

STUDENT SENATE  
Executive Summary  
Wednesday, February 17

I. Invocation

- A. Rohit Fonseca led invocation
- B. Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

II. Roll Call

- A. 6 absent; 0 tardy

III. Approval of Minutes

- A. Michael Conlon moved to approve
  - a. Zach Waterson seconded

IV. Officer Announcements

- A. Mr. Bryan Ricketts, Student Body President
  - a. Regarding the price changes in the Huddle: we have asked administration about why they have changed. For now, food and drink items are tax exempt - everything else is not
- B. Ms. Nidia Ruelas, Student Body Vice President
  - a. Diversity and Inclusion town hall in Carey at 7:00 on Monday
  - b. There will be a Rebuilding Together event - probably on . This is put on with Public Affairs and NEO.
  - c. Who asked their rectors about AEDS, and who was favorable of them?
    - i. Amy Smikle: I just sent a google doc to fill out with your rectors' responses
  - d. We had originally planned for a speaker to come to Senate and discuss the university partnership in China, but he had a conflict today - so we will try to have him speak soon.
- C. Ms. Sibonay Shewit, Chief of Staff
  - a. Love Your Body Week is next week! There will be different events every day, and mostly in lafun

V. Approvals

- A. Student Union Treasurer
  - a. Jack Kill: can you please clarify what the treasurer does?
    - i. Janie Goodson: We run FMB on Tuesdays, and oversee funding for groups like all of student
  - b. Kevin Coleman motioned to consider the approval
    - i. Ryan Heard seconded
  - c. Student Union Treasurer approved

V. General Orders

- A. Presentation and Discussion Re: Onward Update

- a. Jack Kill, Director of Constituent Services
  - i. The Onward reports consist of the top 10 ideas based on popularity and reporting
  - ii. Top ideas: (though popular, these are not the only ones student government is considering)
- b. Questions?
  - i. Sullivan Curry: Onward might get more users if it was on insideND
    - 1. Bryan Ricketts: InsideND is
  - ii. Kevin Coleman: What was the time period in which the last report was taken?
    - 1. Jack Kill: Late September to early December

## VI. New Business

- A. Alexandra Fincher: I would like to yield the floor to one of my constituents
  - a. Grace Watkins: I wrote an article about the honorary degree given to Bill Cosby in 1990
    - i. It was quite controversial because he asked a football player what his GPA was in front of the crowd, then said it was good for someone with a mental disability.
    - ii. since then there have been nearly 60 sexual assault allegations against him
    - iii. he has also been awarded roughly 60 honorary degrees, 25 of which have been rescinded. Another 20 colleges are working to rescind now.
    - iv. There was positive reception to my article on campus, and then my article circulated nationally - resulting in some death threats.
    - v. I think there should be more discussion about what qualifies someone to receive an honorary degree, and who awards them.
    - vi. I have been researching this since September, when Notre Dame said they wouldn't rescind his degree
      - 1. They essentially said that there was no protocol for rescinding the degree, so they won't do it. But, there is still precedent for it.
    - vii. Zach Waterson: Has he been convicted of any allegations yet?
      - 1. GW: He has already admitted to drugging women with the intent to have sex with them, but there have been no convictions yet.
    - viii. Eva Niklinska: How could we as students communicate how we feel to the administration?
      - 1. Nidia Ruelas: Senate could write up a resolution
    - ix. Michael Finan: Did you look into the process that the university uses to award degrees?
    - x. Isabel Fox: I am wondering if there are any other shady characters who have been awarded honorary degrees?

1. Grace Watkins: Nothing that really caught my eye to this degree - but it should be intuitively obvious when someone is not deserving of a degree

B. moved to open discussion

a. Amy Smikle seconded

- i. Louis Bertolotti: I think we need to have a very specific reason, especially with wording, if we choose to write a resolution - If we cite Catholic values, this could lead to other issues
- ii. Sara Dugan: I think there is still something we can do - these are crimes against human life
- iii. Jack Kill: I agree that we need to be very careful - as much as I would say that we shouldn't use catholic moral character of the university as a reason - that could call other honorary degrees into question
- iv. Eva Niklinska: I think if we focused on the fact that sexual assault has been one of our greatest focuses, it could be successful
- v. Wilson Barrett: there was a 2005 violation of Title 9 policy and that should be enough
- vi. Michael Finan: I don't think passing a resolution and sending it is the most effective way to do this - I think we should look at the procedures for awarding the degree and look for ways to rescind based on polic

b. Wilson Barrett moved to close discussion

- i. Christine Zavaikos seconded

c. Alex Fincher moved to form a subcommittee

- i. Isabel Fox seconded

d. Motion passes

C. Abe Jenson: One of my constituents brought it to my attention that undergraduates cannot be excused from class for interviews, except for seniors

- a. Kevin Coleman: I had a senior lunch with a professor in business about this - general response is that the firm will usually try to work with you or the professor will work with you not explicitly within the university process
  - i. Sullivan Curry: From my own experience with banking interviews, that has not been the case - some teachers are understanding, others are not at all
- b. Isabel Fox: I don't really have a way of getting out of class
- c. Sib Shewit: My teachers were not very understanding because they did not have any policy to fall back on, which was frustrating.
- d. Meg Mannix: Career center can get you excused for your classes
- e. Abe Jenson: My opinion is that students should have the opportunity to be excused from class for interviews
- f. Sullivan: Just to bring up athletics, it kind of sets up a double standard - Athlete or not, students are here for school

- g. Dan Riehle: It is usually the non business professors who are not understanding about interviews
- h. Sullivan: I had to leave for an interview at the end of my final and i lost points because of that
- D. Marisa Thompson: I'm going to do some research about how university resources are allocated for clubs (CCC level allocation). So I'd like to take a poll to see if any of you have friends who have tried to get funding in the spring and had difficulty.

## VII. Announcements

- A. Rohit Fonseca: 2 announcements:
  - a. The health survey just went out - it is extremely important because the McWell center will be using this as their holistic view of student health for the foreseeable future.
  - b. free laundry was something that came up on Onward. Vending covers laundry and vending machines, and they don't see any money from our room and board. so the money we put into laundry and vending machines goes into upkeep and replacement of machines.
- B. Ivan Finkelstein: Sigfreid Hall's day of man is coming to an end - donate!
- C. Louis Bertolotti: SUB Announcements
  - a. acousticafe
  - b. national tortilla chip day is next Wednesday, the 24th, and SUB will be in Lafun with tortilla chips and salsa
  - c. Brooklyn is the sub movie
  - d. midterm stress relievers coming up
  - e. oldest collegiate jazz fest in the world coming up
  - f. We put out apps as well so let me know if you have questions
- D. Eva Niklinska: JPW is this weekend! Come get your apparel
- E. Katelyn Markley: BP meal auction is coming up: February 25th
- F. Bryan Ricketts: stugov apps for next year are due at the end of next week
- G. Nidia Ruelas: remember to gather for the subcommittee, and there are 5 senates left
- H. Amy Smikle: please fill out google doc!

## VIII. Adjournment

- A. Christina Murphy moved to adjourn
  - a. Amy Smikle seconded
- B. Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm