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- I. Opening Prayer, Jackson Oxler, *Duncan Senator*
  - II. Roll Call: What Hogwarts house are you in?
  - III. Approval of Minutes
    - a. Met in small groups to discuss goals and resolutions for what we want to tackle for next semester and made a brainstorming sheet
  - IV. Executive Announcements
    - a. Room was not arranged by me- this versus the original arrangement, will determine later
    - b. Good luck with finals
    - c. Thank you, Jack, from the Observer for your reporting of Senate
  - V. General Orders
    - a. State of the Student Union, Elizabeth Boyle, *Student Body President*
      - i. Elizabeth Boyle -
        1. Congrats on making it through the Semester
        2. There has been lots of energy and excitement this semester, and thank you for giving your gifts to serve the ND community.
        3. Started with the Residential Life Policy and the change in the ID swipe policy. Thank you to SCC for working on this issue, thank you to Senate for engaging with this issue and working with you dorm community, and thank you to Student Life Abby Smith and Connor Whittle for working on these topics within your department.

4. Positive increase of ALLY awareness and strides in Diversity and Inclusion.
  5. Added Student Empowerment and Sustainability departments
  6. Expanded access to the NY Times - 56,000!!
  7. Our gender relations department with Anne Jarret working to ensure that all student leaders have to be GreeNDot trained; Community Engagement and Outreach has done great work in the South Bend Community
  8. Areas that we need improvement: The accounts and acts of hate, particularly against the LGBTQ community, were repulsive and should not continue on the Notre Dame campus.
  9. Every one of us needs to play our part to push ND to be inclusive and love everyone regardless of your background. We must be a model for our world not a model of our world!
- b. SO1920-23: A Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Revise the Positions Prohibited from Endorsing Candidates
- i. Read by Samuel Delmer
  - ii. I want to clarify the only change to the policy is that it added the Executive Cabinet Chairs, Parliamentarian, Executive Controller, and Cabinet Department Chairs to the list of individuals who cannot endorse in elections.
  - iii. Keegan McArdle- What is the rationale of stopping endorsements?

- iv. Samuel Delmer- The rationale is to stop the divisiveness and make it more fair in an election. In halls, when people endorse other candidates, it can create a host of problems that should not occur at a University. That is the rationale behind the Amendment.
- v. Keegan McArdle- My second question is how does this interact with a self endorsement? If someone in this body or another body would run for office, would they be able to endorse themselves?
- vi. Patrick- For instance, last year when I ran, I could run but I couldn't use my office to campaign. You can't say at Hall Council "also I'm running for VP." In this way, you can't imply that your office entitles you to the position.
- vii. Halena Hadi- In regard to the question of running while holding a position, you as an individual who is running are not construed to represent a larger party. Holding a position shouldn't prevent you from holding another position. Patrick can't use his position to ensure that Siegfried Hall would endorse him. You can't use hall listserves and other advertising within the hall.
- viii. Patrick- Elizabeth spoke at Siegfried Hall Council, that's an example of how she did it.
- ix. Joe Witt- Why were the department chairs not there in the first place?
- x. Samuel Delmer- A reason why they were off the list is because they argue that by being department directors, they have a better view of the way the University is working. However, the amount of knowledge you have isn't the way to go about it, but I think it's prudent to account for the fact that one

- cannot say that one person with a certain amount of knowledge is able to endorse while someone else with more limited knowledge cannot. The problems with endorsing outweigh the benefits that would be gained.
- xi. James Bathon- By that logic, the reason why you wouldn't include department heads would be the same logic as to why wouldn't Senators be allowed to endorse.
- xii. Keegan McArdle - I don't know about you, but I think that's dumb that by being the president or a member of hall leadership, you can't say to your hall that you're running. It's an overly cumbersome restriction as you aren't using your office. There may need to be adjustments for self endorsements.
- xiii. Matthew Bisner- There is a difference between campaigning and endorsements. Endorsements involve public contact for the solicitation of votes for other people as a third party. So, if Patrick had said that Siegfried was endorsing his running, then he couldn't do this. Self endorsement is essentially just campaigning.
- xiv. Keegan McArdle - I think that's an unnecessary step that's dumb.
- xv. Linde- If I remember the situation, it wasn't that Patrick felt that he couldn't, but he felt he shouldn't endorse in Siegfried.
- xvi. Connor- I have a counterpoint. I don't think this will end the divisiveness or that endorsements would mean that we are above the divisiveness. The election 2 years ago was extremely divisive, and the rule is the same but divisiveness still existed. As student leaders, it's a murky line.

- xvii. Samuel Delmer- To your first critique that the resolution goes against divisiveness, the point is not to end the divisiveness forever. I think the problem with having some people able to and others who can't endorse, it comes down to justice and fairness. The purpose of not having endorsements was partly ending the divisiveness, but this amendment is not allowing a few people to endorse.
- xviii. Connor- I hope we would add valuable input that should be shared and it's a murky line with endorsements. It's an odd amendment.
- xix. Samuel Delmer- That attack is more on the gaining of endorsements in general. If we accept to ban endorsements, then it will go to this specific campaign.
- xx. Halena Hadi- It's constitutionally valid on both sides. What we've done is add Exec Cab officers. Exec Cab was left off previously as they are serving in an appointed position versus the other positions which are elected. The reason that SUB is here is that it is an appointed position; however, Eric represented SUB. Exec Cab department members have been appointed and work with the administration. We have had a trend in directors running against each other in the presidential election. The fact that we have had historically different people running from the Cabinet is why they were excluded. There are both sides to take it. As such, it's similar to Senators but in many ways it's different.
- xxi. Samuel Delmer- Yes, there are differences between Exec Cab and Senators, but I think seeing from the outside of the community, they are seen

as just another student leader. When someone sees an Exec Cab leader, they work for the Student Gov in general, and their level of knowledge shouldn't be used to divide who can or cannot endorse. There also may be differences in levels of knowledge between Exec Cab itself.

- xxii. Halena Hadi- It's the fact that you guys as Senators are elected and are mandated to report to your Hall Council. They just have their department and they don't have their constituency and the self-selection that goes in.
- xxiii. Samuel Delmer- Going back to the SUB Exec director, if he can't endorse, I don't think anyone should be able to.
- xxiv. Jack Rotolo- I'm having a hard time to see the endorsement as unfair. In my mind, if a person is in Exec Cab, they are uniquely qualified to give an opinion as they have a foot in the administration and the student body side. They have earned it and they don't have a direct responsibility to the constituency. I'm having an issue with the unfair part.
- xxv. James Bathon- They don't represent a constituency; rather, they serve the whole student body just as the president and VP also serve the whole student body. By that logic, why aren't they allowed to give an endorsement? If the president can't give an endorsement, then it's the same thing that trickles down to the departments.
- xxvi. Joe Witt- I as a class officer would not expect members of my class council to endorse me. Where does it stop? All 30 class council officers are enumerated in the constitution, so what weight do they hold compared to senators or class

officers. Their position in the student union isn't the same. You can't equate yourself to the Exec Cabinet, but must see it in a different way.

xxvii. Halena Hadi- Class Council members can endorse but officers cannot.

xxviii. Halena Hadi- SUB and student union treasurer are the only non-elected positions that are able to endorse. SUB representatives can, but Eric can't.

xxix. Samuel Delmer- There are differences between them.

xxx. Keegan McArdle- Can you point us to the relevant clause in the Constitution?

xxxi. Halena- Its article II, Exec Officers.

xxxii. Samuel Delmer- There are differences between them, I'm not saying that Senators have the same responsibility, but the knowledge would give you the authority to endorse. I think that if Senators are not able to, then Exec Cab should not as well. It's not that the Senators are lowly and the Exec Cabinet is higher. It makes sense not to let anyone because it is not fair and should be something that no one should be allowed to.

xxxiii. Connor- I don't follow your logic that I want to expand endorsement but limit the ability of everyone to endorse.

xxxiv. Samuel Delmer- If I said I want senators to endorse I didn't mean that. I'm saying that neither should endorse.

xxxv. Connor- I'm generally on the side there. Overall, the reason why I'm opposed is I support the ability for all members to endorse. I understand that I cannot add a Friendly Amendment to change the amendment.

