

STUDENT SENATE
Executive Summary
Wednesday December 9, 2015

- I. Invocation
 - A. Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM
 - B. Reynaldo Lopez led invocation
- II. Roll Call
 - A. 4 were absent; 1 was tardy
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Reynaldo Lopez moved to approve the minutes
 - 1. Thomas Schneeman seconded
- IV. Officer Announcements
 - A. Mr. Bryan Ricketts, Student Body President
 - 1. Leadership Reception tomorrow 14th floor of the library.
 - a) Formal attire, with the President and his leadership council
 - b) Introduce yourselves if this is your first time meeting the University officials
 - B. Ms. Nidia Ruelas, Student Body Vice President
 - 1. Look out for the survey on Senate, and please respond honestly when you get it.
 - C. Mr. Dan Sehlhorst, Chief of Staff
 - 1. Bryan, Nidia, and I are working on project assignment for the Spring semester. If anyone is interested in getting more involved, email me and let me know within the next couple of days.
- V. General Orders
 - A. Discussion Re: Core Curriculum Review Draft Update
 - 1. *Eva Niklinska: Junior Class Council President, Undergraduate Academic Council Representative*
 - 2. Casey and I went to the meeting last Wednesday. This is the first of many meetings, these conversations will continue for the rest of the year
 - 3. reworking the FYS program: Notre Dame is one of few places where you don't apply directly into a college. A lot of the draft focuses on reworking the advising programs to increase communication between advisors and advisors in your college to get you into your major faster
 - 4. Not going to let APs count towards core curriculum. For the past three years, they have been knocking down the APs that count towards your core curriculum (right now only AP psych still stands). They're going to cut down the credits in the engineering major so that engineers can pursue a second major a minor
 - a) Calculus AP credit will still count
 - 5. Qualitative analysis classes: Trying to make it so you can take a math class in any college. They're going to develop classes within your college that are math based so they are more related to your studies
 - 6. Expect continued updates in the future

B. Presentation and Recommendation Order Re: Morrissey Manor Student Senator
Resignation and Election

1. *Reynaldo Lopez: Morrissey Manor Student Senator Fall 2015*
2. *Zach Waterson: Judicial Council President*
3. Kelly moved to consider this recommendation
 - a) Amy Smikle seconded
4. Kevin coleman: Can you tell us a little bit more about this opportunity?
 - a) Reynaldo: We already have a program in this part Mexico, but we're exploring making it more open to any major that is stem oriented and not just for premed students. To establish this relationship with this new institution, they're sending a group of students as part of the pilot program.
5. Thomas Schneemann: was the special election well advertised in Morrissey?
 - a) Yes
6. Kevin Coleman motioned to vote on the senatorial order
 - a) Christine Zavakos seconded
 - b) the motion passed
7. Sullivan Curry was appointed the Morrissey Senator for the remainder of the term

C. State of the Student Union

1. *Bryan Ricketts: Student Body President*
2. Reached our goal of having over 400 student signatures the It's On Us pledge this semester
3. Success of our first report regarding sexual violence to the Board of Trustees, over half of our recommendations are completed or in the process of completion
4. Launched an effort on mental illness starting with a memo to Board of Trustees and the Just Ask Campaign. We've also been invited to work with students from multiple schools to draft policy on this topic
5. Launched Onward, sparking conversation on how to improve this school and gather the voice and opinion of students
 - a) published our first report
6. Other accomplishments
 - a) implemented the prices in huddle mart
 - b) Relaunched the Student Government website
 - c) Updated the social media rules for elections
 - d) lowered stadium prices
 - e) held quad market
7. What nexts for Notre Dame student
 - a) The challenge to us is to be able to represent and connect with people who have a different identity
 - b) I invite you to explore how to engage with 3 different identities: what does it mean to be a global citizen? What does it mean to be a citizen of South Bend? What does it mean to be a student of color at Notre Dame?

VI. New Business

- A. Louis Bertolotti: Lauren Hill was the Diversity Council secretary and wrote a piece for the Observer lauding the necessity for a conversation of diversity here but criticizing the Notre Dame students standing with Mizzou rally. Following that, Lauren told Diversity Council that she was open to discussing the issue in more depth, but no one came up to her. The meeting after, a vote was held and she was forced to resign. Parliamentary procedure wasn't followed because voters were unable to abstain. Though we don't technically have authority over them, I thought it should be a discussion that we should have here as well.
1. Jack Kill: I would encourage everyone to investigate for yourself. I'd ask you guys to do your own research and when these issues do occur on campus, it's an emotional thing. I think it's beneficial to us and the campus to understand Lauren's position
 2. Bryan Ricketts: As far as Student Government's position on this, I do want to address what is a misguided characterization of this. She is an election representative, and one of her roles is to be a public face to handle the communications. They have every right to kick her out if a majority of the body doesn't feel like she represents them as her officer. I'm not sure about the parliamentary procedure, but it's not fair to say that they wrongly forced her to resign.
 3. Eva: What exactly happened? Why did they decide to kick Lauren off?
 - a) Louis Bertolotti: 67% of Diversity Council felt that the article she wrote contradicted their mission. it's a larger question of where does our freedom of speech lie? Did she have the right to speak freely because it wasn't technically a Diversity Council sponsored event?
 4. Ariana Zlioba: Did she present her opinion as coming from a Diversity Council member that might've been misconstrued?
 - a) Louis Bertolotti: There was no disclaimer that it wasn't the Diversity Council's opinion, but there was nothing suggesting the opposite
 - b) Michael Finan: Nowhere in the article does she mention her relationship with Diversity Council, and she did sign it as her name and dorm
 5. Seamus Quilty: It sounds like Louis you have one side of the story, I wonder if Diversity Council has responded to what has occurred.
 - a) Nidia Ruelas: One thing I'd like clarify is that this issue is a club issue within Diversity Council, in terms of having a response from Diversity Council there are avenues to communicate that, but I'm not positive that there has been one. it was a very difficult decision and the vote was very much contested. In terms of gathering more information, we can discuss here and it's a discussion to have about a greater scale
 6. Kevin Coleman: Nidia, you served as DC vice chair last year. Can you talk more about the procedure behind diversity council?
 - a) Nidia Ruelas: I can only do that if I'm not chair, and at the moment I'm not willing to do that

7. Madi Purrenhage: Louis, Are you aware if Lauren was told that there would be a vote?
 - a) Louis Bertolotti: From what I was told, no.
8. Madi Purrenhage: Louis, you said there were two votes. There is a letter in the Observer about this issue called "DC in the wrong?" and it's a letter to the editor. It says that there were two votes taken, one was on whether her article contradicted DC ideas and one was whether she should resign
 - a) Louis Bertolotti: from my understanding, the second vote was redone halfway through
9. Amy Smikle: It reminds me of the conversation we had on endorsements. If I was to write an article to the observer on Student Senate, even if I was just writing as a student, but my dorm didn't feel like I represented them well, they could have me removed. There doesn't seem to be a line to where our roles of appointed officials end.
 - a) JP Bruno: I think that that line would be drawn by whatever body you are a part of. It's up to the people of the council to keep things in the mission of that council.
 - b) Sara Dugan: If you're an elected official to any club, you represent that club and you should always technically be representing it.
10. Matthew Krash: Does that provide almost any grounds of impeaching someone just because you disagree? It seems that there isn't a lot of room to express what you think is right
 - a) Louis Bertolotti: That's the problem that arises from this. We all also have views that are totally different from our positions. You are always are a student leader, however if you are a student who wants to express their opinion you should have that right. Yes it is an internal affair, but are clubs allowed to reject members because of the way they think, who they are, or their identity?
11. Becca Blais: Regardless of whether or not Diversity Council was in the right or wrong, it's important to keep in mind that it wasn't just a controversial opinion to her, but something that came in direct contradiction with Diversity Council's mission statement. There is a freedom of speech issue, but this was a distinct issue about something pertaining to Diversity Council's beliefs.
12. Marissa Thompson: I also feel like this discussion is going in circles because we have no idea of what happened in the room, we shouldn't continue this speculation without having a voice from Diversity Council in the room as well. Especially because they are not a part of the student union, we can speculate all we want but it is not fair to pass judgement without hearing their voice.
13. Bryan Ricketts: It may be a good idea to table this until next Senate and decide what we'd like to do with this discussion
14. Thomas Schneeman: We have no power over Diversity Council, what is the end goal here?

- a) Zach Waterson: Diversity Council is not enumerated by Student Union in the constitution, and we have no idea what Diversity Council's bylaws are. Until we know more about the rulings behind this decision, we don't really know what we are comparing anything against
- 15. Louis Bertolotti: Just to clarify, I wanted to bring this up because I thought it was a conversation to be had. There was no end goal, but I do think it would be beneficial to have someone from Diversity Council here.
- 16. Dan Sehlhorst: Our other option is to close discussion and not bring it back if we feel that this isn't in our jurisdiction
- 17. Jack Kill: I don't think we're looking to infringe on Diversity Council, but we are discussing a prominent issue
- 18. Amy Smikle: We should expand this discussion to areas that are pertinent to us, but I think it is something that we should talk about and that we should have Diversity Council members in here with us in the near future. The morality and ethics behind it is something we should focus on
- 19. Kevin Coleman: Motion to table this discussion and reopen when we can have a representative from Diversity Council present
 - a) Reynaldo: Additionally, to have both sides of the issue, we should have Lauren here as well.
 - b) Wilson: Our job is not to be judges, I think it would be a dangerous point to have them all here. Having a conversation on diversity and race is important, and Lauren is not necessary for that discussion.
 - c) Reynaldo Lopez seconded this motion
 - d) motion failed
- 20. Christine Zavakos: I don't think we should discuss whether or not the decision to remove Lauren was correct. I think we need to bring someone from Diversity Council to discuss Diversity on our campus in general.
- 21. Christina Murphy: Move to table discussion until after break and to discuss diversity and inclusion on campus after break with a Diversity Council representative present
 - a) Christine Zavakos seconded.
 - b) motion passed

VII. Announcements

- A. Louis Bertolotti: SUB
 - 1. Acousticafe this Thursday (12/10) in the basement of LaFun
 - 2. Stress relievers 6-9 in the Notre Dame room on Sunday. Food until 8:00, from 8:00-9:00 free Yoga in the LaFun ballroom.
- B. Zach Waterson: Hall election coordination, only 10 dorms have responded to the email from Judicial Council. Look out for an email from me and encourage your rectors to respond as soon as they can.
- C. Bridget Rickards: Casey, Rohit, and I have worked extended hours for study spaces for finals. On Saturday and Sunday, the abp cart in Debart will be extended.

VIII. Adjournment

A. JP Bruno moved to adjourn

1. Thomas Schneeman seconded
2. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM