



# BLUEPRINT

## HOPE IN ACTION

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### **Blueprint for Hope in Action**

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Dear Friend,

Thank you for taking the time to look at this blueprint for the kind of Student Government we hope to build together. There is a treasured story that has been passed down from generation to generation in our Notre Dame family, and it inspires our vision of the possibilities for the story a new generation of Notre Dame students can write. It begins on an April morning in 1879. Flames had broken out on the roof of the east wing of Main Building, and soon the fire consumed the very center of the beloved campus to which the founder of the University Notre Dame, Fr. Sorin, had dedicated his life.

After the University had been reduced to rubble, Fr. Sorin stood amidst the ashes and spoke from the heart, “I came here as a young man and dreamed of building a great university in honor of our Lady. But I built it too small, and she had to burn it to the ground to make the point. So, tomorrow, as soon as the bricks cool, we will rebuild it, bigger and better than ever.” A few hours after on that same day, students watched as their 65-year-old headmaster pushed a wheelbarrow full of bricks through the rubble and made ready to rebuild.

As Fr. Jenkins describes it, “They rebuilt it from the ground up, and when they got to the top, and came to the place where the dome had been, they built one taller and wider than the one before, and this time—for the first time—they covered it with gold.”

Since then, our university has been transformed from a lone log chapel in the Indiana wilderness into the greatest Catholic university in the world.

It is with this in mind that we have decided to run to lead Student Government this coming year. As we’ve talked to students across campus, we have been struck by the shared sense that the size of the hopes we all have for Notre Dame just isn’t matched by the smallness of the politics on the second floor of LaFortune.

In the past, we’ve been told that we can take the same old games and the same old players, and expect a different result. Well, the students we’ve talked to are tired of the cliques, and the engraved nameplates, and above all the cynicism that says that students can’t really make a difference on our campus beyond a special discount here or an added menu option there. Notre Dame students form their own non-profits across oceans and tutor in failing schools across the street, they write for leading newspapers and magazines, and set records in the lab and on the playing field. They want a Student Government that serves them in *all* the areas of student life, and they deserve a Student Government that is as great as they are.

Throughout the history of our country, students have been at the forefront of change, and Notre Dame students have been at the center of that effort. Whether it was standing up for civil rights or uniting against sweatshop labor, protecting our planet from pollution or stopping genocide, Notre Dame students have been a force for justice and peace. They have refused to accept the world as it is because they have dared to dream of the world as it could be.

That is why Notre Dame students know that it is a false choice to say that Student Government can only work on one set of issues or the other. Student Government can and should work on the smaller conveniences that make life better for all of us, and it can also advance those causes greater than self that embody the struggle for inclusion and justice in our own time. Our students have demonstrated this again and again, and it is time that our Student Government fully support us in the effort to realize our highest hopes for the never-ending project that Fr. Sorin named “Notre Dame.”

That is why we are in this race.

Not to hold an office, but to transform a Student Government whose vision is too small for the size of our dreams for the Fighting Irish.

We want to win the next fight—to draft a new Constitution for the Student Union that cuts through all the red tape that has been strung together over years past while working with the community to improve the quality of our schools next door.

We want to win the next fight—to expand inclusion to all members of the Notre Dame family while working with the community to end discrimination against those who dream of becoming citizens of the greatest country in the world.

We want to win the next fight—to offer students better concerts, lectures, and pep rallies, as well as the chance to partner with the administration of our university to envision what the project of becoming a great Catholic university for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century really means.

And that is why this campaign can't be about us. It has to be about our Notre Dame family—it has to be about what we can do together. This campaign has to be a means for us to come together as one student body, speaking with one voice in gratitude for all who have come before us, but also with the hope for what together now we might help to build.

And if you will let us join you in that journey, then we are ready to take up the cause, and work with you, and build with you side by side, brick by brick a Notre Dame that is bigger and better than ever. Together, let's unite by putting our hope for our family into action, and join Fr. Sorin in his call to make Notre Dame one of the most powerful forces for good on Earth.

Hope to see you soon,  
Pat and Brett

## **OUR TO-DO LIST: “THE TOP FIVE”**

With this blueprint, we wanted to bring together all of our proposals for transforming what Student Government can be about in one place. We’ve put a lot of time into developing the most comprehensive platform of any Student Government ticket in history, and we hope you will find something in it that resonates with your own hopes for Notre Dame. In fact, many of the items included here came from conversations and meetings with students across campus, as well as staff and administrators.

However, if you don’t find anything, or if we missed something, shoot us an email and we’ll add it to the list. Even more importantly, we want to know what you think. Call or email us to let us know what your thoughts are on the new policies and programs we’ve proposed to build a new kind of Student Government. You can take the Notre Dame project into your own hands, and we hope that this campaign will be a vehicle for you to do exactly that.

