

# NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

## Executive Summary

DATE: 10 APRIL 2013

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

- I. **Opening Business**
  - a. Nancy Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
  - b. JAKE led the invocation.
  - c. 4 were absent; 3 were late.
  - d. Nancy Joyce entertained any motions to change the 3 APRIL 2013 executive summary. *The FIRST executive summary was approved at 6:07 p.m.*
- II. **Officer Reports**
  - a. Mr. Alex Coccia, Student Body President
    - i. Alex asked to have the senators to please take a look at how we can make the adjustment for that first home football weekend for freshman
    - ii. Met with Dave Harr about the meal plan and are looking to improve it.
  - b. Ms. Nancy Joyce, Student Body Vice President
    - i. Will be talking to the president and vice president of SMC about Support a Belle, Love a Belle and how we can best help with this as a student body.
    - ii. Please email Nancy and Alexandria if you will be absent or late.
  - c. Mr. Juan Rangel, Chief of Staff
    - i. The senate contact list will be updated by the next meeting, and the Constitution will be updated every once and a while to keep it up to date.
    - ii. The departments should have emailed their new senate members.
- III. **Approvals**
  - a. Director of Internal Affairs – Danny Colston
    - i. Has been a department member for the last three years, and brings many different perspectives to the position as well as being highly recommended by his predecessor Ben Noe.
    - ii. Approved
  - b. FUEL Director- Ricardo Suarez
    - i. Comes highly recommended by his predecessors, and has experience with FUEL and the Committee on Social Concerns.
    - ii. Approved.
- IV. **General Orders**
  - a. StaND Against Hate Week, Monica Daegele and Maggie Waickman
    - i. Presentation about the event sponsored by the Committee of Gender Issues and Student Government.
    - ii. It is planned by the Core Council.
    - iii. There are many cool events that are planned.
      1. Maggie sits on Core Council, and this week is to speak out against acts of discrimination against the LGBTQ.

2. The events for next week start on Monday, and some of the events include a dinner on Monday on how to be an ally. Tuesday there will be a screening with free Chipolte. Friday is the National Day of silence. There will be free t shirts, please wear them Friday.
    - a. Nancy will send out a link to the facebook event.
  - iv. If anyone would like to volunteer, email Monica Daegele.
  - v. Nancy reminded the senate that as they have required events to go to, and this would be a great one to go and show support.
  - vi. Kyle asked if there would be a calendar, and Monica responded that all the information would be on the facebook page.
- b. Resolution SS1314-04 presented by Toni Schreier, senator McGlinn on Academic Affairs.
- i. Toni presented information about the collegiate readership program.
    1. The purpose of the collegiate readership program is to provide the New York Times, South Bend Tribune, and USA Today for students to stay informed on current events.
    2. Sources may change over time, but the resolution allows for flexibility between paper and online news sources.
    3. Not only are students able to access the papers, but high profile journalists are sent to campus to come and lecture for us through the New York Times. This is provided for free by the New York Times. The Coffee and Conversation events are also given by the New York Times.
    4. In order to keep ND a global university, it is important for students to understand world issues.
    5. There was a free pilot program in 2005
      - a. 99% of the 2,000 newspapers were used by the students on a daily basis.
      - b. The goal was to promote intellectual advancement inside and outside the classroom.
      - c. Peer institutions have also adapted this program and had much success.
      - d. It was continued because of the success. The survey taken before and after said that students wanted this program. Students who would not have typically read papers presurvey were a part of the students who read the papers in the post survey.
    6. Students responded to this demand for papers by agreeing to a \$10 increase in their student activities fee for the collegiate readership program.
      - a. 80% agreed to this, at peer institutions it was 68%
    7. For the New York Times right now, we pay \$0.06 per day, which is 10 dollars for a year. For a subscription by yourself, it is about 700 dollars.

