

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME DU LAC
STUDENT SENATE
Executive Summary
October 8, 2014

I. Opening Business

- A. Matt Devine called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.
- B. Kevin Coleman led the invocation.
- C. 3 were absent; 0 were late.
- D. Helen Hathaway moved to approve last week's minutes.
 - i. Peter Durbin seconded.
 - ii. Minutes approved.

II. Officer Announcements

- A. Lauren Vidal, Student Body President
 - i. She had a CCAC Meeting with the Mayor's Office and Student Body Presidents from Holy Cross College and St. Mary's College.
 - 1. They are very excited to hear about all of the projects going on.
 - 2. We are working on compiling a safety pamphlet to distribute to all students.
- B. Matthew Devine, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Faculty Senate yesterday discussed health benefits for employees and the class audit policy.
 - ii. This week is Irish State of Mind Week.
 - 1. Touchdown Jesus is lit green, the color of mental health awareness.
 - 2. Late Night Breakfast is tonight from 10:00pm-12:00am. Acousticafe will be performing.
 - iii. Quad Market is on Friday on North Quad from 12:00pm-5:00pm.
- C. Shannon Montague, Chief of Staff
 - i. No announcements.

III. Election of CLC Representatives

- A. The CLC term begins in August and lasts through the academic year. CLC members serve *ex officio*, so they will continue serving through the end of the academic year, even when they are no longer in office.
- B. Matt, as the Chair of Senate, may decide which type of election to conduct. The plan is to hold an affirmation vote, but we are open to holding a general election if Senators feel strongly about it.
- C. The Department of Internal Affairs will assist in helping solidify this time table of elections as dictated by the Constitution.
- D. Senators agreed to a blanket approval of Helen Hathaway, Brian Mukhaya, and Scott Moore as the CLC representatives from Senate. Peter Durbin is automatically appointed as Off-Campus Senator.
 - i. 26 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.
 - ii. All were approved.



IV. General Orders

A. Diversity Training for Senators, *Stephen Kim, Diversity Counsel Representative*

- i. The purpose of this training is to open up a dialogue and allow everyone to reflect on diversity.
- ii. Diversity trainings often focus too much on what not to do. That is only a temporary solution. A more permanent solution is to be perpetually self-aware.
- iii. Daphne Reynolds
 1. Daphne is the Diversity Council representative for the Native American Student Association of Notre Dame (NASAND).
 2. NASAND members are frequently asked, "How much are you?" Though they may know what tribe they belong to, many Native Americans are mixed.
 3. Being mixed race in a family setting means being balanced. To choose one ethnicity over the other for your child would be to diminish its importance.
 4. Notre Dame is a community and a family. In a family, you have to recognize and value the diversity of backgrounds.
 5. Being part of a cultural club is about remembering what your culture means to you.
- iv. Khaoula Morchid
 1. Khaoula is from Morocco and represents the Notre Dame Muslim population on Diversity Council.
 2. She often gets looks from friends at home when she says she goes to a Catholic university. However, she feels closer to her faith here because there is such an emphasis on faith in general. Even if not everyone here practices the same religion, everyone has faith; everyone believes in something.
 3. She would rather be asked questions about her culture and her beliefs than for people to make assumptions about her.
 4. Following Facebook pages such as "Humans of Pakistan" or "Humans of Germany" has helped her learn more about other countries and cultures.
 5. The Muslim Student Association is like a family and there is a great graduate-undergraduate student interaction.
 6. Martin Walsh asked about religious integration on campus.
 - a. There is a mosque in South Bend and a meditation room in the Coleman-Morse Center where many Muslim students go to pray regularly.
- v. Veronica Guerrero
 1. Veronica, the First Class Steppers representative on Diversity Council, discussed events for different cultural groups. Just because you are not part of the group, does not mean you shouldn't go.
 2. If you are interested in a different culture or minority group, you should go because they want you there and will be welcoming. The reason they have these events is for other students to come learn about their culture and what they do.
- vi. Matt Devine
 1. Notre Dame was not part of his original plan, despite his white, Catholic, Midwestern background.