At the same time, we know this is all a little much to read in between classes, homework, practices, and the thousand other things you’ve got going on in your life (did we mention sleep?). To save you the time, we’ve condensed the key elements of our platform into five core issue categories, a to-do list for a campaign that we hope will not only build a new kind of Student Government, but that will spark a conversation about what it is that we as students can accomplish during our four years at Notre Dame. Here they are:

- (1) Make Notre Dame the Premier Forum for Nationally-Recognized Events Uniting Athletes, Entertainers, and Policy-Makers on behalf of Social Justice.**
- (2) Expand Constituent Service Capacity of Student Government**
- (3) Improve Student Safety on Campus and Off**
- (4) Enable Students to Customize Our Curriculum**
- (5) Amplify Student Voices in Charting a Course for the Notre Dame Project**

The thread that ties all of the proposals throughout our platform together is our belief that students deserve *more* from their student government than the limited idea that students just “need a voice” – like the signs say we do in the Student Government office. We’ve got voices, and it’s time that Student Government amplify them so that together we unite as one student body in a chorus for change as we work to build a better school, a better country, and a better world. Students deserve to have the opportunity to have a role in setting the vision, and developing the reputation, of this University. WE are ND. And, when we chose to go here, we united our futures to that of Notre Dame. How it is viewed, what it stands for, will – in no small measure – also be how we are viewed, and what we stand for. Therefore, student government should give each of us a chance to share in setting the vision, the direction, and the future of this University. WE should have the chance, during our time here, to make our mark, and to build a Notre Dame that is bigger and better than ever.

If you're ready to speak out for a bolder vision for the hope a new generation of Notre Dame students have to bring to a new chapter in our University's history, then we're ready to work together to turn up the volume.

### **To-Do Item #1:**

## **Make Notre Dame the Premier Forum for Nationally-Recognized Events Uniting Athletes, Entertainers, and Policy-Makers on behalf of Social Justice.**

The guiding vision for our campaign is the role that students can play in leading Notre Dame to become an ever more powerful “lighthouse and crossroads” for the world. Fr. Hesburgh first offered this image as a vision for the university, and we have chosen it as the symbol of the hope a new generation of students has to write a new chapter in our school's history.

The University of Notre Dame -- our campus, the Joyce Center, Notre Dame Stadium -- should be the premiere venues for nationally-recognized events that unite our country's leaders -- in athletics, the arts, and government -- behind important social justice goals. Recently, *Hope for Haiti Now* united actors like George Clooney and Julia Roberts, entertainers like Shakira, Alicia Keys, and Taylor Swift, and the people of America in a concert aimed at bringing aid to earthquake victims. In past years, *LiveAid*, *FarmAid*, and *We Are The World* brought Hollywood, professional sports, and our nation's political leaders together behind great social justice needs. Each of these events had to find a forum: why not Notre Dame?

We are off to a good start. *Playing for Peace* is a model of the type of change we want to bring to student government. Already *Playing for Peace* has attracted national attention -- attention that has gone all the way to the White House, and includes Kalpen Modi -- who formerly played Dr. Kutner on *House* and Kumar in *Harold and Kumar*, and now advises President Obama on matters involving social justice and public engagement.

We believe expanding the *Playing for Peace* idea into an ongoing program -- a series of events -- would distinguish Notre Dame as unique among national universities in the United States. This vision for Notre Dame can be realized, in part, by harnessing the power of the university--and particularly the ND athletic brand--for social justice. (And did we mention maybe give students the chance to have a few pretty cool experiences in the process: like get a personal message from Luol Deng of the Chicago Bulls, advocate for peace by playing basketball, and bring actors, athletes, musicians, and policymakers to campus who want to work with us in the future?)

## **Background: What was that *Playing for Peace* thing all about in December?**

On October 5, 2010, Notre Dame served as a crossroads by welcoming a delegation representing the Sudan Conference of Catholic Bishops who visited the University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies to "reach out to the Catholic community" in the United States before making their appeal in high-level conversations arranged in both Washington at the White House and State Department, and then in New York at the United Nations. Following this appeal, Notre Dame served as a lighthouse when the Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution expressing the student body's solidarity with the people of Sudan, and calling upon the University to "express its support for full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement" and to "call attention to the urgency of securing a sustainable, just peace for all Sudanese."

Following the resolution, the University of Notre Dame also organized the largest advocacy event for a peaceful referendum in Sudan of any school in the country. With this University-wide "*Stand with Sudan*" Rally and "*Playing for Peace*" 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, the Men's Lacrosse Team, Men's Basketball Team, and Student Government worked to unite the Notre Dame community for one final demonstration of solidarity with the people of Sudan before the break. Throughout it all, the hope was to harness the power of Notre Dame, and particularly the ND athletic brand, for social change.

After the Rally, a "*Stand with Sudan*" delegation comprised of students at the Kroc Institute, the Lacrosse Team, and Student Government traveled to Washington and Baltimore to advocate for Notre Dame's message in a series of meetings with key policymakers. These meetings culminated when Pulitzer Prize-Winner and Special Assistant to President Obama Samantha Power, the National Security Council Director personally responsible for Sudan policy at the White House, personally accepted the Student Senate resolution and *Playing for Peace* Petitions. She thanked Notre Dame for its work to advocate for peace in Sudan, and the White House later issued a message to its nationwide email list recognizing Notre Dame's visit. It was again most recently mentioned on a White House youth nationwide conference call with Associate Director for the White House Office of Public Engagement Kalpen Modi and Senior Advisor to the President David Plouffe in January following President Obama's State of the Union Address.

### **For More Information | Press Coverage**

[Video Summary \(Also Available from the ND Homepage\)](#)

[Notre Dame Office of Public Affairs and Communications Newswire Release](#)

[Notre Dame Observer Front-Page Article](#)

[Local NBC Affiliate Video from Nightly Newscast](#)

[Enough Project Blog Post](#)

[STAND Blog Post](#)

[Inside Lacrosse Video Blog](#)

[Playing for Peace Homepage](#)

### **For More Information | Advocacy Team Meetings**

Executive Office of the President

Contacts: Samantha Power, Karen Richardson, and Kalpen Modi

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Contact: Michael Phelan, Senior Advisor to Senator Richard Lugar

Congressman Joseph Donnelly

Contact: Nathan Fenstermacher, Legislative Director

United States Department of State

Contact: Peter Quaranto, Office of the Special Envoy to Sudan

The Enough Project

Contact: John Prendergast, John Bagwell, Buky Williams

Catholic Relief Services

Contacts: Ken Hackett, Dan Griffin, Executive Leadership

#### **Next Steps:**

We want to institutionalize the Playing for Peace program in order to enable Notre Dame to serve as a moral voice for higher education in the United States. We have a two-track plan to accomplish this objective.

