

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME DU LAC
STUDENT SENATE
Executive Summary
September 3, 2014

I. Opening Business

- A. Matt Devine called the meeting to order at 6:45pm.
- B. Michael Wajda led the invocation.
- C. 1 was absent; 0 were late.
- D. Kevin Coleman moved to approve last week's minutes.
 - i. Jake Wittenburg seconded.
 - ii. Minutes approved.

II. Officer Announcements

- A. Lauren Vidal, Student Body President
 - i. O'SNAP will officially begin tonight.
 - 1. She met with Safe Walk employees yesterday. They will become the new O'SNAP drivers.
 - 2. Lindsay Huth, Student Union Communications Director, is finalizing O'SNAP branding and the wraps for the carts.
 - ii. Shuyang Li, Director of Campus Technology, has asked Senators to get feedback from their dorms about the change in print quota.
 - iii. Campus Life Council will begin next Monday.
 - 1. Brian Mukhaya, Helen Hathaway, Scott Moore, and Peter Durbin will represent Senate on CLC.
- B. Matthew Devine, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Faculty Senate met yesterday.
 - 1. They discussed the official University audit policy.
- C. Shannon Montague, Chief of Staff
 - i. No announcements.

III. General Orders

- A. Discussion Re: Physical Education Change
 - i. Dean Hugh Page, First Year of Studies
 - 1. The process by which this process was enacted, the administrative bodies involved, and student input:
 - a. The first committee was convened in 2010-2011 and finalized its work in 2011-2012. They consulted with faculty and did some benchmarking with regard to Physical Education at other universities. They composed a CIF survey to gauge student feedback.
 - b. An ad hoc committee chaired by Dean Page was then formed. This committee had one Student Government representative. They decided that a change to the PE requirement was required, but



they were not in a single mind with regard to the details. They came up with three proposed changes. The lack of consensus was a concern, so students, faculty and staff recommended fourth and fifth alternatives.

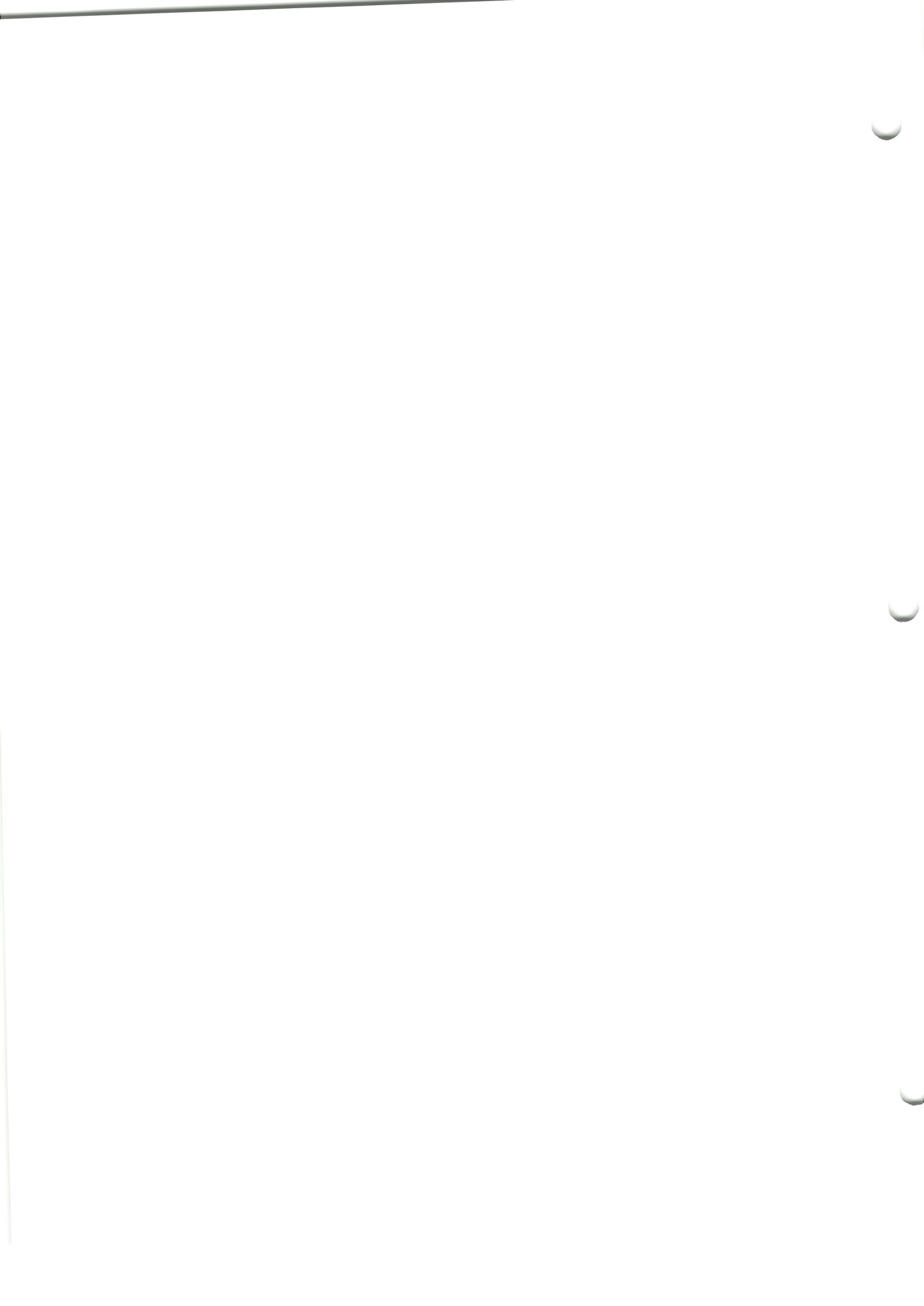
- c. A follow-up committee, also chaired by Dean Page, was formed to address this lack of consensus. This committee, with input from a Student Government representative, proposed a reconfiguration of the current PE curriculum to make it a more overall wellness and first year experience class. The Undergraduate Studies Committee of the Academic Council, which consists of four undergraduate student representatives, reviewed the proposed change. The new curriculum was then reviewed by Faculty Senate and proceeded to the floor of Academic Council. Though the vote was close, the new program passed.
2. Program details:
 - a. The experience is built on seven learning objectives: orientation to University life, strategies for health and wholeness, community standards and cultural competency, strategies for success in the classroom, discernment of various kinds, cultivation of the spiritual life, and mind/body awareness through physical activity.
 - b. The committee considered the merits of a graded versus ungraded class. The general sentiment was that to send the necessary signal, the course should be graded and credit bearing. There was no overwhelming disagreement about grading the class.
 - c. There will still be opportunities for students to be involved in physical activity through RecSports.
 3. Overall goals and impetus of the PE curriculum review:
 - a. Every academic and co-curricular aspect of a University undergoes review and change in order to serve the evolving needs of students.
 - b. This discussion regarding the PE curriculum has been ongoing since before Dean Page became Dean of First Year of Studies in 2005.
 - c. The committee decided that it was time for a rebranding of wellness initiatives aimed at the wellbeing of students based on empirical evidence from the Counseling Center and anecdotal evidence from students and faculty.
 4. Student involvement in the process:
 - a. Assistant Dean of First Year of Studies Maureen Dawson is responsible for spearheading the collaboration of the new course in conjunction with Student Affairs. She has suggested Peer Advisors, who live in the residence halls, to create focus groups.
 - b. Assistant Dean Dawson is also open to Student Government involvement.



5. In response to anecdotal evidence that the current PE experience gives students the opportunity to learn sports they may not otherwise have the chance to learn:
 - a. RecSports has taken this into consideration and is taking action so as not to limit student access to sports and physical activity.
 6. Tradition of the current PE experience:
 - a. Dean Page acknowledged that tradition is very important, but this change in curriculum will have no impact on the tradition of freshman PE.
 - b. There still remains a commitment to the education according to the Holy Cross tradition in shaping the whole person.
- ii. Matt opened up to discussion
1. Brian Cimonis inquired about grading and course credit.
 - a. The class will be graded on a 4.0 scale. This will be considered a 1-credit class with 15 weekly contact hours between students and faculty.
 2. Elena Silla inquired about credit maximums for each college.
 - a. The deans of each college are aware of this change and the adjustments they will have to make with regard to credit thresholds.
 3. Martin Walsh inquired about the setup of the class.
 - a. The class will likely have a blended format, with both a classroom component and an active component with wellness-related physical activity, such as yoga or walking.
 - b. This is an elimination of the current PE requirement. The new program will aim to rebrand components of the current PE curriculum to introduce students to all aspects of Notre Dame life and human wellness and growth.
 4. Jake inquired about student involvement in the process.
 - a. Curricular reviews are typically brought about through committees with appointed representatives.
 - b. Student representation was present at the Undergraduate Studies Committee of Academic Council and at the full vote.
 5. Kevin McMannis inquired about the classroom component.
 - a. There will be a combination of large lectures and small group activities.
 - b. Everything is on the table right now and the committee is considering what is in the best interest of students, how to staff it and how to instill the important values.
 6. Ashley Calvani inquired about the PE units.
 - a. It is still undecided whether the year will be divided into the 7 components or if the learning objectives will be interwoven throughout the year.
 - b. The committee is working to develop the curriculum now. This will likely be finalized during spring 2015 semester.



7. Jimmy McEntee raised a concern about the cost of club sports on campus.
 - a. Dean Page acknowledged the benefits to students of free access to athletic instruction and involvement in sports through PE.
 - b. He will pass these concerns on to Student Affairs.
8. Elle Steichen inquired about the credit threshold and added workload of this new course.
 - a. There will be no scaling back of other academics. The credit threshold for class registration will likely be raised to accommodate this change.
 - b. This program is not looking to increase students' workload. The general expectations of the new program will match those of Contemporary Topics in the current PE system.
9. Lauren brought up the learning objective of discernment.
 - a. There was a 1-credit discernment class two years ago. The new PE course will be an ND-101 type of experience where students can learn about making more informed choices about how to spend their time at Notre Dame.
10. Chris DeSapio brought back feedback from Stanford Hall Council. Many students are concerned about losing the physical component.
 - a. Dean Page sees the gains of this program as exceeding the costs. He acknowledged that there will be differences of opinion about the optimal structure, but the committee agreed that this system seemed to make the most sense.
 - b. This model will give students the opportunity to learn to manage their own wellness.
11. Tom Taylor inquired about improving facilities for exercise and other physical activities now that there will no longer be a physical component of the PE curriculum.
 - a. The Campus Crossroads initiative will devote much of the West Building to recreational sports facilities.
12. Ryan Rizzuto expressed concerns about the elimination of the swim test.
 - a. The curriculum no longer requires students to take a swim test to prove their proficiency in swimming nor does it require those who do not know how to swim to take a swim class.
 - b. This new system requires students to do some self-reflection before coming to Notre Dame about whether they really know how to swim.
 - c. This in no way diminishes the importance of knowing how to swim. Students who feel they cannot swim will have the opportunity to take swim lessons outside of the new program.
13. The Walsh Hall Proxy Senator asked about giving students the opportunity to self-reflect on the 7 principles and then choose whether to take the class.



- a. The University aims to strike a balance. For things that are core to the mission, decisions have to be made about enforcing requirements.
14. The Walsh Hall Proxy Senator also expressed concerns about the elimination of an outlet for stress, in the form of physical activity, and adding stress, in the form of a graded class.
 - a. Dean Page responded that this course is tended to be stress liberating. It is meant to be challenging in a different way, through self-discovery rather than memorization.
 - b. The medium for assessment in this course will be the electronic portfolio, not an essay or exam.
15. Kathryn Peruski inquired about the faculty who will teach the classes.
 - a. Nothing has been definitively determined at this point, but the committee will seek out professors with an interest in these topics and a demonstrated capacity to teach this course well.
16. Olivia Till asked for clarification about the curriculum and comparisons to peer institutions.
 - a. The first committee conducted a thorough benchmarking study to look at PE curriculums at other universities.
 - b. In creating this course, the committee looked at what is currently offered in Contemporary Topics and thought seriously about what was identified in experimental evidence and anecdotal reports about what is maximally inclusive.
17. Scott Moore asked whether the PE requirement was the best way to address these 7 objectives and whether this class would restrict student independence.
 - a. Notre Dame looks out for its students, in mind, body, and spirit, but we do not want to promote excessive parenting.
 - b. This course is not intended to be excessively protective, but instead is intended to be a point of reference for students to be aware of opportunities available at Notre Dame.
18. Michael asked about student feedback in the future.
 - a. Assistant Dean Dawson welcomes student feedback.

IV. New Business

- A. Brian C. asked for clarification about O'SNAP carts driving on the roads instead of interior campus paths.
 - i. The O'SNAP carts are licensed vehicles, so they cannot drive on the sidewalks.
 - ii. NDSP is training O'SNAP employees to pull up as close as possible to the buildings. If a road does not run directly by a building, the driver will walk up to the building and escort the student to the cart.
 - iii. It is safest and most efficient to operate on the roads.
- B. Martin asked about O'SNAP off campus.



- i. The carts are currently driving on campus only. They are licensed to drive on 30 mph roads, but for liability reasons, they will not be going off campus.
- ii. If the program is expanded off campus in the future, we will use vans for off-campus drop-offs and pick-ups.
- C. Ashley asked about an O'SNAP handout for Senators to distribute in their dorms.
 - i. Lindsay is working on that now. We will give those out at an upcoming Senate meeting.
- D. Kevin C. asked about Quad Markets.
 - i. Jamie Grzybowski, Director of Community Relations, is currently working with SAO and Risk Management.
 - ii. The tentative date is October 10, the Friday before the UNC game.
 - iii. There will be 10-12 vendors.
- E. Christina Jeong asked about healthy eating on campus with respect to the closing of Greenfields.
 - i. Greenfields will be replaced by Au Bon Pain.
 - ii. There are no current plans to provide another healthy restaurant alternative.
 - iii. The topic of healthy eating on campus is on the Auxiliary Operations agenda.
- F. Elle S. asked about print quota.
 - i. This topic can be added to the Senate agenda for next week.

V. Announcements

- A. Stanford Hall Rave for the Brave will be Friday, September 26 in Stepan Center. Their goal is to raise \$10,000.
- B. *Remember the Titans* is being shown tomorrow night for Gosling on the Quad.
- C. Judicial Council is hosting an FCC elections info session for freshmen in Montgomery Auditorium on September 7 at 7:00pm.
- D. LHOP is this Friday night.
- E. There are 234 days until the Fisher Regatta.
- F. The Keough Chariot Race is on September 20.
- G. Sophomore Class Council is bringing free food trucks with tacos and dumplings. They will be stationed outside Lafortune.
- H. The Class Councils are working together to bring back the Gatsby Dance on Bond Quad on September 19.
- I. SUB is hosting Beyonce's Birthday Eve Bash in the Lafortune basement tonight.

VI. Adjournment

- A. Kevin C. motioned to adjourn.
- B. Peter Durbin seconded.
- C. Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine L. Wood
Student Union Secretary

