

awellmanNOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

DATE: 1 MAY 2013

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. Opening Business**

- a. Nancy Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. JENNIFER SEWELL led the invocation.
- c. 8 were absent; 0 were late.
- d. Nancy Joyce entertained any motions to change the 24 APRIL 2013 executive summary. *The 24 APRIL 2013 executive summary was approved at 6:08 p.m.*

**II. Podium**

- a. Mr. Alex Coccia gave the State of the Student Union Address from the podium (see III General Orders (b)(1)).

**III. Officer Reports**

- a. Mr. Alex Coccia, Student Body President
  - i. Updates were tabled by Nancy Joyce, as Alex was giving the State of the Student Union Address.
- b. Ms. Nancy Joyce, Student Body Vice President
  - i. Please take a cookie!
    1. The cookies were delicious, and there was also lemonade and ice for the senators.
  - ii. Tabled Alex Coccia's report, as he will be giving the State of the Student Union Address
  - iii. Hopes that everyone is doing exciting things this summer, and please feel free to email anyone in Cabinet.
    1. Alex and Nancy will be meeting this summer to work on projects.
  - iv. Good luck on finals!
- c. Mr. Juan Rangel, Chief of Staff
  - i. Everyone should have received the schedules for the meetings next semester, please contact Juan if there are any conflicts.

**IV. General Orders**

- a. Resolution 1314-05
    - i. This amendment updates the constitution to change the name of Carolina Ramirez's position to Liaison to Diversity Council and to update her role as well as make it consistent with the Diversity Council's new constitution.
    - ii. Kyle McCaffery moved to discuss, Melissa Krumdick seconded.
    - iii. Kyle asked if the celebrating diversity workshop was planned for this year.
      1. Nancy answered that it has not been planned, but it will probably be planned in conjunction with DC.
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- a. Carolina clarified that for the senators it would be in the fall.
  - iv. Juan Jose Daboub proposed an amendment.
    - 1. III Subclause (III)(6)(i) is recommended to read as follows: (i) All new senators entering office in April should attend... This event is highly recommended for all senators.
      - a. Juan Jose made this amendment because he believes that the senators all have very busy schedules, and if they can make this that would be great, however it should not be a big deal if they miss.
      - b. Kyle moved to discuss, Robert Pak seconded.
      - c. Rohan Andresen asked if it was normally during senate, to this Carolina R. said yes.
      - d. Joe Kelly moved to reopen discussion, to which Thomas Rogers seconded.
      - e. Joe said that since senate is mandatory, that if it was during senate it should be an issue.
      - f. Juan Jose took his amendment back since Carolina R. said it would most likely be during senate next year.
      - g. Kyle motioned to close, Erin Killmurray seconded.
    - 2. Juan Jose's amendment failed, only Robert Pak voted yes.
- v. By a show of hands vote, the original resolution was passed as written by Daniel Colston, Director of the Department of Internal Affairs.
  - b. State of the Student Union Address, given by Mr. Alex Coccia
    - i. His address went as follows (direct quote):

"Madame Chairperson, members of the Senate, Executive Cabinet, and guests; thank you and good evening:

Great victories are an embodiment of shared passion and collective perseverance. As student leaders in this room, we represent the passion of 8,452 Notre Dame students who exemplify the perseverance to continually push Notre Dame, our local community, our nation, and our world "to create a sense of human solidarity ... that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice."

As a University, we are at our best when all facets are working together to further our mission. As the representative of the student body, our Student Government should reflect the passion and perseverance of the students and be the most effective advocate for these passions, interests, and needs. This requires not only our own passion but also the perseverance to handle the realities we face in office without losing sight of the greater vision for and purpose of Student Government.

We do not have to look far to determine the principles with which we must operate:

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We, the students, have passion that not only drives us beyond superficial pursuits, but allows us to commit our hearts to our endeavors. We, the students, persevere through the daily grind, confident that we will prevail to be the catalyst for positive change in the world. We, the students, recognize that the greatest gifts of this University are the people we meet and the relationships we build as we work together in service to justice.

This is what it means to be a part of the student body of the University of Notre Dame. This is what it means to be a student leader in this room. As students, we must recognize our limitations as full time students, with full time social

lives and full-time extracurriculars. We must understand ourselves, identify our passions, and pursue them with the full weight and force of our individual and collective initiative. And student government should aid in that process.

In this first month, we have strived to lay a strong foundation.

We are becoming more accessible to students, so that we can most effectively serve them and with them. We have done this through strategic messaging, going to where students are, more specifically through social media interactions. With the creative energy of our Communications Director Catherine Kromkowski, we are in the process of revamping the design and template of our website, in order to facilitate greater accessibility for student engagement. Furthermore we have planned to reach out to freshmen over the summer to familiarize them with student government and to act as a resource for them as they pursue their many interests during activities night. This will include hosting Student Government Night Out events, the first of which will be at Covalleski Stadium for a Silverhawks game during the first week. These Student Government Night out events will not only promote student interaction with student government but also highlight particular entertainment, artistic or multicultural events at Notre Dame or in the South bend community. Additionally, one of our foremost priorities over the summer is to work to ensure student safety, for the first weekend of classes -- a home football game.

Furthermore, we have begun meaningful dialogue and conversation through our Director of Community Relations, Austin O'Brien, with the Office of Mayor Buttigieg, South Bend Police Chief Ron Teachman, and members of the Common Council, to ensure that as students at

Notre Dame, not only are we the most respectful neighbors to South Bend, but also that we are contributing to the exciting growth and opportunity the city has to offer. As a global university as Notre Dame is, we cannot lose sight of our adoptive hometown.

With a broader scope, we have created the new position of Director of National Engagement and Outreach to foster relationships with student governments at our peer and aspirational institutions; develop benchmarks for Notre Dame's Student Government in both policy and programming; facilitate collaborative and coordinated responses to issues of national importance; promote the passions and interests of Notre Dame students in the national arena through active involvement with the National Campus Leadership Council. Under the leadership

of Liana Cramer, this department has been very active already. We have begun the process of benchmarking student government structure and process at other colleges and universities. We worked with Boston College and Pittsburgh to coordinate a prayer service and moments of solidarity for the tragedy at the Boston Marathon. We plan to attend and work as group leaders at the annual conference in Washington, DC, of student body presidents across the country to discuss the issues of national importance that are likewise reflected in the interests of our student bodies.

Our role as a student government is not simply to be reactionary, however. We took part in events like StaND Against Hate week and Take Back the Night, and will continue to work with Dr. William Stackman, the Title IX coordinator, and Erin Hoffmann Harding, the Vice President for Student Affairs, to increase the accessibility of harassment and assault reporting, and both to decrease the number of sexual assaults on campus and to end any culture that accepts these acts of violence. Monica Daegele in Gender Issues has already cast a wide net of initiatives to ensure a renewed commitment to gender equity on campus and within our residential system.

Additionally, we are deep into planning a mental health awareness week in order to promote the resources available to students on campus, at St. Liam's and the University Counseling Center especially.

This same time last year, Notre Dame was having a very serious conversation about whether we as a school, we as a Notre Dame family, are truly creating a welcoming environment on campus, whether we are truly our brothers' and sisters' keepers. Recently, in a truly significant statement on Immigration Reform, Father Jenkins stated, "We urge particular attention to reform that will allow deserving, academically qualified young men and women who were brought to the United States as children to have access to higher education in the United States and opportunities following from educational achievement. By educating these young people, we will improve their lives, enrich our nation and live up to our values." It is our privilege to collaborate with many different pockets of campus, including student clubs, organizations, and members of the theology department, to advocate for immigration reform, particularly making it financially possible for undocumented immigrants to attend the University, just as many of our brother and sister Holy Cross schools have done. Starting tonight, we will create a student government task force convened by Chief of Staff Juan Rangel to determine the role of student engagement in a seminal academic conference in March 2014 on the issue of Catholicism and the undocumented.

The primary duty of a student government administration is to ensure that all students feel safe and welcomed on campus so that they can have as fulfilling and holistic of an educational experience as possible. Following incidences of racial harassment, students began the Call to Action movement which we fully support. We are working with members of the Call to Action and Diversity Council to ensure that the anger expressed vocally after the public acts of

racial harassment last year does not diminish or go cold. Instead, we must foster productive and meaningful structural, not cosmetic, change for our University.

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The conversation also addressed the question of whether we are truly living up to our Spirit of Inclusion statement regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning members of the community, in which we pledge to foster an environment in which none are strangers and all may flourish. We plan to fully support the implementation of the new LGBTQ and Ally student organization as it is incorporated into the student union, scheduled to be in full operation in the Fall, and we look forward to the honor of co-sponsoring one of their initial events.

Under the leadership of Drew Carmona, University Affairs has taken the first step regarding a meaningful discussion on medical amnesty and emergency clause, a policy common in other colleges and universities which ensures that student safety is placed as a priority over accountability to other university policy violations.

Under the leadership of Chas Jhin, Campus tech has begun the planning of mobile summit, as well as to coordinate with other departments on all tech-based initiatives.

Our Academic Affairs Department has grown to be more efficient and effective under the leadership of Max Brown, who has represented faithfully the Student voice in the current Academic Code Revision, library renovation, and countless other projects including a TEDx Talk scheduled for Spring 2014.

Under the leadership of Sarah Senseman, we are in the beginning stages of a formal plan for the Town Halls, scheduled to have three in the Fall – the first on the change from Residence Life to Community Standards in order to understand the policies in place; the second on mental health awareness and student well being; and the third on the ever oppressive grab n’ go and meal plan.

Under the leadership of Stephanie Klotter, we have begun conversations with the Office of Auxiliary Services in order to maximize student input in the process of revamping meal plans to ensure that the flexibility of the meal plan matches the need of rigid student schedules, as well as to develop a working model for the establishment of a coffee cart in DeBartolo Hall.

Under the leadership of Matt Munhall, the Department for Social Concerns has renewed its relationship with Coach Corrigan in lacrosse and Athletics and is looking forward to enhancing the Playing for Peace initiative.

Jennifer Sewell, Conor Montijo, and Carolina Ramirez, our representatives to Campus Ministry, Athletics, and Diversity Council, respectively, have already begun to build those fundamental relationships with their offices and organizations to effectively fulfill their roles in representing the interests of the student body.

Danny Colston has begun work on clarifying the Constitution and our roles in it. Diana Heflin and Ricardo Suarez, as FUEL Directors, are making absolutely sure that the moment the freshmen step foot on campus, they feel welcome and know their student government and

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how to get involved.

Ultimately, our student government administration wants to connect ideas to opportunities. And the State of the Student Union is greater with stronger communication, more innovative ideas, greater collaboration, and a focus on inclusion.

We are fortunate to be attending the University of Notre Dame at a time of great transition – as we commit to be a more inclusive university, as our athletics programs become more prominent and competitive, as we strive to become one of the strongest research

universities in the country. Now, more than ever, it is essential for the student body to be a part of the conversations that will shape our University's path for decades to come. Student Government has the opportunity not only to make an impact in the everyday lives of students, but also to lay the foundation for future generations, as past administrations have done for us.

Before I close – I have stressed the names of the members of our executive cabinet for good reason. Before any change occurs, there must be the agitators, the drivers. We have assembled one of the most passionate, diverse, and committed teams of qualified individuals for this cabinet. Through these departments, and through your invaluable work as senators, we are on an affirmative path towards achieving our goals and fostering a relevant student government.

Congratulations on your last day of classes. May your exams finish well. Stay safe over the summer, but enjoy yourselves. Thank you very much." –Alexander F. Coccia

#### **V. New Business**

- a. There was no new business.

#### **VI. Announcements**

- a. Sarah Sensemen would like to thank everyone who gave suggestions for the town halls, and to please keep sending in ideas for them.
- b. Michael Lindt announced that there are 363 days until the next Fisher Regatta, and the last one was a success.
- c. Angel Zambrano announced that Knott Quad has officially now opened.
- d. Zahm is having their carnival on North Quad at this moment.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

- a. Without objection, *the 1 MAY 2013 Senate meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandria Chloe Wellman  
Student Union Secretary