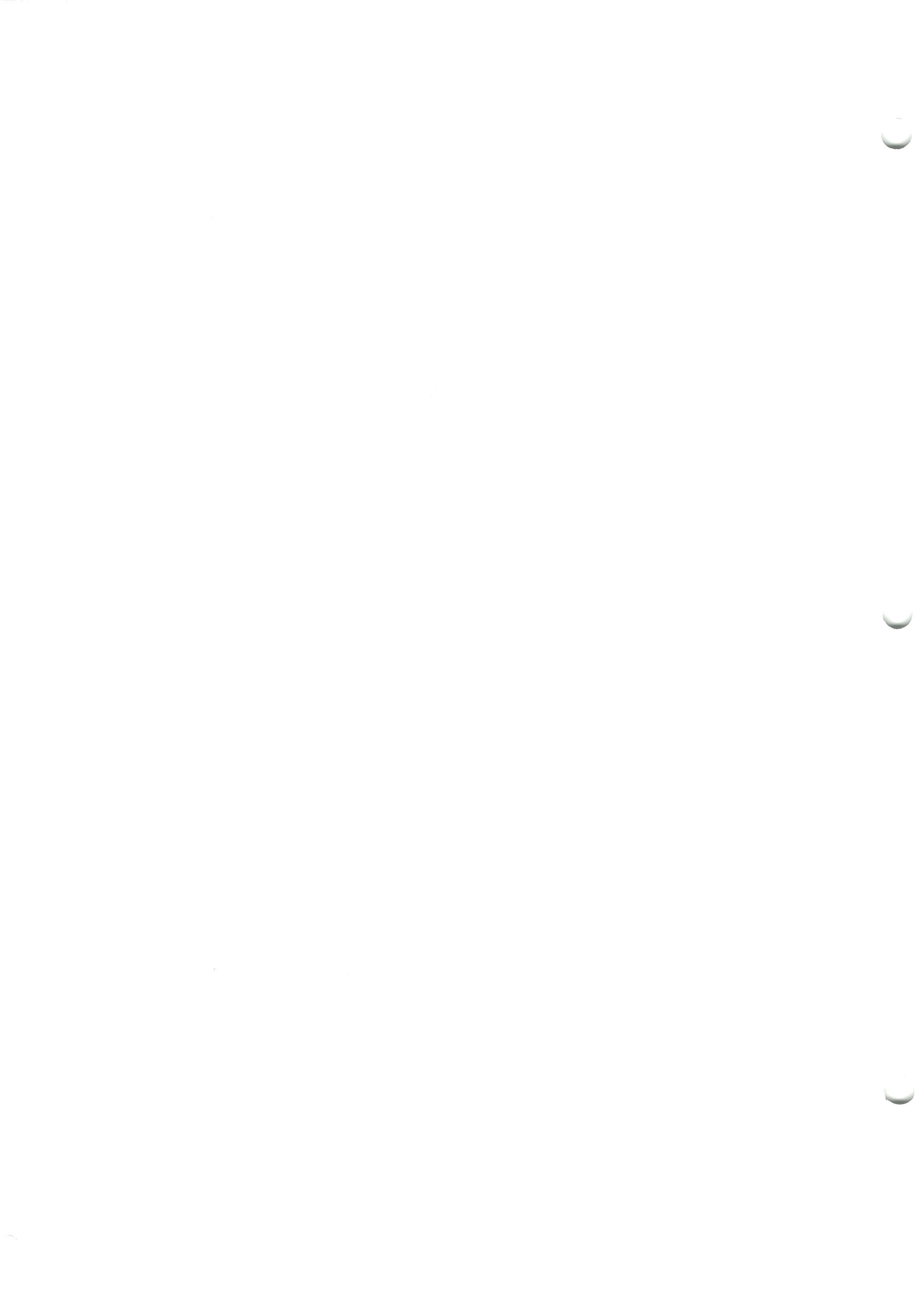


2. When Matt began his freshman year, he was immediately labeled as the “typical Notre Dame student.” People often make assumptions because it is easier.
 3. He felt very unwelcome here and did not feel like he was engaging with people from different backgrounds. He even very strongly considered transferring to another university. It was a conscious, introspective decision to stay here at Notre Dame.
 4. Diversity is not just about “minorities.” In a way, we are all minorities.
- vii. Discussion
1. Ryan Rizzuto asked how large NASAND is.
 - a. They have a large Listserv and there are 12-15 students who regularly attend meetings.
 2. Zach Waterson asked about awareness of minority group events.
 - a. The Executive Programming Board calendar lists all campus events.
 - b. Students can subscribe to the MSPS Listserv to get updates about events going on each week.
 - c. There are emails sent out via Campus Ministry and The Week ND.
 - d. Facebook and Twitter are also a great way to stay informed.
 3. Lauren asked if Senators feel comfortable asking their friends cultural questions.
 - a. She and Matt have these conversations frequently and they are both happy to answer questions about their backgrounds.
 - b. Chris DeSapio answered that he has never had difficulty asking those questions, but these topics do not really come up.
 - c. Veronica responded that there are small ways to ask people about their backgrounds or culture and you can learn about people little by little.
 - d. Ashley Calvani added that after asking a “dumb” question, she got over the fear of asking cultural questions.
 - e. Tom Taylor noted that even asking about the use of “pop” versus “soda” can be a way to get to know people from different areas.
 - f. Helen Hathaway noted that people are often very comfortable sharing about themselves. That should be a comfort for people wanting to ask questions.
 - g. Martin Walsh added that there are real differences between people from different areas of the country and that can be an interesting way to get to know people.
 - h. Elle Huang noted that everyone has something to bring to the table. Catholic groups on campus are interested in sharing their beliefs, not to impose them on others, but rather to educate people who are interested.
- viii. Thank you to Stephen and Diversity Council for organizing today’s Senate Diversity Training.

V. New Business

- A. Lauren and Matt would like to put together a Senate Spaghetti Dinner. They will send out a Doodle with a few dates.

VI. Announcements



- A. The SUB movie this weekend is *How to Train Your Dragon 2*.
- B. SUB is hosting a Rollerskate Throwback in Lafortune Ballroom from 6:00pm-8:00pm on Friday. Rollerskates are provided.
- C. There are 199 days until the Fisher Regatta.
- D. Rave for the Brave went very well. They raised \$4,000 to donate.
- E. Totter for Water will be rescheduled for this weekend due to thunderstorms last week.
- F. Grace Carroll introduced the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE). She has brochures to distribute and she will stay after the meeting tonight if anyone is interested.
- G. Late Night Breakfast is in South Dining Hall from 10:00pm-12:00am tonight.
 - i. You may still swipe in even if you swipe in for dinner this evening.
 - ii. Acousticafe will be performing.
- H. Quad Markets will be on North Quad on Friday from 12:00pm-5:00pm.

VII. Adjournment

- A. Grant Humphreys motioned to adjourn.
- B. Elle H. seconded.
- C. Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine L. Wood
Student Union Secretary

