  - a. Improving transparency between student government as an organization and students
    - i. Sending out a bi-monthly newspaper with updates
    - ii. Updating the website with more frequency to include department members, department initiatives, the “mega calendar”, ways to get involved, and other important campus resources
    - iii. Restructuring student government to operate more as a hub for students to have their ideas turned into policy

- b. Sending student government leaders to club meetings more
- c. Creating a better transition period
  - i. Require all old department directors to meet with the new directors to transition over
  - ii. Allow FUELers to stay on their departments through the academic year to help the transition for the departments
- d. Allow students who are going abroad to still be involved with student government
  - i. Supporting student involvement on committees
  - ii. Allowing students to serve as co-directors while abroad
- e. Increasing the number of students who are subscribed to the student government accounts
- f. Creating a “Mega Calendar” that would be a compilation of all of the student events going on around campus
- g. Holding more meetings with Fr. Jenkins and Erin Hoffman Harding
- h. Holding weekly office hours to meet with any interested students
- i. Continue to Facebook Live Senate meetings
- j. Having a “bill tracker” to track all changes that are happening in Senate and Student Government
- k. Promoting unity between the different branches of student government
  - i. More collaboration between Hall Presidents Council and Student Government
  - ii. More meetings with St. Mary’s College and Holy Cross
    - 1. Working together more on the Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP), encourage committee representation of all three campuses, meet once per month with their student government administrations, etc.
- l. Create the Department of Student Empowerment
  - i. Look at intersectional issues of free speech and opportunities for funding and credit for activities
  - ii. Give a spotlight to initiatives that campus student groups are starting
  - iii. Encouraging department members to go to as many club meetings as possible per week and report back to the department on ways that student government could support their initiatives
- m. Reforming the role of Executive Comptroller in Student Government
  - i. Auditing the fiscal responsibility of Student Government
  - ii. Directing more executive Student Government funding to go towards bolstering student initiatives around campus

## **Community Engagement**

1. Service
  - a. Subsidize ubers for students to take off campus to do service work. Potentially working with the Center for Social Concerns on helping to cover this
  - b. ND/SMC/HCC First Fridays downtown
  - c. Allow Freshmen to have cars on campus so that they can further engage with the community
  - d. Encourage utilization of the free transpo contract
2. Building community
  - a. More collaboration with SMC/HCC: invite to Flick on the Field, host joint events/masses, Take Back the Night extended throughout the year, change the bus system to Holy Cross to become more efficient
  - b. Engage abroad students: sexual assault/consent programs at global gateways or during the safety summit, student newsletter, "Observer abroad"
  - c. Showcase workers at ND
  - d. ND Bucket List
3. Connect with South Bend
  - a. Push public transportation, use during Welcome Weekend
  - b. South Bend module in Moreau
  - c. Streamline traveling downtown for First Fridays
  - d. Work on Coach USA
  - e. Foster a steady flow of communication between ND and SB
  - f. Work with NDVotes to spotlight new mayor candidates/new mayor
  - g. Spotlight on South Bend restaurants
  - h. Revamp Day of Community for Welcome Weekend
  - i. Create South Bend "Adventure Guide"

## **Academics**

1. Class changes
  - a. Moreau reform-- set up a new structure in which students teach students, similar to the God and the Good Life model
  - b. Create a forum to promote excellent classes and professors
2. Departmental changes
  - a. Look into changing Dean's List so it actually reflects the grades of the department
  - b. Offer a monthly spotlight on professors

- c. Increase accessibility to classes in different departments
  - d. Merge entrepreneurship programs
  - e. Allow the opportunity for senior non-majors to take classes that are not in their major department
3. University changes
- a. Encourage professors to release final exam grades from exams and papers before recording the final course grade
  - b. Pushing the CIFs due date back until after finals have been taken/finals week
  - c. Determine latin honors February of senior year
  - d. Encourage “class shopping”
    - i. Allowing the first two weeks of the semester to be for auditing classes, following the leadership of other universities
  - e. Fix DART and NOVO to ensure that students only have to use one program to register and search for classes
  - f. Increase collaboration between the colleges
  - g. Renovate DeBart classrooms
  - h. Increase printer quota