First, in the next month, we are working to make the “Notre Dame vs. Villanova” game a Playing for Peace event in partnership with the Athletics Department. Pat has invited policymaker and actor Kalpen Modi to the event, as well as Kyle Lierman with the White House Office of Public Engagement. Importantly, we are not just promising an event like this if elected, but instead have already begun to plan it. This is what we mean by “Hope in Action.” We don’t just want to say we’ll bring change if elected, but instead we’re working for change now in order to earn your vote.

Second, in the longer term, we hope to program a “Playing for Peace” concert in the Joyce Center with a high profile artist committed to fighting for social justice. We believe that we have developed a reputation and brand recognition for Playing for Peace that can attract high profile performers, and we have already approached external

consultants to plan the event and bring other nontraditional allies to Notre Dame. In-keeping with the lighthouse and crossroads vision of this campaign, we will also arrange for a speaker to attend the event in order to ensure that the voices of the Notre Dame family speaking as one for peace and justice are heard by our elected representatives.

Through these action steps, we believe we can develop Playing for Peace into a unique force for good in accordance with Fr. Sorin's hope for the University he founded. And, we hope, as a means of coming together as a community for important moral causes in exciting new ways.

**To-Do Item #2:  
Expand Constituent Service Capacity of Student Government**

Tragedy struck Notre Dame this year when a major tradition was destroyed: the famous Quarter Dogs became Third Dogs (which is not nearly as catchy or convenient as delicious hot dogs at midnight for only a quarter). That being said, we understand the Huddles decision to raise the price of the hot dog to a whopping 33 cents. With the increase of the quarter dog by eight cents, the Huddle stands to make an additional \$2,400 in revenue (based off last years quarter dog sales) revenue that it desperately needs. If \$2,400 is all that stands between the Huddles decision and a time honored Notre Dame tradition, why doesn't someone step in and do something to help the Huddle out? We will reinstate this quintessentially ND tradition by using Student Government money to subsidize the cost of the hot dogs, thereby ensuring the midnight dogs go back to their original price of a quarter.

On a broader level, we will also work to expand the constituent service capacity of Student Government as a whole by appointing a Director of Constituent Services—the first position of its kind. We deeply believe that it is a false choice to say Student Government can only work on smaller issues like a new discount here or a new menu item there, or on larger ones like the eND Hunger Campaign. We can work on both, and if elected, we will. Please check out our “Constituent Service” section for more information.

### **To-Do Item #3: Improve Student Safety on Campus and Off**

Notre Dame is one of the most beautiful campuses in the country, and with our own fire department and security police, we have the resources to be one of the safest. However, there are certain realities about independent living that college students must be aware of, including sexual assault, alcohol, drugs, and crime on campus and in the greater South Bend area. While NDSP already offers many resources for proactive students, such as the Crime Watch notices and self-defense classes, we feel that more changes are needed to ensure the safety of our students.

That being said, Indiana State Law will not be changing anytime soon, and so we will strive to keep students actively informed and prepared for any eventuality.

*At a Glance:*

- Equalize ease of access to dorms so that residents of a particular building can enter through any door at any time of day. This is currently the practice in many mens' dorms, but unfortunately is not the case in womens'. Allowing women access to the door of their dorm most convenient to them at any given time would decrease the time spent walking around in dimly-lit areas, and consequently increase the safety of women on campus.
- Increase the number of lights in poorly lit areas of campus, particularly Mod Quad and the west side of campus. Ease of sight, peace of mind.
- In the event of an emergency, the first priority should always be student safety, rather than enforcing university rules. Specifically, we will work to enact an Emergency Clause, emphasizing the importance of student safety during fire alarms (or any other emergency situation), regardless of the time of day or the location of the emergency. Student safety comes first.
- Install a permanent sidewalk alongside the soccer fields for students who commute from off-campus housing to on-campus academic buildings.
- Off-campus safety means two things: (1) knowing your rights, and (2) knowing where you are. For this reason, we want to expand the current Student Government-proposed memorandum of understanding with SBPD and create an interactive map of the neighborhoods surrounding Notre Dame.
- Advertise the Student Government-sponsored Student Legal Services, designed to help students find legal assistance from local attorneys if the need arises.

## **To-Do Item #4: Enable Students to Customize Our Curriculum**

The primary purpose of any university is to serve as a community of learning. We have a plan to improve academic life on campus which recognizes the importance of learning in class, but that also emphasizes the fact that much of our learning at Notre Dame happens beyond the lecture hall.

### **At a Glance**

- *“C U @ the CUSE”*: Create a program to explain funding opportunities for travel, research, and scholarship opportunities through the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement modeled on the “C U @ the CSC Program” (This program allows dorms to schedule times to visit the Center for Social Concerns and receive a free pizza dinner while learning about opportunities with the CSC). This will aid the university in its effort to increase participation in undergraduate research, and at the same time enable students to discover how they can get the university to pay us to do just about anything that we find interesting (for the sake of learning, of course)
- *Liquid Learning*: Create a space on campus that would serve as a place for students and faculty to meet in an informal setting over drinks after class hours (J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis met after lectures for drinks in a local Oxford pub. It’s time ND has one too. This is the University of the Fighting Irish, after all.)
- *Create A Major/Minor*: Develop formalized process for creating a major or minor across colleges, and allow students to pursue majors created by others to the maximum extent possible.

Please see our “Academic Affairs” section for more information.

**To-Do Item #5:  
Amplify Student Voices in Charting a Course for the Notre Dame Project**

Administrators at the University often refer to the “project” of Notre Dame—the project of building a great Catholic research university for the Twenty First Century. The roots of this project extend back to Fr. Sorin himself who dreamed that Notre Dame would become “one of the most powerful means for doing good in this country.”

We want to transform Student Government to enable students to more directly participate in this Notre Dame project. In order to do that, we are focusing on several major initiatives that we believe will turn our hope—Fr. Sorin’s hope—into action.

**(1) Work to end hunger in our shared South Bend community.**

As Social Concerns Chair, Pat has worked with eND Hunger Director Beth Simpson and the Social Concerns Committee, as well as other student leaders including members of the International Development Research Council, to assemble a coalition of over a dozen South Bend community leaders to address the injustice of hunger in the food insecure West Side. The West Side Food Security Coalition is actively working to consider possibilities to secure grant funding to bring a low-cost fresh food market to West Side neighborhood members, and to unite as our community as a whole for a brighter, shared future. We hope to work with the Coalition in the development and implementation of a five-year plan to design this market utilizing all available best practices, especially focusing on model examples such as the Detroit Farmers Market.

It is critical to note that this project has already redefined the possibilities for how Student Government pursues social concerns initiatives at Notre Dame. Traditionally, there are three available options to “check the box” to accomplish social concerns objectives at Notre Dame: participate in direct service, raise awareness, or fundraise. However, the West Side Food Security Coalition is radically different. It has fundamentally transformed the way in which Student Government interacts with the community, and it is critical that this become a Presidential priority in Student Government rather than be left behind for the newest social concerns issue of the day. Moreover, this objective is at the heart of deepening university-community relations.

**(2) Expand inclusion in the Notre Dame family.**

In his address to students at the opening Mass of the 2010-2011 academic year, Provost Burish spoke of the uniqueness of the Notre Dame family. He is right, and we must do everything we can to continue to expand the circle of our Notre Dame family to extend ever further in order to answer the cry from Scripture: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Genesis 4: 9). There are many groups on campus leading a campus-wide response to this call, and several opportunities worthy of Notre Dame’s consideration include providing greater resources for GLBTQ students by granting club status to a gay-straight student support group on campus, expanding opportunities for workers to share their concerns regarding conditions, living wages, and placing the dignity of work at the center of university employment policy, partnering with external organizations to preserve and protect human dignity both at home and abroad, especially given the existence of a

Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Relief Services, working to improve access to quality education in the community, and affirming the centrality of Catholic social teaching to the mission of the University.

**(3) Set a university goal of reducing our carbon footprint from 2005 levels by 70% by 2050.**

We hope to partner with the Office of Sustainability, the Office of the University Architect, Procurement, the Utilities Department, Transportation, Landscape Services, the Office of Information Technology, and other campus units, as well as student groups including GreeND, SEA, and other leaders on campus to pursue a comprehensive strategy to realize Notre Dame's hope to secure ecological justice for all. This is an especially urgent priority given Notre Dame's national leadership at the *Renewing the Campus Conference* hosted by the University of Notre Dame and keynoted by representatives from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. We continue now to identify areas in which the University might lead by example in its aspiration to affirm Pope Benedict XVI's declaration that, "Prudence does not mean failing to accept responsibilities and postponing decisions...In facing climate change, what we already know requires a response."

There are several major areas where the University can work to achieve the reductions necessary to accomplish this goal. They include increasing University investments in energy conservation initiatives and the Green Loan fund, utilizing less carbon-intensive fuels, conversion to LED light standard, consolidating campus data centers, achieving the installation of real-time metering, mandating purchases of Energy Star appliances, and expanding education and outreach efforts on campus. Students at Notre Dame have long advocated for this commitment, and its time has come.

**CONCLUSION TO "TOP 5"**

**In summary, it is the fifth proposal that binds all the other proposals together. In many ways, the entire blueprint that follows can be tied up into this one hope: to win the next fight to write a new chapter in the history of the Notre Dame project, and to do it by uniting the student body together to build a great Catholic university for the twenty-first century that is bigger and better than ever.**

## | ACADEMIC AFFAIRS |

The primary purpose of any university is to serve as a community of learning. We have a plan to improve academic life on campus which recognizes the importance of learning in class, but that also emphasizes the fact that much of our learning at Notre Dame happens beyond the lecture hall.

### **At a Glance**

- *“C U @ the CUSE”*: Create program to explain funding opportunities for travel, research, and scholarship opportunities through the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement modeled on the “C U @ the CSC Program” (This program allows dorms to schedule times to visit the Center for Social Concerns and receive a free pizza dinner while learning about opportunities with the CSC). This will aid the university in its effort to increase participation in undergraduate research, and at the same time enable students to discover how they can get the university to pay us to do just about anything that we find interesting (for the sake of learning, of course)
- *Liquid Learning*: Create a space on campus that would serve as a place for students and faculty to meet in an informal setting over drinks after class hours (J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis met after lectures for drinks in a local Oxford pub. It’s time ND has one too. This is the University of the Fighting Irish, after all.)
- *Food for Thought*: Create a centralized support system for academic commissioners to bring faculty into dorms for lectures in individual halls through the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement. This will enable individual halls to secure extra funding to provide good food to host lectures on topics of interest to an individual hall, as well advance the effort to spark discussions and debates on academic subjects outside the classroom.
- *Deliver on a Past Promise*: Construct an Online Syllabus Database with the help of Agency ND so that students can actually know what a class will require before they register. This is a promise that has been made by previous campaigns, and it is time Student Government delivered.
- *Last Lectures Go Viral*: Work with OPAC to record the Last Lecture Series on the ND YouTube Page for students to share and view from anywhere in the world
- *Student Involvement in Academic Policy*: Formalize opportunities to ensure student input on all academic policy changes relevant to the undergraduate student population in each college. This took on a special urgency for the student body through the work of “Open Economics Notre Dame” in the run-up to the dissolution of the Economics and Policy Studies Department. This was deeply problematic for many Arts and Letters students, and we must work to resolve the lack of communication that often complicates areas of disagreement between students and university academic leadership. In so doing, mechanisms can be developed to ensure that students and

college leadership serve as mutual partners in charting a course for the university's academic future.

- *The Forum*: Work with the President's Office to expand the student role in the planning and implementation of The Forum.
- *CIFs*: Simplify CIF process, and expand available time window to complete CIF forms.
- *Create A Major/Minor*: Develop formalized process for creating a major/minor across colleges, and allow students to pursue courses of study created by others to the maximum extent possible.
- *A Library for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*: Jumpstart stalled renovations to the library to put us on track to have a library worthy of Fr. Jenkins's stated goal to make Notre Dame a "pre-eminent research university for the world."
- *Academic Freedom*: We are committed to the principles of academic freedom as outlined by Fr. Hesburgh in the landmark Land O'Lakes Statement.

## | ARTS ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY |

Both Notre Dame and our South Bend community have become vibrant regional centers for the arts. While many students at Notre Dame perform in plays, concerts, dances, or musicals, they do not always get the recognition that they deserve for their contributions to our community. With the grand opening of the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts in 2004, Notre Dame inaugurated what Fr. Jenkins has referred to as the University's "Decade of the Arts" which will serve as "a celebration of our arts legacy and fulfillment of our future" recognizing that, as Fr. Jenkins writes, "Art has always been central to the University's commitment to learning, teaching, and serving, and it is of crucial importance to our continued *growth* as a community of learning." It is time that Student Government finally follows our student body's example by giving the support to artistic students that they deserve. We have a plan to do it.

### **At a Glance:**

- Create a Student Government grant fund to sponsor independent student artwork on campus.
- Publicize discounted tickets to DPAC and student productions, advocate for discounted tickets at the Morris Performing Arts Center in South Bend and the South Bend Civic Theatre, and expand the range of shows offered for free at DPAC.
- Secure increased exhibition space for the visual arts, as well as for expanded access to venues for student performances.
- Advocate for new endowments to provide further financial support for student productions.
- Partner with the Director of Arts Advancement to provide opportunities for student input in the university's stated long-term vision of locating new facilities for the Department of Art, Art History and Design, the Department of Music, and the Snite Museum of Art closer to the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The University has expressed its hope that this will enable easier access for "both campus and community audiences," and therefore could also foster new opportunities for community relations
- Provide direct roles for arts students not already affiliated with Student Government to provide their input through the above partnership. The underlying idea is that distant "representatives" of the student body shouldn't be the ones in these meetings, but rather the students who these decisions will directly affect should be able to speak and lead for themselves.
- Advocate for student participation in the University's effort to "make Notre Dame the place people come to learn about the art of the Catholic tradition" and "create interdisciplinary programs that combine all the arts across departmental boundaries"

with “components of performance, aesthetics, and critical thinking.” We believe that this aspiration can only be fully realized through the direct engagement and leadership of students in partnership with the University Administration.

## | CAMPUS MINISTRY |

The Notre Dame Office of Campus Ministry provides a diverse array of opportunities for students to talk about their own faith journey, as well as to walk side-by-side with each other, their rectors, professors, coaches, and campus ministers. The Office provides students with access to retreats, sacraments, liturgies and worship services, and much more. Class councils have spirituality committees that often work to connect classmates with these opportunities, and Pat and Brett think it is time that a new Student Government administration work to help Campus Ministry to give students at this critical point in our lives the chance to explore our faith, struggle with our doubts, and join together to live lives of hope in action through service to others.

### **At a Glance:**

- Revitalize the “Contemplation in Action” retreat in partnership with the Center for Social Concerns to provide students the opportunity to explore the relationship between faith and service, especially given that over 80% of students engage in service during their time at Notre Dame.
- Create a new retreat for students struggling with religious doubt or disbelief in God, but are still open to the possibility of a spiritual life.
- Add an additional Sophomore Road Trip in the spring semester to increase opportunities for sophomores to participate in this experience. This is especially important since, according to Campus Ministry, “Retreats form the backbone of the many faith initiatives available” through their office.
- Invite leaders of Campus Ministry programs, as well as the world-renowned Campus Ministry Choirs, to participate in “student leader” events that are currently restricted primarily to Student Government and SUB.
- Partner with Campus Ministry to provide a more developed support system for Campus Ministry commissioners in halls modeled after those Student Government already has in place for Social Concerns and Multicultural commissioners.
- Partner with Campus Ministry to publicize and expand opportunities for cross-cultural masses, retreats, and celebrations in the spirit of Vatican II.
- Emphasize the importance of expanding ecumenical and interfaith ministry opportunities to students. Notre Dame is a proud Catholic-Christian university, but as a catholic university in the small “c” sense of the word, Pat and Brett also believe it is critical to stand with Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist students, and students of other faiths, in celebration of the spirituality and insight these faith traditions bring to our campus community.

- In particular, Student Government will work with Campus Ministry to expand ministry options to Hindu students who currently lack specific support to practice their faith on campus.
- Provide further information about places of worship locally in the community, including St. Augustine's and the St. Peter Claver Catholic Worker House, for interested students who may not yet have had the opportunity to take advantage of these unique opportunities to worship alongside faculty, staff, and fellow community members in South Bend.

## | CATHOLIC CHARACTER OF THE UNIVERSITY |

What does it mean to be a Catholic university in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? This is one of the most important questions that the university faces as we look to our future, and one that has often proven controversial among students, alumni, and even the broader public at large. Notre Dame is widely considered to be the face of Catholic higher education, especially in the United States, and as a result this question lies at the heart of every major decision the University Administration must make. Students, too, often have wide-ranging views on what it means to be a Catholic university, and on the proper decisions regarding whom a university should invite to speak on campus, which it should honor, and how our Catholic identity should shape our actions both on campus and in the wider world. We believe that this question, however, can bring us together, too. And we have a plan to not only spark discussion and debate, but also forge consensus to enable students to participate more directly in charting a course for Notre Dame to become that great university, both Catholic and catholic, desperately needed in our time.

### **At a Glance:**

- Launch a lecture series called “Catholic in America” which will invite prominent American Catholics to come to share their own story of how their spiritual journey intersects with culture, politics, and their vocation and career in partnership with Campus Ministry and the Center for Social Concerns.
- Host a forum in partnership with the Institute for Church Life that will ask both students and professors on campus, as well as invited speakers, to explore critical subjects for the future of the Catholic Church – including women in the priesthood, sexual and reproductive ethics, the meaning of a consistent ethic of life, and faithful citizenship.
- Partner with interested clubs and media groups on campus to ask for input and guidance into how these lectures and forum events can be formed, which speakers to invite, what subjects to choose, what questions to ask, and how to continue the discussion beyond. One special venue we hope to use will be the newly created Hub.
- Emphasize that a consistent priority must be to honor the fact that to be Catholic is also to be catholic, or universal, and therefore that a truly great Catholic university must serve as a place of deep interreligious dialogue and discussion between faith traditions and nonbelievers alike.
- Consistently advocate for an ever more radical interpretation of the figure of Jesus Christ presented to us in the Gospels. This means that, above all, we are called to practice as a university the faith that does justice and loves mercy, and therefore to welcome all human beings, whatever their religion, race, sexual orientation, gender, nationality, physical condition, or age, as sisters and brothers created in the image of God.

## | CONSTITUENT SERVICES |

The minimum measure of any student government is its ability to provide services and benefits to the student body it works to represent. We believe in this critical role for Notre Dame's Student Government, and we believe we can deliver the most effective package of constituent services to date of any Administration, while also transforming the Student Union in order to aspire to the higher vision of students at Notre Dame. We believe that Student Government should work on these more "routine" issues because successfully delivering constituent services not only improves the quality of student life, but also instills the faith in Student Government that students must have if we are to realize our greatest hopes for Notre Dame.

### *At a Glance:*

- Create a new Director of Constituent Services position to coordinate all constituent service efforts across Student Government.
- Work with the Huddle Manager to reduce the price of Quarter Dogs to 25 cents through Student Government subsidization of incurred expenses. In the longer-term, we will also work with the Huddle Manager and Food Services staff to explore a sustainable solution that can restore a treasured tradition to the Notre Dame campus without Student Government financial support.
- Expand availability and access to free flu shots by working with Health Services to provide in-dorm immunizations.
- Increase printing quota for undergraduate students.
- Work with Food Services staff to advocate for increased variety of flavor options for frozen yogurt in the dining halls.
- Work with Food Services and the Office of Information Technology to incorporate an online comment feature on the Food Services website that will enable students to submit menu item requests and other messages from anywhere in the world at any time.
- Work with the Campus Life Council, Hall Presidents Council, and rectors across campus to renew traditional dorm events that have experienced declining engagement including "Wake Week" and "Fisher Zoo"
- Investigate opportunities for taxi reform based upon existing benchmarking at other universities such as the University of Virginia's Free Ride Program, as well as current South Bend development of the Taxi on Demand Program. Simultaneously, we will advocate for standardization of regulations for taxis servicing the Notre Dame campus community to ensure that student safety remains the central objective of reform.

- Partner more directly with Student Activities Office and the Student Union Board to contribute to programming a “Welcome Week” with daily activities during the first week of school.
- Investigate opportunities to expand Domer Dollar access to off-campus venues including tenants of Eddy Street Commons.
- Expand the “Domecoming” dance to a campus-wide event in collaboration with the Freshman Class Council, Sophomore Class Council, Junior Class Council, and Senior Class Council.
- Develop a section on the Student Government website that specifically enables students to submit ideas, complaints, and concerns to facilitate student communication with their representatives 24-7.
- Expand the Off-Campus Discount program to other local businesses in our South Bend community.
- Ensure that the new Director of Constituent Services and Constituent Service Committee representatives are available to meet at Hall Council meetings on a weekly basis upon the request of a Hall President, Vice President, or Senator. “Whine Week” will not be a single week out of the year in a McCormick-Rocheleau Administration—it will be every week.

## | CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM |

Over decades, the shape and the face of student government has grown and changed with the student body. The Student Union is made up of nine different organizations with varying purposes, from programming to fiscal policy to election regulations. The structure of the Student Union has significantly changed from its origins in an attempt to best serve the student body. In recent years, the structure has not achieved this goal. That students are unaware of what student government does, how to reach the people they elected, or use the resources given to them, is indicative of a system that is not doing what it is supposed to be doing. It is time for that to change. The Student Union Constitution could be described as corporatist; it puts in place a top-down system that is ineffective. We want to work for changes that will make *your* voices, *your* ideas, and *your* goals the driving force of the Student Union. To do that, if elected, we will request that our Oversight Chair draft a new version of the Student Union Constitution—a twenty-first century Constitution for a twenty-first century Notre Dame that expands inclusion to all students.

- *Streamline the System:* The Student Union is bulky and slow-moving because many find themselves in jobs that are poorly defined. The structure of organizations makes one's role difficult to understand, and accordingly difficult to carry out. Your allies in student government should know exactly how to serve you. The system should not fail because it is too large and complicated for those who operate it to do so effectively. Streamlining and defining the system is vital if Notre Dame students are to get what they deserve out of their peers in student government.
- *Cut through the Red Tape:* There are a significant number of regulations and wait-times that inhibit students' ability to start and sustain their own clubs. All too often, students can feel like the institutions which are supposed to making the process easier instead seem designed to prevent student hopes from becoming reality. Through Constitutional reforms, we can appreciably reduce the amount of time and energy it takes to get your club off the ground, which will hopefully give you the time for what really matters—leading Notre Dame on the issues that matter most to you.
- *Greater Openness in Selection of Leaders:* The selection of leaders who serve organizations such as SUB, CCC, and Judicial Council depend on a small group of people on the second floor of LaFortune. Let's open this process up to all who might be interested in serving the University.
- *Communicate:* We are in the digital age of Twitter, Facebook, and instant-communication. You know what your roommate had for lunch today, but not what policies student government has written, events it has planned, or what resources it has for you to use. Student Union members should be required to communicate with their constituents. Senators attending hall council is one step towards this goal, but we need to do more to communicate with the student body. Blogs by organization leaders, an online comment section, making the strategic plan available to all students, putting archived documents from recent and past administrations online, and

more avenues for discussion are some simple ways to communicate how Student Government is amplifying your voice.

## | DIVERSITY |

Notre Dame aspires to be not only Catholic with a big “C,” but also to be catholic, or universal, with a small “c.” A critical barometer of our success in achieving this goal is our ability to attract minority and international students to the University. We believe that increased diversity enriches the personal formation of every student on campus by encouraging us to learn both from our own unique cultural heritages, and to encounter those of others. We are committed to making both qualitative and quantitative advancements in the level of diversity on campus with the recognition that this aspiration extends beyond solely ethnic inclusion to include an array of other categories such as faith, gender, race, socioeconomic background, family history, academic concentration, personal interests, and all those other areas of life that combine to shape us into who we are.

### *At a Glance:*

- Advocate for an expansion of the Office of Admissions recruitment in inner-city schools across the United States. This ideally will enable the University to reach more students who otherwise might not have considered Notre Dame due to lack of familiarity with our campus and community, or perceived lack of inclusion on the part of the University of students similarly circumstanced.
- Commend Father Jenkins on his reception of the Champion of Diversity Award by Indiana Minority Business Magazine (IMBM), and now encourage Notre Dame to seek institutional recognition by IMBM for the university as a whole.
- Ensure that groups serving underrepresented students on campus have the resources they need by requesting the Chair of the Student Senate Multicultural Affairs Committee to meet regularly with all major cultural groups on campus through the Diversity Council and other bodies.
- Enable underrepresented students on campus to pursue a culturally enriching course of study through curriculum customization programs outlined as a part of the Top 5.
- Encourage the Office of Institutional Equity to adopt a policy of non-discrimination with regard to sexual orientation as well as race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, veteran status, or age in the administration of its educational programs, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic, and other school-administered programs or in employment.
- Assess current University Admissions Office presence internationally, and subsequently advocate for increased international presence in underrepresented areas of the world, and continue the university’s long-standing tradition of providing a top caliber education to underprivileged migrant populations.

## | EDUCATION |

As students, we are active participants in community-based research and scholarship. We strive to solve unanswered questions in fields as unique as tropical disease and as pertinent as environmental sciences. However, in looking towards a future full of innovations and advancements, we should first get to know the researchers and scholars of tomorrow. As a student body, we need to become more involved in the South Bend school district. We should share our enthusiasm for learning, and Notre Dame, with our younger peers.

### *At a Glance:*

- Increase student participation in the programs at local elementary schools, specifically Perley Fine Arts Academy, the closest elementary school to campus. Perley has after-school tutoring programs, as well as a variety of arts programs in which students would be able to share their artistic talent with aspiring painters, musicians, dancers, cooks, etc.
- Host a middle-school leadership day, inviting a handful of students from each of the local middle schools to campus, to “shadow” students pursuing interests or careers that are similar to their own, and to encourage them to believe that they can study at the school of their choice if they work hard enough. The event would also serve as an opportunity to build relationships between Notre Dame students and younger South Bend students that could last long after the day itself.
- Spotlight the community-based research done by Education, Schooling, and Society (ESS) minors in the South Bend school district.
- Continue ongoing discussions with the Director of Education, Schooling, and Society as well as the Director of Community Engagement to discuss how Notre Dame Student Government could most effectively serve as a partner in efforts such as No Parent Left Behind and Take Ten.

## | FOOD SERVICES |

As students, we recognize the importance of the foods we are putting into our bodies. We strive to consume nutrients that help maintain both our environment and ourselves. As a student body, we need to continue to support locally grown and organic foods, and educate students on sustainable food practices. We should work to decrease our food waste and support current programs helping those in need of food throughout our community.

### *At a Glance:*

- Support programs like the Marine Stewardship Council, a global nonprofit organization that was developed as a certifying standard for well-managed wild fisheries, and Waste-Free Wednesdays, an organization committed to decreasing food waste in our dining halls.
- Advocate on behalf of the student body for organic and locally grown products.
- Spotlight healthy options on campus including “Greenfields,” a restaurant with a menu built around fresh seasonal and local ingredients, including those from the campus Community Garden.
- Continue ongoing discussions with the Director of Food Services and the Manager of Nutrition and Safety to determine the most effective ways to connect Food Services and students.

## | GENDER RELATIONS |

The mission of the Gender Relations Center on campus is to “promotes moral formation consistent with Catholic identity, mission and values in an effort to create a healthier culture at the University of Notre Dame. Committed to the spiritual, emotional and intellectual development of all students, the GRC engages women and men in respectful dialogue and seeks to build a community that fully honors the human dignity of each person as a creature of God.” We want to build a Student Government that seeks to support the Center in its mission, and that works to ever more fully expand inclusion in the Notre Dame family.

### *At a Glance:*

- Work to build the Student Affairs support coalition for GLBTQ students on campus.
- Partner more directly with the Violence Prevention Initiative to prevent conflict before it starts.
- Ensure student participation in the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women at Notre Dame.
- Increase sexual assault resources on campus, and advocate for increased effort to secure funding for a new rape crisis center for St. Joseph’s county.
- Partner with the Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention to identify how Student Government can help in the effort to reduce factors which can contribute to an increase in the risk of sexual assault.

## | STUDENT SAFETY |

Notre Dame is one of the most beautiful campuses in the country, and with our own fire department and security police, we have the resources to be one of the safest. However, there are certain realities about independent living that college students must be aware of, including alcohol, drugs, crime, and sexual assault on campus and in the greater South Bend area. While NDSP already offers many resources for proactive students, such as the Crime Watch notices and self-defense classes, we feel that more changes are needed to ensure the safety of our students, and we will aggressively work to keep students actively informed and prepared for any eventuality.

### *At a Glance:*

- Equalize ease of access to dorms so that residents of a particular building can enter through any door at any time of day. This is currently the practice in many men's dorms, but unfortunately is not the case in women's'. Allowing women access to the door of their dorm most convenient to them at any given time would decrease the time spent walking around in dimly-lit areas, and consequently increase the safety of women on campus.
- Increase the number of lights in poorly lit areas of campus, particularly Mod Quad and the west side of campus. Ease of sight, peace of mind.
- In the event of an emergency, the first priority should always be student safety, rather than enforcing university rules. Specifically, we will work to enact an Emergency Clause, emphasizing the importance of student safety during fire alarms (or any other emergency situation), regardless of the time of day or the location of the emergency. Student safety comes first.
- Install a permanent sidewalk alongside the soccer fields for students who commute from off-campus housing to on-campus academic buildings.
- Off-campus safety means two things: (1) knowing your rights, and (2) knowing where you are. For this reason, we want to expand the proposed memorandum of understanding with the South Bend Police Department to institutionalize regular meetings with law enforcement, and create an interactive map of the neighborhoods surrounding Notre Dame.
- Continue Student Government's long-standing participation in meetings with SBPD and other local law enforcement officials in order to ensure students are represented, and that student concerns are fully conveyed to the appropriate authorities.
- Continue Student Government's participation in the Notre Dame Safety and Crime Prevention Task Force, the Campus Community Advisory Coalition, and the Northeast Neighborhood Council.

- Advertise and strengthen the Student Government-sponsored Student Legal Services, designed to help students find legal assistance from local attorneys if the need arises.

| CONCLUSION | *The Notre Dame Story: A Story of Hope*

When we first visited campus before coming to Notre Dame, we remember being overwhelmed by the spirit of this place that generation after generation has called home. We think it happens to all of us lucky enough to live here at one time or another—that moment when we realize we have become part of a much larger story than our own, a story of those who have dared to hope that the spirit of Notre Dame could change the world.

It is the hope of an adventurer who traveled across the American frontier where he would build a small log chapel in the Indiana wilderness with the dream that there would grow one of the most powerful forces for good on Earth.

It is the hope of an immigrant who moved from Norway to Chicago to become the most famous coach in the history of American college football, and one day would build a house that still wakes up the echoes to this day.

It is the hope of a visionary university president who dreamed of building a great Catholic university for a new age, and held hands with a preacher from Atlanta as together they marched on in that sacred American journey to form a more perfect union.

And above all it is the hope of a young Jewish woman who would say “yes” despite her fear, be forced to flee from her own homeland to become a refugee, and who would shine forevermore as the greatest saint in the history of the Catholic Church.

When woven together, this spirit of Notre Dame forms a single story spanning the centuries that reminds us not only of who we are, but of who we are called to become.

We are running to serve as President and Vice President of the Notre Dame Student Body because we believe in this story. We believe that Notre Dame students want a student government worthy of their hopes for their school. And, with your help, we believe that we can answer the call for change that belongs to a new generation of the Notre Dame family, and unite to build the Notre Dame a world torn apart may need more than ever before.