

- I. Opening Prayer, Nicole Marcinkus, *Farley Senator*
- II. Roll Call: What is your best picture of the year? Or of all time?
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Executive Announcements
 - a. [All Walk the Walk Week Events](#)
 - i. Patrick McGuire: I wanted to reshare the schedule of Walk the Walk Week events. I wanted to remind everyone that the week is halfway through and to keep an eye on the remaining events that are still available this week. There have been a lot of great events so far.
 - b. Campus Dining Feedback: New Meal Plans
 - i. Patrick McGuire: Campus Dining wants to hear Senate's thoughts on their new meal plans that they are rolling out, and I sent out an announcement on that. They would really love to hear our feedback. Is anyone available 8pm tomorrow to help with that? If you are interested in helping with that, you can go back to that original message I sent about that in the GroupMe and like it or just let me know now. They would be very excited to have as many senators as possible.
- V. General Orders
 - a. A Conversation on Action Items Following Walk the Walk Week
 - i. Patrick McGuire: I think this is an important time to reflect on how we, as campus leaders, can best combat racism and make this campus more welcoming and inclusive for all people. There is no structure for this

conversation overall, but I did want to start by asking if anyone has any insight from a particular event that they have attended this week that they would like to share.

- ii. Jack Rotolo: At the prayer service, the Carroll rector talked about a student mentioned in a book called “Black Domers” and how this minority student was repeatedly asked if she was going to study abroad and she always told them how she felt abroad even when she was just at Notre Dame. It made me think that we need to be more aware in our comfort as Notre Dame students and acknowledge that everyone is having different experiences during their time here.
- iii. Daniel Feldmeier: Are there any updates regarding the movements that began at the end of the semester?
- iv. Patrick McGuire: They released a manifesto in the Observer a few days ago that I would be happy to share with you. There is nothing new regarding student government in regards to them, but End Hate does break down their new goals a bit more in their manifesto.
- v. Eric Kim: They are also hosting a town hall at 4 pm on Friday in Carey Auditorium in the library with various people from the administration and the movement itself. I am under the impression that this is a student conversation.
- vi. Luke Sheridan-Rabideau: There are various intersectional conversations happening between various campus organizations that primarily center around

race. That starts next week, and I can send the flyer with more information about it in our group chat.

vii. Patrick McGuire: That is a great opportunity for student senate to elevate the amount of people that they would reach and engage in those sort of important conversations.

viii. Jack Rotolo: Is the Walk the Walk Week event in the law school also open for undergraduates?

ix. Patrick McGuire: Yes, that is open to all students. Jack, I also really appreciated what you said about the prayer service in how we as senators and campus leaders can do better to make this campus a home for all students, remaining particularly conscious of students of marginalized backgrounds. Are there any concrete suggestions or observations that anyone has on what we can do better or have done well in the past?

x. Allan Njomo: I want to speak partially about the experience of African American students on campus. There are several little things on this campus that we could do better. For instance, I have to go off campus to get a haircut. We could look into getting a barber who would be able to cut African American students' hair. I really think senate engages in important conversations but I think there are little things that we can do better on.

xi. Patrick McGuire: We have a unique role as a policy-making group and voice for students to seek simple changes to those smaller issues that have an overall larger impact. Does anyone know what SpeakUpND? I yield my time to Mike.

xii. Mike Dugan: SpeakUpND is the discrimination reporting service and is a platform that allows for students who have either directly experienced or have witnessed discrimination to the administration. If we get increased reporting on this service, it could really help change the culture on this campus.

b. A Conversation on Constituent Engagement

i. Patrick McGuire: SpeakUpND is something that are department of diversity & inclusion and OCS have been working to improve and promote as a tool for particularly student-on-student forms of adverse treatment. We can certainly play a better role in promoting. One thing that I did also want to ask about was representation. We are a particularly white group in senate, and I want to figure out ways that we can address it and address the future of the senate and how we can improve our conversations. Would it be better to bring in members of the community or people from MSPS? Or should we lean on members of the senate community? I think a huge part of who runs for student government is who feels at home in their community and who feels represented by student government. In terms of our conversations, how are we doing?

ii. Sam Cannova: I think our conversations here can be very valuable, and our resolutions can be very insular and primarily focus on how to improve student government. However, I think at times we are focusing on issues within student government and not outside of that. We can do better to serve as a conduit for others to create resolutions and enact change on this campus.

When other students see problems on this campus, they do not necessarily see student government as a solution to solve that, and even if they do see us that way, they do not know how to seek change with us. We can do better to act as a conduit for students.

