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Decision of General Assembly: Approved



## **Student Government Association**

Resolution 2122.P

### **Support for the Modification of the Current On-Campus Bus System**

The Student Government Association of the University of Southern Indiana recognizes the urgent need for modification of the on-campus bus system for the purpose of ensuring students receive the services they pay for and have a safe means of transportation during the winter months. We recognize that as a service paid for by student fees, the buses should be reliable sources of transportation for all who need them. Furthermore, as colder weather approaches, students living on campus must have a viable means of transportation to and from campus to ensure their health and safety. Student Government Association recognizes the

potential cost of altering the system as it stands. However, our constituents have repeatedly voiced their experiences with the buses: being denied a seat because the bus was full; being late for class because there was only one bus running; and having to wait outside in inclement weather conditions for significant periods of time. These issues will only be exacerbated as winter approaches, which is why we are requesting a change to the existing policy now, rather than at the beginning of the Spring semester. Every year more students utilize the campus bus system during the winter, but with two buses instead of three, more frequent cleaning for longer periods of time, and limited capacity to promote social distancing, the current policy will not be sufficient to meet students' needs once winter rolls around.

We understand that housing rates are lower than in previous years and the university is working hard to be fiscally conservative during these times. We also understand that there are currently other moving parts to try to change the bus/parking policy on campus. Because of the complexity of the matter, Student Government Association would like to offer our own ideas for how to resolve this issue:

1. Integrate a third bus into the on-campus route.

We believe this is the most effective solution, though we acknowledge that it is also the most expensive solution and that there is a labor shortage.

Acknowledging the cost, this may also be a good solution for the winter months before returning to two buses once it is warmer.

2. Allow university apartment residents to park on campus on a rotating basis based on housing area.

This policy was implemented at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester, so we know that it is feasible. But it still may not be enough to accommodate for the shortage of buses and soon-to-be surplus of bus riders.

3. Allow student workers and similarly situated students who live on campus to apply for specially regulated parking passes which permit them to park on the main campus during class hours.

This policy would allow the university to use their discretion when considering parking lot capacities. It could also potentially generate revenue if there was a small fee associated with the additional parking pass. But again, it still may not be enough.

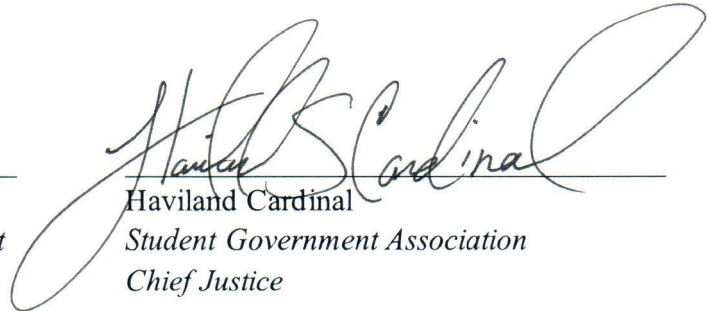
4. A combination of any or all of these recommended policies

This would be the ideal solution in our opinion.

While we recognize the issue at hand is complex and multifaceted, the Student Government Association wishes to fulfill our duty of representing the students and the issues they bring forth. We appreciate the efforts that are already taking place and we would be happy to aid in your efforts to improve these conditions. If there is anything we can do to collaborate with Housing and Residence Life, Public Safety, Dean of Students, or any other department, we would be happy to do so. We as an organization thank you for taking the time to consider our position and extend our desire to be of assistance in any way that we can throughout the process of pursuing this initiative.



Anna Ardelean  
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Chief Justice*