

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME DU LAC

STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

January 28, 2015

I. Opening Business

- A. Matt Devine called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
- B. Matt led the invocation.
- C. 11 were absent; 1 was late.
- D. Elena Silla moved to approve last week's minutes.
 - i. Ryan Rizzuto seconded.
 - ii. Minutes approved.

II. Officer Announcements

- A. Lauren Vidal, Student Body President
 - i. CCAC meeting with Local Law Enforcement
 - 1. They are very happy with the O'SNAP program. Ridership has gone up significantly.
 - 2. There were a few larcenies over break.
- B. Matthew Devine, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Matt will make his announcements at the end of today's meeting.
- C. Shannon Montague, Chief of Staff
 - i. No updates.

III. General Orders

- A. *First Year Experience Course, Dr. Maureen Dawson, First Year of Studies, and Mr. Paul Manrique, Student Affairs*
 - i. There will be student feedback sessions after today.
 - ii. An email will be sent with a link to a survey for specific questions to which the Committee would like student feedback.
 - iii. The new First Year Experience Course will be a 1-credit, graded course required for all first-time first-year students.
 - iv. Overarching Foci
 - 1. Orientation to university life
 - 2. Strategies for health and wholeness
 - 3. Community standards and cultural competency
 - 4. Strategies for academic success
 - 5. Discernment of academic studies, career and vocation
 - 6. Cultivation of spiritual life
 - 7. Mind-body awareness and physical activity
 - v. Discussion
 - 1. Martin Walsh clarified that this is a comprehensive course to prepare first year students to flourish during their time at Notre Dame.
 - a. This is not aimed at retaining students or helping them maintain minimum academic standards.

- b. The course focuses on a holistic mind-body experience.
 - 2. Ashely Calvani asked about the online modules.
 - a. Some of the content will be online, similar to the format of a flip-class. The majority of class time will be spent in group discussions.
 - b. The class will be once a week for 50 minutes, so the online modules will help students use their class time most effectively.
 - 3. Kathryn Peruski suggested incorporating the aspects of the former PE program that she appreciated most: being able to choose which PE class to take and the opportunity to engage in physical activity as a release for stress.
 - 4. Zach Waterson asked how the course would be graded.
 - a. This is being discussed now with the Design Team.
 - 5. Carolina Ramirez asked about the cultural competence part.
 - a. MSPS and the GRC will be consulted.
 - 6. Tom Taylor suggested the name "Life at Notre Dame: LAND."
 - a. The survey will also have an option for students to vote for the name of the course.
 - 7. Jake Wittenberg is working with the Design Team, so please reach out to him if you have any input for how this course is designed.
 - 8. Michael Fliotics asked about student involvement on the Design Team.
 - a. There is one undergraduate on the Design Team and two other students who will offer input through other advisory bodies. Each of these groups is fairly small, so even one student voice in each body is a powerful voice.
 - 9. Martin asked about reaching out to seniors about what they wish they had known freshman year. He suggested sending out a survey for seniors to give their input.
 - a. Lauren noted that FUEL is organizing an event called Senior Secrets, where seniors can give advice to freshmen about what they wish they had known.
 - 10. Helen Hathaway asked about the faculty member teaching the course.
 - a. There will be one faculty member per group per semester.
- B. Resolution SS1415-12, *Zach Waterson, Junior Class Council President*
- i. A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body on the transition period for Class Councils
 - ii. This resolution will shift the transition period for Class Council officers from April 1 to May 1.
 - iii. April is the best month to plan events because the weather is nice, it is before finals, and the officers have had the whole year to learn and to plan. As of now, Class Council officers transition out of office on April 1.
 - iv. This resolution does not change the election timeline.
 - v. Because Class Council members sit on Senate, Financial Management Board, and Executive Programming Board, the other members of which transition on April 1, the incoming Class Council officers will commence their roles on these bodies on April 1. If an incoming Class Council officer has held another Student Union position the previous year, he/she will recuse himself from that body, so as not to

break the constitutional rule that a student may not hold two positions in the Student Union simultaneously.

- vi. Kevin Coleman moved to close discussion
 1. Peter Durbin seconded.
 - vii. Peter moved to vote.
 1. Kevin Bond seconded.
 - viii. Resolution SS1415-12 passed by unanimous hand vote.
- C. Election of Representatives to Campus Life Council (CLC)
- i. CLC meets every other Monday at 4:30pm for about an hour. Task forces also meet outside of normal CLC meeting times. CLC runs through the academic year.
 - ii. This committee was appointed by the Board of Trustees and reports directly to Mrs. Erin Hoffman-Harding.
 - iii. The 2014-2015 CLC is addressing mental health on campus. The research conducted by the members of CLC will culminate in a Spring Report to the Board of Trustees.
 - iv. Jake Wittenberg and Kevin Coleman were elected to represent Senate on the Campus Life Council for the spring semester by unanimous hand vote.
- D. Election of Representative to the First Year Experience Course Committee
- i. Meetings will be held every two weeks at 1:00pm on Wednesdays for about an hour and a half. The elected member of Senate will serve on the Committee for the remainder of the academic year.
 - ii. This representative can be any member of Senate (not necessarily a Senator). He/she would report to Student Senate on behalf of the Committee.
 - iii. Ryan moved to vote.
 1. Tom seconded.
 - iv. Jake Wittenberg was elected to represent Senate on the First Year Experience Course Committee by hand vote.

IV. New Business

A. Worker Representation

- i. Lauren has sent out several emails regarding Worker Participation, as well as bringing this up in Senate. In the fall, she brought in leaders of several student clubs to meet directly with Dr. John Affleck-Graves. There have also been several panel discussions on campus and small group discussions with Lauren in the Student Government Office.
- ii. Email is a form of official communication, so please remind everyone that they are responsible for reading their emails.
- iii. If you have any questions about the China Policy or Worker Representation, please email Lauren.

V. Announcements

A. Judicial Council announcements

- i. Student Body Elections are Wednesday, February 4. Class Council Elections are Wednesday, February 18, and Hall Elections are Tuesday, February 24.
- ii. Judicial Council made t-shirts for all of us, so please wear those on election days.
- iii. Please take a poster to advertise voting and hang it in your dorm.

- iv. Kathryn will be sending out the ballot several times on election days. This is another reminder that email is an official form of communication and students are responsible for reading emails sent to their Notre Dame accounts.
- v. The Student Body Debate will be Monday, February 2 at 9:00pm in the Lafortune Basement.
- B. O'Neill is hosting Miss ND on March 4.
- C. Hall of the Year Review will take place March 20, 21, and 22. If you are interested in sitting on that Board, please keep those days open.
- D. Transition materials will be presented at next week's Senate on February 4.
- E. Keenan Revue tickets will be available on Monday in the Lafortune Ballroom at 4:00pm.
- F. There are 86 days until the Fisher Regatta.
- G. SUB movies will be Thursdays at 8:00pm and Fridays/Saturdays at 8:00pm and 10:30pm each week. This week's movie is *Big Hero 6*.
- H. Acousticafe this Thursday will be in Legends at 10:00pm.
- I. Go Irish, Beat Duke!

VI. Adjournment

- A. Kevin Coleman motioned to adjourn.
- B. Ryan seconded.
- C. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine L. Wood
Student Union Secretary