- xxxvi. Quentin Colo- We are talking in circles. We have been talking about endorsements for 30 minutes and I think we should move to a vote.
- xxxvii. James Bathon- This amendment is not to talk about the validity of endorsements, but we are adding to equalize who is on the list.
- xxxviii. Elizabeth Boyle- My opinion on this is that this is a much larger argument that what we have been presenting. I'm in the camp that more people should be able to, but my fear if that we pass this now, then this will make it very hard next year to expand it.
- xxxix. Halena Hadi- Going back to the difference, we aren't saying Senators are below anyone. I am not an author on this, but I want to say that in terms of the endorsements and the blurry lines, think about it in terms of alligations and election appeals. Going forward, it's up to you, and that's why we opened it here. Think about it going forward, and how it will impact future elections.
- xl. Samuel Delmer- I don't think we should take into consideration the number of appeals. This resolution is just and fair and equalizes the standards. Going back to Elizabeth's point, I think that could be a conversation in the future and we are the same senators in January. If we don't pass this now, it cant go into effect for the next election cycle.
- xli. Elizabeth- I think this is the last time we can talk about it because we can't discuss this further after the break. If we decide to change it, that's the time and we cant change.

- xlii. Karen Kennedy- Candidates can pick up the petitions on Tuesday after we get back so that is why this is the last time.
- xlili. Elizabeth- If you revisit it, it's not fair to make decisions here that can impact two years.
- xliv. Samuel Delmer - However, the decisions that people made two years ago impact us. I think it seems that this is something that is fair and equalizes standards. We did that with GreeNDot.
- xlv. Karen Kennedy- It is important to actually speak about it while an election in the process.
- xlvi. Matthew Bisner- Hall elections continue into late March.
- xlvii. Why can't we discuss election reform during election?
- xlviii. Halena- Two years ago they amended the constitution while it was happening which was why it was so tumultuous.
- xlix. Samuel Delmer- The core is fairness and justice.
- l. Thomas Davis- Like Halena, I had to decide if I should put my name to it. My role is to oversee the transition, and the constitution is there to protect from cases of the first scenario. I would hate to see a cabinet divided. If someone takes office and chooses to cast others aside and end the work that Exec Cab had been doing before, that would be a shame. No position can be promised to anyone running. Exec Cab is a large body, and people have run for president coming from this body, so there is a grey line there. To avoid the worse case, we must decide to have all or nothing.

- li. James Bathon- If department directors were allowed to give an endorsement, then would this present the possibility to gain a position if they endorse?
- lii. Thomas- Yes. This would present the possibility.
  - 1. The motion failed.
- liii. Patrick- We have nothing left on general orders. Move SO1924 and 25 into general orders.

#### VI. New Business

- a. SO1920-24: A Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Revise the Positions Empowered to Determine the Merit of an Election Violation Allegation.
  - i. Read by Halena. It was previously just the VP of elections.
  - ii. Passed
- b. SO1920-25: A Resolution to Amend the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to Correct Inconsistencies
  - i. Changed to the chairperson of the Student Senate.
  - ii. Passed

#### VII. Announcements

- a. Stress relievers in Danke on Thurs at 5
- b. Tomorrow is the last event of the year- Kahoot for Careers in Debart 155 at 7
- c. Sierra- Selling pictures, stickers, and ornaments for the freshman class, last time we are doing it is tomorrow at the Freshman finals food fest to celebrate the end of the semester.

## VIII. Adjournment

Dear God,

We thank you for our opportunity to serve Our Lady's entrusted community. May we, members of the Student Senate, be servants of hope and instruments of great change. May we listen and lead with humility, kindness, courage, and love. May we develop a community that inspires all to engage in our daily vocation to be the truest brothers and sisters we can be. Through our dedication, may we call this community our family and this university our home.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen