

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME DU LAC  
STUDENT SENATE  
Executive Summary  
April 9, 2014

- I. Opening Business
  - A. Matt Devine called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
  - B. Alumni led the invocation.
  - C. 6 were absent; 1 was late.
  
- II. Officer Announcements
  - A. Lauren Vidal, Student Body President
    - i. ACC Student Leadership Trip to Washington DC earlier this week
      - 1. Lauren and Matt discussed undocumented status of students, innovation gap in funding where the U.S. is not keeping up with other countries
      - 2. Lauren spent the semester in DC last semester and would be happy to answer any questions about interning there or about the ACC trip
    - ii. Campus Life Council
      - 1. Composed of rectors, SAO, faculty and senators
      - 2. Meets once a week
      - 3. Elections will be conducted at Senate in 2 weeks and the term is for the entire academic year
      - 4. Lauren will Chair the committee and construct an agenda for the year
      - 5. Discussions will be based on feedback from students, faculty and staff about larger issues around campus and ongoing conversations
      - 6. Any issue discussed in CLC must be addressed by administration within 48 hours
  - B. Matthew Devine, Student Body Vice President
    - i. ACC Student Leadership Trip to Washington DC earlier this week
      - 1. Added to Lauren's comment that they spoke to congressmen about federal funding
      - 2. Met Mr. John Sturm, Associate Vice President of Federal and Washington Relations at the University of Notre Dame
    - ii. Senate binder
      - 1. Advised Senators to read pertinent sections of the Constitution
      - 2. Parliamentary procedure is a great resource for learning how to do or say something during Senate
      - 3. Contact information
      - 4. Section for Senate minutes
      - 5. Any corrections to Senate binders should be sent to Shannon (smontag1@nd.edu)
    - iii. McGlinn Senator Marisa Taylor is observing this week and will be sworn in next week

C. Shannon Montague, Chief of Staff

- i. Shannon was not in attendance

III. General Orders

A. Discussion Re: *College Readership Program*

- i. College Readership Program provides physical copies of newspapers (USA Today, New York Times, South Bend Tribune) as well as online subscriptions funded by Student Government (\$20,000-40,000 per year)
- ii. Lauren opened discussion
  1. Peter Durbin asked about online access to newspapers.
    - a. Matt answered that there is currently online access, but many people might not know about it.
  2. Kevin Coleman announced that the reaction from his dorm was lack of publicity about the Readership Program.
  3. Chris DeSapio suggested we route all of the online access through InsideND by having a button on one of the tabs, so more people will look at them.
  4. Madison McCullen brought feedback from Breen-Phillips that the girls are in favor of electronic access because it saves paper.
  5. Martin Walsh: asked about full access to the Wall Street Journal.
    - a. Lauren answered that WSJ does not currently offer a college readership program. She and Matt are in discussion with many different papers discussing readership. They know that a Notre Dame email does not give full access to WSJ, but they are looking at different options for students. She noted that WSJ is the most expensive.
  6. Ashley Calvani commented that she and her roommates usually only pick up the NYTimes.
    - a. Matt replied that we only charged for papers that are picked up, but they do not deliver fewer papers in the future based on those numbers.
  7. Scott Moore noted that you have to reach farther down in the bin to pick up the NYTimes at the dining hall (in comparison to The Observer), which may inhibit some people from picking it up. He pointed out that an online option is good, but people still like to have a paper copy at the dining hall.
    - a. Lauren responded that she is in conversation with Michelle Lacouture, Director of Academic Affairs, to make the stands more visible in the dining hall lobbies.
  8. Peter D. asked about the possibility of subscribing to the Chicago Tribune.
    - a. Matt responded that Chicago Tribune only distributes regionally.
  9. Scott M. asked why we subscribe to USA Today.
    - a. Matt responded that USA Today has more general coverage than NYTimes and other papers.
  10. Ashley noted that she has received feedback that USA Today is too general.

11. Kevin C. pointed out that USA Today has a standardized format, common to many local papers, so students may be comfortable with that format and like having USA Today as an option.
  12. Christina Jeoung reported that Lewis Hall likes the idea of physical papers. People like to hold a physical copy and in the dorm, they even pin up newspaper clippings. In response to the newspaper displays in the dining hall, she noted that people often put long boards or backpacks in front of the stands, which makes them difficult to access.
  13. Lauren asked for a show of hands for those in favor of keeping physical papers. All in favor.
  14. Elle Steichen asked which papers Student Government currently subscribes to as part of the College Readership Program.
    - a. Matt answered that we receive paper copies of the South Bend Tribune, USA Today and the NYTimes, as well as an online subscription to the NYTimes.
  15. Martin pointed out that since USA Today is a less reputable paper, there is no need for it alongside the NYTimes. He believes that WSJ and NYTimes are complementary because NYTimes offers social coverage and WSJ is more financially focused. Scott M. agreed.
  16. Ryan Rizzuto expressed his frustration that in every business class, professors recommend reading the WSJ every day, but we can't do that without paying for a subscription ourselves.
  17. Kevin C. pointed out that Keough has some copies of WSJ delivered to dorm lobby.
    - a. Matt responded those are personal subscriptions.
    - b. Martin acknowledged that taking other people's personal WSJ's is a problem.
  18. Chris asked about statistics on which papers students actually pick up.
    - a. Matt said that according to number provided by the College Readership Program, the most picked-up paper is the NYTimes, followed by USA Today and then the South Bend Tribune.
  19. Elle S. asked why we are keeping the South Bend Tribune.
    - a. Matt responded that it provides more regional coverage (including stories from Chicago) and improves community relations by increasing awareness about local issues.
  20. Kristen Parkinson asked if we had numbers beyond what College Readership gives us.
    - a. Matt responded that those are the only records we have, but he feels that the numbers are accurate because that is the basis of how much we are charged. This includes papers picked up at each of the four stands on campus (North Dining Hall, South Dining Hall, Hesburgh Library, and Lafortune).
  21. David Krohn asked how much more expensive WSJ is than NYTimes.
    - a. Matt believes WSJ is about \$0.40 more per copy.
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22. Madison noted that if the link was on InsideND, more people might subscribe, even if they had to pay themselves.
23. Ashley noted that the student rate is \$100 per year for a WSJ subscription.
24. Scott M asked if the South Bend Tribune has an online subscription because he was able to access most articles online without logging in.
  - a. Matt responded that it does.
25. Lauren announced that the reduced price agreement we have with NYTimes is mostly due to their partnership with USA Today and the College Readership Program. If we scrap USA Today, we will have to pay more for the NYTimes and WSJ.
26. Elle S. asked if there is a minimum number of papers that must be ordered for the College Readership Program.
  - a. Lauren responded no, because they think if they put the paper out, people will pick it up.
27. Lauren noted that if we pick up a subscription the WSJ, we will have to scrap USA today because we can't afford both.
28. Christina pointed out that the NYTimes is oriented towards everyone, whereas WSJ is more directed towards business majors.
29. David suggested the Washington Post as an alternative.
  - a. Matt responded that this was already under consideration, but the Post only distributes regionally. He noted that they do have an online subscription option.
  - b. Lauren pointed out that we are trying to give students access to both biases in the news. WSJ leans right and NYTimes leans left. Replacing the NYTimes with the Post and directing students interested in the left-leaning perspective to online news only wouldn't be fair.

B. Discussion Re: Press Clips

- i. Same goal of giving students access to what is going on nationally and internationally
  - ii. Elizabeth Fenton, Director of National Engagement and Outreach
    1. Sends out press clips to Executive Cabinet and NEO Department members
    2. Stories fall into 4 categories: National, International, Education, Special Interest (2 per category)
    3. There has been lots of positive feedback from Executive Cabinet, and she thinks this is something Senate could benefit from as well.
  - iii. Matt opened up discussion.
    1. Madison thinks it is a good idea. There is no harm in sending the emails. If you don't want them, you don't need to read them.
    2. Michael Wajda asked if it was all-or-nothing or if emails could be sent out on an individual basis for Senators. This is up for discussion.
    3. Scott M. asked if this would be sent to everyone or just Senators.
      - a. Matt responded that the emails will only be sent to Senators.
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4. Jake Wittenberg supported an opt-in program. There should be a general push for knowing what is happening around the world, but if you don't want to read the emails, you can opt out.
  5. Chris asked how Elizabeth went through stories and decided which ones to include in Press Clips.
    - a. Elizabeth said she tries to pick stories that are relevant and interesting to college students in general.
    - b. Lauren pointed out that it is important to understand that Elizabeth scans all sides of the news (CNN, Fox, Politico, Roll Call) to reduce bias.
  - iv. Keough moved to make this an opt-in program.
  - v. Grant Humphreys seconded.
  - vi. All in favor. Senators will be added to Elizabeth's email list.
- C. Resolution SS 1415-04
- i. Lauren introduced the proposed revision to the SafeWalk Program
    1. This is one of the major initiatives in the Vidal-Devine Platform.
    2. Many students do not utilize the SafeWalk Program.
    3. Feedback from students indicates that they do not want to call and wait in the dark for someone to walk them back to the dorm.
    4. NDSP added one golf cart last month, which has increased calls to SafeWalk.
    5. The new name will be either SNAP (Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol) or ISNAP (Irish Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol).
    6. Licensed student drivers who have gone through Risk Management Training will operate the vehicles.
    7. SNAP is a nighttime taxi service to bring students back to their dorms.
    8. There are lots of similar programs at other universities. Lauren got the idea from University of Florida's Gotcha Ride Program.
    9. Lauren and Matt have spoken to ith Marty Ogren in Transportation Services, who has permitted our use of golf carts for this program.
  - ii. Matt opened up discussion
    1. Kevin McMannis recalled that under Brett's administration, they had discussed expanding a similar program it to Irish Crossings and other off campus residences.
      - a. Lauren responded that the primary focus would be the Notre Dame campus because there is significantly more liability if the golf cart is driving on the streets of South Bend. However, they are considering the use of vans, which would be on-call for off-campus transportation.
    2. Grant asked about current SafeWalk practices.
      - a. Lauren responded that SafeWalk currently covers all of campus. She has spoken with Tracy Skibins, an NDSP sergent, who said that some SafeWalkers have bikes, which they ride to the caller and then walk back.
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3. Madison brought up students' concerns with alcohol when calling SafeWalk.
    - a. Lauren responded that drivers are certified students, not NDSP officers. There will be no reporting of alcohol-related incidents unless there is significant danger to the student's health.
  4. Jake asked for clarification between SafeWalk and SNAP.
    - a. Lauren responded that there will be complete integration of the systems. The new program would be focused on secure transportation, but they have not had logistical conversations yet about students using SNAP in situations under which safety is not a concern.
    - b. Matt added that the goal is to change the stigma associated with SafeWalk so that it still serves the same purpose, but would be used by more students.
  5. Katie Arndorfer expressed Ryan Hall's enthusiasm for SNAP. She received a lot of feedback about girls trying to use SafeWalk at the beginning of the year, but then stopped using it because SafeWalkers were slow or didn't show up. Some girls were also hesitant to call because they wanted to avoid awkward small talk with the SafeWalker. She believes it is important to advertise that SNAP is the new SafeWalk.
  6. David announced that SNAP has total support from Carroll Hall, especially because it is so far away.
  7. Ashley suggested that we have a big push for SNAP during Frosh-O to make sure freshmen know exactly what it is and what it is for. A lot of people still do not know when the hours of operation are for SafeWalk.
    - a. Lauren responded that she has already brought that up with NDSP and they are enthusiastic about showcasing this safety feature while freshman parents are here.
  8. Madison asked if there was a cutoff for the number of students that can ride SNAP golf carts in a group or if there is a limit to where you can go (dorms vs. main circle).
    - a. Matt responded that they have not had those conversations yet, but they will in the future.
  9. Grant suggested setting up a table at Frosh-O and giving out promotional materials (magnet, whistle, pen, sunglasses) with the phone number for SNAP.
  10. Christina has lots of friends that work in Compton and they call each other and stay on the phone until they get back. They do not feel any safer walking back to their dorms with a SafeWalker who is a girl of similar or smaller size.
  11. Scott M announced that he has been talking to Drew Carmona, Director of University Affairs, and everyone should know the number for NDSP (574-631-5555). University Affairs is looking to promote
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that number because a lot of people do not know which number to call for SafeWalk or NDSP.

12. Olivia Till pointed out that there is also confusion about which number to call when trying to contact NDSP vs. SafeWalk.
13. Elle S. suggested that it may be beneficial to have a permanent street sign with the phone number and hours for SNAP posted on the outskirts of campus where people might be when they need to call.
14. Martin remembered that NDSP had golf carts in the past.
  - a. Lauren responded that NDSP did have 1-2 golf carts that they used in cases of severe weather, but SNAP golf carts would be used in all conditions.
  - iii. Keough motioned to close discussion.
  - iv. Alumni seconded.
  - v. 29 in favor, 2 opposed.
  - vi. Alumni moved to vote.
  - vii. Keough seconded.
  - viii. 30 in favor, 1 opposed.
  - ix. 28 in favor of passing Resolution SS1415-04, 0 against, 2 abstained.
  - x. Resolution passed.

#### IV. New Business

- A. Chris asked about a more in depth look at safety on campus and statistical data.
  - i. Lauren responded that Universities are required to post all crime data. She has looked at that data when discussing SNAP with administrators.
- B. Peter D. asked how we would be funding SNAP.
- C. Kevin M. asked who he should talk to about off-campus safety, especially in light of several recent crime reports.
  - i. Matt responded that off-campus safety still falls under NDSP's jurisdiction in coordination with the South Bend Police Department. There is Safety Summit coming up, where they will discuss campus and off-campus safety of all Notre Dame students.

#### V. Announcements

- A. Katie A. announced the Ryan Wheelchair Basketball Tournament this Sunday.
- B. Grant announced that the Fisher Regatta is in 16 days.

#### VI. Adjournment

- A. Keough motioned to adjourn.
- B. Peter D. seconded.
- C. Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine L. Wood  
Student Union Secretary

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