- iii. Patrick McGuire: Could we have general students act as sponsors for resolutions?
- iv. Thomas Davis: You have to be a sitting member of the senate in order to sponsor a resolution. Everything that Sam said hit the nail on the head. Your job as student senators is not just to find anomalies within the constitution but also to solve the problems that face your constituents.
- v. Patrick McGuire: Thank you, Thomas. I also want to reiterate that I think Sam did hit the nail on the head on how we can be better at seeking meaningful change for students. I think this could even be as simply resolved through attending hall councils and running through how resolutions are made and can address broad issues.
- vi. Thomas Davis: I also think it's important to highlight how FUEL is working on giving first years representation. Their department members cannot sponsor resolutions, but Alix and Jim, the directors, can and are taking great steps to represent first year students.
- vii. Patrick McGuire: What do our conversations with constituents look like?

- viii. Keegan McArdle: With Dunne, we have really good hall government engagement. I debate with a lot of our hall members and that is a way to draw students to hall government.
- ix. DC Morris: Interest is way down into this year from last year. I used to have students walking up to me and asking me questions about changes that we had sought last year. Now, with the exception of the off-campus differentiation policy, people are not really seeking updates on what we are working on as a student senate. We are no longer taking on the major changes that have been taken on in the past. And I apologize if that's an overly blunt way to put it.
- x. Gabrielle Grant: I agree with that. Students have been talking about the off-campus policies, and a lot of them feel that we do not really have the power to seek change to these broad administrative policies. We need to do better to let students know about what we are capable of changing as a student senate.
- xi. Jack Rotolo: Whenever I talk to people in Alumni, they often say that they were unaware of all that is happening. We need to do better to educate about what we are doing. On a personal note, before I got involved in student senate, I did not know what the function of student government was. We are not doing our job of representing the students if the students do not even know what we are doing. I think we could benefit from hosting a fair where people learn what each department and senate are working on as a group and educating them on what we do and are capable of doing.

- xii. Quentin Colo: I also feel like we have not done as much this year. We have only submitted a few resolutions this year, and one of them was about No Shave November. We need to be more serious in the issues that we take on as campus leaders.
- xiii. Jack Rotolo: The resolution workshop was great in getting ideas generated, but I think we really need to take this next week to go back to our dorms and get our finger back on the pulse on what students are concerned with and focused on. Then, we can come back as a convening body and discuss what we have been able to learn over the next few days.
- xiv. Daniel Feldmeier: I think we need to make a Google Doc shared among all of the senators and each of us could keep track of three to five issues that have come up in conversation with constituents.
- xv. DC Morris: I think we need to be more bold in the kind of resolutions we seek. While we as senate may not have control over this specific thing, I have encountered difficulty with using Domer Dollars in the football stadium and we can at least start conversations with our resolutions since we have an Observer reporter here.
- xvi. Jack Rotolo: Sometimes, I feel like our meetings can be dominated by a few people in these meetings, so any way we can figure out how to engage more voices, I am totally open to. I also think we need to stop saying what we do not have power over and still go after the issues that students care about regardless of whether or not we do necessarily have power over those issues.

- xvii. Halena Hadi: It is my job to write the resolutions that work on the quirks within the student constitution, but it is the job of senators to figure out ways to engage student voices and act on their concerns. Be creative in the ways that you seek student input and it may be something as simple as an anonymous survey that will engage those students who may not feel overly comfortable talking in public hall government meetings.
- xviii. Erin Fennessy: I also want to tack onto the idea of sharing a doc with three to five ideas. I think if we can also refer back to the document we brainstormed on last semester and that can also serve as a way to rally students behind issues that we are looking into. Can we reshare that?
- xix. Patrick McGuire: I can definitely reshare that. I also really appreciate this conversation. I know soul-searching is difficult on a Wednesday evening.

VI. New Business

VII. Announcements

- a. Eric Kim: We are showing Lion King this week in DeBart. Friday is National Compliment Day.
- b. DC Morris: SIBC's all council meeting will be February 10th. We're trying to make it clear that it is open to all students even those who are not business majors.
- c. Keegan McArdle: Dunne Dance film festival is happening. Please submit events.
- d. Mike Dugan: Please buy JPW tickets by the 31st. Also, please register for a table with your friends soon or else you will be randomly assigned with others. You can also try and request tables to be near one another.

- e. Meg Brinkman: Great Gatsby Dance is February 7th.
- f. Jordan Theriault: Also, Father Pete and hopefully Ackermann will be serving mocktails.
- g. Shea Murphy: McGlenn casino night is also February 7th.
- h. Thomas Davis: I will be doing office hours from 11:30 to 2 on Fridays to help write resolutions.

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