8. There has been a steady increase in demand, however there has been a steady decrease in funding for this program.
  9. Issue right now is that there is no stewardship for the program right now. There has been a decrease in funding from the funding start in the 2006-2007 academic year at 77,200 to 35,000 this academic year.
    - a. This week, there was an experiment done with the newspapers and the amount was doubled. All of the papers were used. It is not an issue of people not reading them, it is simply an issue of not having enough papers for the student body. There is a 99% consumption rate of the papers.
  10. The solution to this problem would create a collegiate readership fund. The language of the resolution keeps the use of the money flexible in case there are changes.
  11. This would create a framework for the program. 5.5% of the budget would go to the program. This would allow there to not be a risk of losing the money to other programs within Student Government.
  12. This is the only senate meeting before the budget is determined in late April that this can be changed.
  13. Keeping students engaged with current events will benefit students by helping them to perform better in interviews.
  14. This resolution would hardline the funding for quality journalism on campus, which would enable the student body to be intellectually engaged.
- ii. Nancy asked if anyone has any questions on the resolution
1. Michael M. asked if more history of the program could be given, like on the statistics given and how this process is normally handled at Notre Dame
    - a. Toni responded that the collegiate readership program does the surveys. They are formal surveys done at each institution to see how successful the program is.
      - i. In 2005, the program was free. Then, the student activities fee was raised by 10 dollars. Toni said that she cannot determine why the funding was decreased by so much in the past.
      - ii. Michael M. responded to Toni by asking why the FMB was criticized.
        1. Toni said that this was no one's fault at all, it is a complicated process. The executive controller must represent student government and the readership program,



- and the new representatives on FMB may have issues making decisions.
2. Michael M. responded that the outgoing FMB do the budget for the upcoming year.
  2. Sophie asked if there were any new surveys.
    - a. Toni said there were not, but we do know that there is 99 percent consumption.
    - b. Nancy clarified that the raise in fee only happened once.
  3. Kyle asked Michael M. what Transpo was.
    - a. Michael responded that this is a bus service that is funded for students.
  4. Rohan asked if Transpo would be funded in this resolution, to which Nancy responded no.
  5. Michael M. asked if there has been a survey.
    - a. Nancy asked for Michael to present the survey since he has the data.
    - b. 52 percent of the students responded that they did not use the newspapers. Toni responded to this that since only 1,000 students responded to the survey, that the number of the total student body was not accurately represented.
  6. Danny asked if it would be beneficial to have online access instead?
    - a. Nancy clarified that there are no programs nationally that have only online access. There is one seat given per paper bought.
    - b. Chas clarified that per day, a seat is given per paper. It is not necessarily the people that read the paper, anyone can read the paper with their netID. Theoretically, we are having double the papers this way.
  7. Dorothy asked if we knew if one of the newspapers was more heavily read.
    - a. Toni responded that we did not know this data, but we can assume that all the papers are being read equally because of the 99 percent rate of consumption.
  8. Zach asked if we are charged for unused papers, to which Toni responded no.
  - iii. Alex explained that the program itself is flexible. Currently, we are using the college readership program. The fund itself is different. It protects the academic interest. It promotes why we are here at the university. It is integral to be able to engage in a national and international dialogue. As students, our main purpose is education, and it is important to give ourselves a holistic education.
  - iv. Nancy clarified how proper parliamentary procedure is to work on a resolution.

1. Michael M. asked to clarify what motions are and the proper procedure.
  - a. Mariana clarified the different types of parliamentary procedure that could be done at this point in the meeting according to Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.
- v. Rohan motioned to discuss.
  1. Michael L. seconded.
- vi. Rohan asked if the money that has gone away in the past where that money has gone, the money that has been subtracted to the fund.
  1. Nancy responded that the way that the allocation process works, as she emailed out earlier, that the money is allocated by FMB to clubs and other student programs on campus. When this money is going down for this program, the money is being redistributed to other clubs and organizations.
  2. Rohan asked that only of the 10 only 3.50 went to the readership program? And Nancy said this was correct for this year.
- vii. Christin asked how this would work if there would be major changes to the program with the 5.5 percent
  1. Nancy said that this percent would be from the shirt project, student activities fees, and the return on the endowment. This is about 88,000 dollars from year to year.
  2. Cristin would like to know why this is a fixed cost, whereas HPC has to constantly apply. She did not understand why it would be fixed.
    - a. Toni replied that, if need be, a percentage change could be made to the constitution later. This allows for the program to stay in place.
    - b. Nancy said that there would be a creation of a FOPAL for this, where other organizations could donate to the program.
    - c. Max clarified that for each paper copy we buy, we have one online seat for the day. Online access is extremely expensive by itself. The funding in this way will never go down, and as prices increase for papers, having this hardlined in the constitution would allow for proper amount of resources for the papers.
  3. Nancy also clarified that since this is a fund, that if need be, the resources could be allocated to another program if that program is less expensive.
- viii. Michael M. wanted to make sure the senators knew what it meant to amend the constitution.
  1. They are serious, and should not be taken lightly.
  2. Michael M. is concerned that the idea presented by Toni to just change the constitution when need be is not a good idea.

- ix. Erin is concerned that likes and dislikes of students and the papers would change too frequently, and personally believes that FMB should still hold this power.
- x. Alex would like the senators to keep in mind that the nature of this amendment is to protect the academic interest of the student body against competing programs.
  1. Michael M. did not understand this, Alex repeated himself.
- xi. Kyle asked for further clarification on what exactly it means to change the constitution.
  1. Michael M. said to keep in mind precedents that could be set by this resolution. There are no organizations that are hardlined in the constitution for funding outside of general groups for clubs and activities. Michael M. went through the data in the constitution of the percentages for the proper allocations of funds and how the FMB makes decisions. All student organizations ultimately must present their budget to FMB.
- xii. Kyle asked Nancy if there was a board that lobbied for the college readership program.
  1. Nancy responded that the executive controller, appointed by the student body president, serves as the lobbyist of both the college readership program and the student government.
  2. Kyle responded that this could set a precedent that would endanger the constitution, but this program is different. This program is represented by one person from year to year and he is in support of the resolution.
- xiii. Jake consulted someone on the FMB who was in support of hardlining this program. Like Kyle says, it is an exceptional case. It is very difficult for the controller to defend both budget. His only objection is if the money becomes too low how would the program go on. He asked Peggy, and she said that more money could be allocated using the FOPAL.
- xiv. Danny would like to discuss the fact that this is setting a new precedent that this would be like hardlining a program for a club just because a program is well liked. There is no place in the constitution that a specific program is specifically hardlined in the constitution. This would circumvent the FMB, and could be dangerous.
- xv. Rohan agrees with Jake and would like to point out that he does understand this fear of Danny, but if the entire student body is so for this, that he sees the newspapers to students as benefitting them all regardless of membership to a certain club.
- xvi. Carolina would like to reiterate what Rohan has said.
- xvii. Sarah says we are using the word program far too loosely. It is not a point of contention about a club or organization. This is an academic essential piece that we need to have. She believes that there should be a distinction between clubs and activities and this entire fund that is



- looking towards the academics of this University. It is important for students to be informed on student body.
- xviii. Michael L. believes this is more of a service than a program, and it was proven by statistics that it was helpful for interviews. In the sense that it is helping students academically and in job interviews, it would make sense to hardline the collegiate readership program.
- xix. Olivia brought to the attention section 12.6 of the constitution.
1. Her understanding is that these organizations are protected constitutionally, and that this program has the merit has the merit of the debate team to be in the constitution. This could alleviate the fear of the constitution change.
    - a. Michael M. responded that this is very different than a fund.
      - i. These organizations follow the same presentation manner as the others that have money allocated from the 62 percent of the funds.
      - ii. Michael M. would also like to hit on who has hit on taken ownership of this program. This is a tactical move by past presidents to have more money for their budget, because the money is umbrellaed inside the student government funds, according to Michael.
      - iii. Michael M. would like everyone to consider the constitution itself and precedents, such as senior week.
        1. Senior week is under senior class council.
        2. What if they wanted a fund for senior week? Or the SUB Concert?
        3. Do we have the faith that FMB can do their job?
- xx. Danny would like to address Olivia's point.
1. Danny would like to reiterate that even that particular kind of thing that looks like a program, it is considered an organization in the constitution that is funded in a very specific way in 18.3.
- xxi. Danny would like to address Michael Lindt.
1. Danny finds that argument compelling for "service". If one looks at 18.2, if someone could make an argument as to why newspapers falls into it then he would be more than happy to hear it. However, he does not believe it covers services.
- xxii. Carolina motioned to end discussion vote, Juan Jose seconded.
1. The voting was done by voice
  2. Discussion was closed
- xxiii. Juan Jose moved to vote by ballot to vote, Melissa seconded.
1. The voting was done by private ballot.

2. The results of the vote was 18 for and 13 against and 1 abstained, so this resolution has failed.
  - c. Nancy would like to thank all of the senators for bringing their concerns to the table, and she appreciates everyone putting so much time into this.
    - i. Rohan asked what happens now with the issue.
      1. It will be gone for the time being.
- V. New Business**
- a. There was no new business.
- VI. Announcements**
- a. This Thursday, Alex will be having a talk with Mayor Pete at 7pm, and he encourages all to attend.
  - b. 17 days until the Fisher Regatta as announced by Michael L.
- VII. Adjournment**
- a. Without objection, *the SECOND Senate meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandria C. Wellman  
Student Union Secretary