## *Gender Relations*

1. Support the use of Title IX to reduce rates of sexual violence at Notre Dame
  - a. Continuing to support the [StaND 4 IX](#) campaign asks
  - b. Push back on proposed federal guidance by holding ND to a high standard
  - c. Supporting the work of national organizations, like Know Your IX, to create survivor-oriented policy on campus
2. Expanding GreeNDot trainings on campus
  - a. Continuing to work with HPC to count GreeNDot trainings towards Rocknes
  - b. Incentivizing GreeNDot training for extra points in Moreau First Year Experience
  - c. Continuing to work with the Athletics department to get all teams GreeNDot trained
3. Working to create a safer environment for all students
  - a. Reforming the parietals amnesty in the clause to make it easier for students to leave dorms when there is a dangerous situation
  - b. Work with the South Bend's, The LGBTQ center to provide a space for resources for students who don't want to use campus resources
  - c. Working with CSAP (Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention) to implement Callisto at Notre Dame, St. Mary's, and Holy Cross
  - d. Advocating for more blue lights, and lighting in general, on campus
  - e. Expanding SOS Advocate trainings to have more rape crisis trained students, faculty, and staff on campus
  - f. Reforming the role of gender relations commissioners in the dorms to have more tangible goals
  - g. Reshaping ally week in coordination with the Gender Relations Center
  - h. Evaluating the prevalence of sexual assault in study abroad and creating programs to prevent it
  - i. Doing more intersectional work with the Department of Diversity and Inclusion and Diversity Council

- j. Bringing Elemental Sexual Assault Protection training to Notre Dame
  - k. Rewriting the University's [Nondiscrimination clause](#) to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity"
  - l. Dorm Equality
  - m. Every dorm should have an equally impactful and serious talk on sexual assault during Welcome Weekend, keeping the message consistent across campus that Notre Dame does not tolerate this behavior, and presenting the reality of sexual assault in college life to promote safety for all students
  - n. We must open up a space for rectors to discuss universal policies, like social hours before/after dances, consequences for breaking parietals rules, drinking habits, or drug abuse, etc. We want to emphasize the importance of creating an open dialogue between rectors and students, focusing on student wellness and safety over punishment.
4. Increase access to free menstrual products
  5. Normalize relationships between men and women: Single gender groups are more common than mixed gender friend groups - work to normalize relations from the start, during Welcome Weekend, with more mixed gender events, while still preserving Notre Dame's unique dorm culture
  6. Support PrismND and all of their initiatives
    - a. Work with the administration to allow Prism to bring their own speakers to campus
  7. Support GALA ND and Spectrum
  8. Revoke Cardinal McCarrick's honorary degree from Notre Dame
  9. Have each syllabus within an academic division or school at the university include information on the resources available to students for reporting bias, discrimination, and Title IX violations



## *Dorm Reform*

1. Dorm Equality
  - a. Equal treatment of disciplinary procedures in male and female dorms
  - b. Equitable funding between dorm communities, particularly those without active donor connections
  - c. Set policy standards for student feedback when conducting major and minor renovations
    - i. For example, when including students in discussions regarding dorm changes, there should be a “town hall” type forum between the residents and the Office of Housing. Student feedback from this “town hall” should be taken seriously and reflected in the final decision. These “town halls” should also be scheduled at a time and place that is most convenient for the residents.
      1. There should be a set number and standard for these “town halls,” but at least more than one
      2. A report should be created after this meeting to acknowledge the important contributions of students
  - d. Create a discretionary fund that residence halls can use to address the specific needs of their community
    - i. Not only giving dorms extra funding through competitions such as ND Day
  - e. Increase transparency and opportunities for student input regarding the University’s long-term plan for alleviating dorm inequity, such as through a summit or town hall forum
2. More funding for old dorms in light of new dorms opening
3. Consult with the university on the waiver system for its on-campus housing policy
4. Work with the administration on the new incentives for seniors to stay on campus
5. Direct university funds and tuition towards covering the cost of laundry