

# UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME DU LAC STUDENT SENATE

November 4, 2015

## Meeting Agenda

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I. Invocation

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Officer Announcements

- A. Mr. Bryan Ricketts, Student Body President
- B. Ms. Nidia Ruelas, Student Body Vice President
  - It's time ND
  - Thursday, panel of speakers, you have time to engage in dialogue and discuss issues
  - Thank you to those who attended the Time to Heal Dinner
  - GreenDot is launching at the end of the week (November 6). Trainings are coming up, 11/23 and 11/30. Sessions are broken up into 2 sessions
- C. Mr. Dan Sehlhorst, Chief of Staff

V. General Orders

- A. Presentation and Discussion Re: Academic Integrity
  - i. Dr. Hugh R. Page; Vice President, Associate Provost, and Dean - First Year of Studies, & University Code of Honor Committee Co-Chair
  - ii. Abby Davis; Student & University Code of Honor Committee Student Co-Chair
- Committee on the Honor code
  - Chief responsibilities is to periodically review the honor code and recommend changes
  - Over the past few years, it's become clear that there is some degree of misunderstanding about the honor code, some degree of unhappiness about the honor code. Academic Committee decided to take a comprehensive look at academic integrity on campus. (See list of animating issues.)
- Conversation about honor code- asking staff, students, student government
  - Academic Integrity, Student Perceptions of the code of honor and honor code procedures, ways of further enhancing academic integrity, and recommendations
  - Our code tends to be somewhat wordy and dense. Does not allow for close or sustained readings. Other schools have shorter codes- one or two sentences.
- Steps being taken to engage discussion
  - Committee is launching a way on onward for students to voice their opinions about the honor code and suggestions for better communication
  - Bridget Rickard is having a series of Coffee House conversations (informal convos in Geddes Coffee House to go over questions where students can

have their voices heard. 11/23 and 12/7 8pm-9pm Geddes Coffee House)

- Consider participating or invite peers
- Seamus: timeline?
  - Dr. Page. Committee has been working on this for a little over a year. Revisions may happen by the end of the year. They hope to collect community sentiment by middle of spring semester
- Bridget Doyle: who is on committee?
  - Page: reps from each college, plus student representatives. Look at [honorcode.nd.edu](http://honorcode.nd.edu)
  - Honor Code professor Patrick Murphy and Page will meet with department chairs throughout the university at some point. Also there are plans to convene meetings with chairs of all college. Committee has also reached out to faculty senate and they agreed to assist in some way. Through those measures they hope to have a representative sample.
- Amy- What are changes people have asked for?
  - In general, there is recognition that it is too long. Aspirational section may need to be put in the front, and obscuring procedural details could be put in the back. Some language contradicts itself. Relationship between code and trust; better promotion of fear instead of trust. Additionally, code should be accessible. Looking at code itself and how people view the code are both important parts of the changes being made.
- Michael Finan: Who ultimately approves changes?
  - University committee on honor code, then u c academic council, then moved to academic council floor for formal vote, who then approves or not.

#### B. Discussion Re: Time to Heal Dinner

- i. Attendees from the Student Union Senate
  - Ariana Zlioba: Beautifully run, could have used more attendees.
  - JP Bruno: Morris Inn Ballroom was big, but could have used more tables.
  - John: How was the event run?
    - JP: Not a rallying point, more of a reflective time. Bryan talked about board report, I talked about GreenDot, there were survivor stories. Healing ritual could have been shorter.
  - Kelly Smith: making sure there are enough puzzle pieces for each person.
  - Dan: How can the attendees spread the message they heard?
    - Ariana: We could get a ribbon to pin to a backpack or shirt to start conversations. Maybe next year we can put ribbons out, or make them more apparent
  - Jack: We get caught up in the who/what/when of the act, and sometimes forget the victims/ways or prevention. We need to think of ways to continue that aspect of healing for those who are victims.
  - Lauren: Best part of the dinner was hearing the survivors speak. It would spread

the message well if the speeches were taped and posted online.

- Bryan: The event was somewhat unique. Draws not online from the dorms, but outside of Notre Dame. There were people from South Bend and Mishawaka. That was impactful because sometimes we forget that sexual violence affects the entire community.

#### C. ResolutionSS1516-11

##### i. Rebecca Blais, Director of Internal Affairs

- This resolution came into focus because it is in direct focus with another part of the constitution. We as a department have spent a lot of time debating this. We decided to repeal Section 3.2 d4, and we've decided that no one should be allowed to simultaneously be a director and a senator.
- Cons of repealing this clause:
  - Abe: People who hold both positions hold a unique opportunity for growth. However, this takes up two positions that someone else may want. As a result, there is one less person representing the student body. Another benefit is a potential bridging of a gap between Senate and Executive Cabinet. However, communication between the two branches is usually good.
- Pros of repealing the clause:
  - Having someone serving in both presents inherent bias. For example, director approvals and other pieces of legislation toward the beginning of the year. Also, having someone serve as both has the potential to give cabinet undue influence. Jack and Michael have remained unbiased, but nothing requires them to do so. Less ethical people may use their influence inappropriately. Also, directors are supposed to be non-voting members.
  - Wilson: Ethics committee should not be able to appoint dual participants as part of its decision making process. Presidents and Vice Presidents could choose to make as many senator-led departments as they would want, and thus influence Senate votes in that way.
- Ariana: do department members currently have a vote in Senate?
  - No, they do not.
  - Louis: There is a clause that does not allow it currently. Why would we not repeal this clause now?
    - Repealed clause takes precedence over 1.3c. Also, current people serving as both are doing a fine job. It is not necessary to kick them out of their positions currently.
  - Christine: How do Jack and Mike feel?
    - Jack: It is true that there are conflicts in the constitution. I don't find it necessary to choose one. I do not find a conflict of interest. Michael and I have been pretty good and mitigating conflicts of interest. I am defending this possibility not as a defense of myself, because I would get to hold my position. I find that conflicts of interest are very avoidable.

Abstaining is a very good possibility. I also have the ability to recuse myself, other people may also make motions to recuse me. Secondly, cabinet members could have undue influence on student body. Yet, some senators sit in cabinet-run departments. Executive Cabinet is also not a representative body. It is an executive position. There are appointed, not elected. Therefore, our dual roles do not take away representative positions. I would hope that someone else may have the same opportunity that I had this year.

- Rebecca: While Cabinet may not be a representative position of a dorm, you still represent a certain contingency. By removing yourself from voting, you are removing opinion of St. Edward's Hall.
- Wilson: Abstaining usually counts as a more polite no, since decisions to approve something still need the same number, even if you abstain
- Michael: I am FUEL director, so influence on senators isn't an issue for me. FUEL is different because senators do not sit on it. Another thing to consider: Procedure is made harder by repealing this section, because you have to run to senate first and then executive cabinet is chosen. It is not hard to remain unbiased. Should we take away the opportunity?
  - Abe: In the event that there is a conflict of interest, a department director still has influence.
  - Rebecca: Constitution does not stipulate which directors. Other directors may have much more of a conflict of interest than FUEL.
- Bryan: When Jack and Michael applied, they were open about the fact that they had been elected senators. They realized the clauses and talked with advisors to determine that it was a possibility to have someone serve both. Jack and Michael were appointed based on the decision that they were the best for the team. As the year went on, we realized that this was something to consider. Future student governments should not be offered the same choice we were offered.
- Zach: Constitution is meant to balance law and ND Community. I caution against using ParliPro as a valve to make someone recuse themselves. I would support this resolution.
- Ariana: Proposing remedies is a solution for a problem that shouldn't have to arise.
- Sean Kent: Being a department director is such a competitive position. You could lose a very good department director by repealing this. If this were passed, there should be a mechanism for those who want to apply for both positions.
  - Rebecca: I advise that you come to our department meetings to suggest further changes.
- Dan: Still great opportunities for leadership within Cabinet. There are still plenty of ways to be on that side.

- Resolution passed.

#### New Business

#### Announcements

- Amy: Howard's second signature event is December 4, called Howard Holiday. Brother/sister dorms get together and decorate trees together, benefits Center for the Homeless.
- Louis: Trainwreck is the SUB movie. AcoustiCafe is on Badin Porch this week in celebration of Founder's Week. Donuts and Dogs Tuesday on Fieldhouse Mall. Hunter Hayes in Stepan Center on Friday
- Jack Kill: Donate to Mullets against Malaria! I'll get the link out to everyone soon. Goal is to raise over \$5500.
- Abe: 170 days until Fisher Regatta
- JP: Talk to me about options for cable next year.
- Nids: Lyons Hall's signature event run is this Saturday at 10am. Glow run tonight! If you're interested in running the 5k for a scholarship

#### Adjournment