

STUDENT SENATE  
Executive Summary  
Wednesday February 3, 2016

I. Invocation

- A. Katelyn Markley led invocation
- B. Meeting called to order at 6:01pm

II. Roll Call

- A. 7 absent, 2 tardy

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Wilson Barrett moved to approve the minutes
  - a. Katelyn Markley seconded

IV. Officer Announcements

- A. Mr. Bryan Ricketts, Student Body President
  - a. Tonight we are fundraising for Flint, MI, so come and bring your friends to support and donate - also collecting through Friday in the Student Government office. All of this is going through the women's basketball team.
    - i. Special thanks to Knott Hall for setting up a donation and drawing
    - ii. Monday at 8:00 the Reilly Center is hosting a talk on the Flint, Michigan water crisis.
  - b. Tomorrow night I'll be on a panel with Erin Perry, Scott Ford, and Sergio, Casey Skevington and Jake H. from public affairs at 7:00pm in McKenna Hall to discuss opportunities in South Bend.
- B. Ms. Nidia Ruelas, Student Body Vice President
  - a. Number of Senate meetings is dwindling, so I invite you to meet with me if there is anything you want to cover in the next two months.
    - i. Judicial Council and Internal Affairs are planning to bring some matters to the table.
  - b. Next two senates are planned to discuss the new dorms and then the China university proposal.
    - i. We will circulate reflection questions to be considering before Senate.
- C. Ms. Sibonay Shewit, Chief of Staff

V. General Orders

- A. Presentation and Discussion Re: Worker Participation Committee
  - i. Bryan Ricketts, Student Body President

1. WPC started in the 1990s by Father Malloy. There was a policy called freedom of association: means that people are allowed to form unions. Notre Dame decided if that was not a policy at a certain facility, we would not work with them.
2. Asking what kind of standards we should be upholding at Notre Dame.
  - a. Did well with the freedom of association policy, but no other university adopted this policy. Further, we are not helping to better anyone's lives by not being involved.
3. There been student voice in the decision.
4. We partnered with a company called Verite: developed list of 71 criteria by which to evaluate the 6 factories we visited in China.
  - a. We also visited the people who worked there outside of the context of the factories.
5. WPC did site visits at 4/6 of the factories.
  - a. Both Alex and Lauren were on this trip - 2 out of the 7 people were students.
6. First report came out in May 2015.
  - a. Piloting with 2 of the factories, who met our standards.
  - b. We went to 2 companies and said that if they improved, we would consider working with them in the future. Interestingly, they have been improving.
7. Student Worker Participation Committee.
  - a. Goals: represent interested campus groups, take conversation back to their representative groups. Full WPC will have three students.
  - b. 11 institutional partners: interaction with multiple student groups on campus, including 3 graduate student groups.
  - c. Open Academic Positions: attract people who are not in one of the aforementioned groups but are still interested.
  - d. Next few months: reviewing data from 8 companies we already work with, pilot program, and the companies we asked to improve.
  - e. Student subcommittee like this - who reports directly to the Vice President - has never been done before.
8. Questions?
  - a. Wilson Barrett: Is there anything we can do locally to put our foot down in a humanitarian respect?
    - i. Bryan Ricketts: Not on this committee. But this is an interesting question in light of Campus Crossroads, which is a local matter where we are bringing people in from all over.

Regarding this matter, we have involved human rights groups on campus in the SWPC.

VI. New Business

VII. Announcements

- A. Ivan Finkelstein: Siegfried Hall's Day of Man is February 17th.
- B. JP Bruno: Sophomore Class Council is giving out free bagels outside of Debart this week
- C. Louis Bertolotti: First Fridays begin this Friday, the SUB movie is Bridge of Spies, AcoustiCafe is this Thursday, and SUB is planning for the Human Library: rent out people and hear their stories. We are looking for nominations: can be anyone (faculty, dining hall worker, student...)
- D. Katelyn Markley: BP's signature event, the Meal Auction, is the 25th of February
- E. Alex Fincher: Badin Hall's Polar Bear Plunge is from 2:00-4:00 on February 6th, and costs \$5
- F. Tommy Schneeman: Senior Class Council will be selling hot chocolate tomorrow right outside Debart. If you're a senior we are giving away class of 2017 lanyards

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Kevin Coleman moved to adjourn
  - a. Sean Kent seconded
- B. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm