

## NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

### Executive Summary

DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2013

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

#### I. Opening Business

- a. Nancy Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- b. MICHAEL MASI led the invocation.
  - i. Today is September 11, a prayer was shared from Fr. Warner.
- c. 1 were absent; 0 were late.
- d. Nancy Joyce entertained any motions to change the 4 SEPTEMBER 2013 executive summary. *The 4 SEPTEMBER 2013 executive summary was approved at 6:06 p.m.*

#### II. Officer Reports

- a. Mr. Alex Coccia, Student Body President
  - i. Playing for peace
  - ii. Women in Leadership
    1. This is the Forum Topic, please call DPAC for tickets.
  - iii. Sexual Battery
    1. The "forcible fondling" terminology has now been changed to this.
  - iv. Coffee cart
    1. We should hear from Dave Harr about this soon.
- b. Ms. Nancy Joyce, Student Body Vice President
  - i. Everyone looks very classy.
  - ii. Thank you to everyone who was at the Town Hall last night.
    1. At the next town hall, we would like a larger crowd. Please bring friends. The next topic is on mental health. Please attend. This will be in October during Mental Health Awareness week.
  - iii. Financial literacy
    1. Currently working on getting a financial literacy program for students.
    2. If you have any specific feelings about this, please contact Nancy J. with your comment, questions, and concerns.
  - iv. Coffee cart survey
    1. There will be a formal survey happening soon within the next two weeks.
- c. Mr. Juan Rangel, Chief of Staff
  - i. The constitution has been updated.
    1. Once the Freshman Class President has been elected, there will be more updates.

#### III. Approvals

- a. Sophomore Class Advisor, Hugh Phelan
    - i. Introduced by Jake Greffenstette, Sophomore Class President.
    - ii. Nancy J. asked what "Machiavellian Charm" meant in the letter.
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1. Hugh P. did not know.
- iii. Juan Jose Daboub motioned to approve, Toni seconded.
  1. Hugh P. was approved by unanimous hand vote.
- b. Election Committee Members
  - i. Presented by Michael M.
    1. Juan Jose D. asked that since one of the members was from Dillon hall, that being from Alumni would there be any bias.
      - a. Michael M. said no.
    2. Kyle McCaffery asked why there was only one senior.
      - a. No juniors or seniors applied, as addressed by Michael.
    3. Nancy J. asked is there a reason the committee is so young?
      - a. Michael M. said it is hard for juniors to do this with study abroad.
  - ii. Juan Jose D. motioned to vote, Sarah Price seconded.
    1. Approved by unanimous hand vote.

#### IV. General Orders

- a. Sexual Assault on Campus
  - i. Nancy J. addressed that it is an issue that we have had several emails have gone out because there have been several cases in these few short beginning weeks.
    1. The culture should be addressed here on campus, is it not being taken seriously? People seem to not take the emails seriously.
  - ii. Kyle M. has heard responses from his friends, and has questioned the emails.
    1. He wonders what the purpose of those emails are, if we know that we can facilitate a better conversation on campus.
      - a. Nancy J. understands that the email's purpose is to make students aware. She addressed that the emails also are supposed to keep at the front of people's minds.
  - iii. Erin Killmurray said that at the Safety Summit, they gave tips to prevent sexual assault. She suggested that these tips be present in the email.
  - iv. Lisa Wuertz said that because of forcible fondling, the effect of the details could be lost.
    1. Nancy J. said this is very concerning, especially in the case of attempted rape.
  - v. Emma Herihly mentioned that her friend from Saint Mary's was given much more detail in the automatic email she received.
  - vi. Maggie Armstrong brought up that the format is the same for each email, which could desensitize students.
  - vii. Rohan Andresen was wondering what the students should be doing instead of just deleting the email.
    1. Nancy J. is confused as to why people reserve their spot in the dining hall and would be affronted if their wallet was stolen, yet there is no discussion on things like this.

2. Rohan A. thinks that maybe a prayer could be included for the person.
- viii. Michael M. brought up that emails are so commonplace, and that if a different way could be done, that may help.
- ix. Sarah P. noticed the girls in the dorm definitely noticed the new wording, and saw that there actually was an attempted rape and there was serious discussion about this.
  1. She also works at Legends until late hours, and has taken up boxing for self defense. She believes women's self defense is very important, because students have a complacency and forget bad things can still happen here.
- x. Margot Hughan is wondering if there is any avenue for someone to share what happened, optional.
- xi. Zach Waterson believes it is somewhat odd that they include some context, which could create a feel of paranoia or anxiety.
- xii. Olivia LaMagna believes that what Sarah P. said about defending yourself is important, but believes what Michael M. said is also important. It is implied in all of the FroshO talks that it isn't us assaulting people, we protect people. But, it is us assaulting people, which needs to be prevented and addressed.
- xiii. Sarah P. thinks for bigger situations that they do know there is a place to turn, but for smaller situations girls may not know where to turn.
- xiv. Juan Jose D. disagrees with Zach W. in that he does think that if the dorm is put on there, it could cause some positive social shaming. The guys will talk amongst themselves, the rector will talk to the boys, and the girls will not go to the dorm, and it would be a good lesson for the boys.
- xv. Erin K. brought up that NDSP does offer self defense courses, which girls please share with your dorm.
  1. Also, giving dorms a negative persona can be unwarranted, and is unfair if one man did something bad that the whole dorm should be socially stigmatized.
- xvi. Christin Pacifico brought up that people are unsure how to respond, and is it policy to send these out? What should we be doing as students when we receive these emails?
  1. Nancy J. said it serves as a reminder that this does happen on our campus, between people who know each other and are friends even. This is a reminder to be careful; there are also emails sent about occurrences off campus.
  2. It is federal law that these updates must be sent.
- xvii. Maggie Armstrong brought up that there is a production on campus called Loyal Daughters and Songs put on by the gender relations group on campus. These are a series of skits put on by people who have experienced sexual assault. There have not been many people who have

gone to this production, and she would like to see a campus in which everyone who goes here. She would like to see it in the fall, because people are most susceptible to sexual assault August through November. The skirts make it much less commonplace.

- xviii. Kaitlyn brought up that since it is an allegation, it cannot have the information details.
  - xix. Casey Skevington believes that it is very easy to miss the emails. In Farley, on the main door these emails are placed, which gives a visual.
  - xx. Kyle M. read an article in the Irish Rover by Michael Bradley, in which the author pointed out there are these sexual assaults and that they usually involve alcohol and usually involve someone you know. This could indicate that there isn't this perpetrator that is out there beforehand, but there is a series of events that leads to a miscommunication, most likely because of the drinking and hook-up culture. The sexual assault occurs when one person says no, verbal or otherwise. He would like to know how to address that it can occur and be consensual, but it can also occur and not be. Can we eliminate one half of that without addressing the whole deal?
  - xxi. Rohan A. was talking to Monica Daegele about how Yale and how they deal with this, and he saw that they did not. He thinks that it would be meaningful to see if there could be a follow up with what happened to the accused. He thinks it would be good for people to see that justice did happen, and it was not just an email, and remind people that it is a real thing.
  - xxii. Philip Krebs asked how Notre Dame compares to other universities with sexual assault?
    1. Monica Daegele answered that last year there were 17 or 18 cases brought to what used to be ResLife, which she thinks is high.
    2. Kyle McCaffery brought up that it is higher at other schools, because our school is smaller.
    3. Nancy J. addresses that many cases go unreported. Monica D. said that actually most go unreported. Nancy J. would also like to challenge us do we care how we compare to other schools? At the end of the day, Notre Dame is supposed to be different. 17 cases is 17 too many.
      - a. Maggie A. said that even 1 case is 1 too many. Only 10 percent of cases go unreported. So, if about 20 are reported, it is really more like 200 here.
      - b. Dottie Schlueter would like to communicate to the student body that sexual assault is just unacceptable.
    4. Alex Coccia said that we can see what other schools are doing in response.
  - xxiii. Juan Jose D. asked Monica D. how do we know these cases go unreported?
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1. Monica D. said that these statistics are from the government, and from official surveys.
  2. Nancy J. asked the senators to raise their hands if they knew someone who had been assaulted and not reported.
    - a. Majority raised their hands.
- xxiv. Robert Pak brought up that there is an issue if people are going to parties and expecting no risk.
- xxv. Michael Lindt would like to have some sort of responsible drinking education. Tell people that getting extremely intoxicated is not okay.
- xxvi. Sophie Manley brought up that if reporting this is an extreme, there is a problem. It should be a norm to report this.
- xxvii. Maggie A. believes that being an active bystander is important. Approaching the situation from both ends is a good idea.
- xxviii. Meghan Gallagher thinks making it more approachable to report it, and to not be afraid if they were drinking.
- xxix. Matt Munhall brought up many people do not want to get in trouble with parietals or other things.
- xxx. Nancy J. had the senate raise their hands again.
  1. She said that she has been to parties, and would not like to come across as judgmental, and to frame this issue in a judgmental way is not okay. This issue needs to be reframed. We as student leaders need to think of this as the Notre Dame family. It would crush your friend if something like this happened to them, guy or girl. These are friends, these are the people we live with and go to class with. Unfortunately, because of the lack of detail or culture on our campus, they have gone faceless. As a campus, how do we put a face to this and make it personal? Please give this some extra thought. To the males, please don't feel attacked in any way. But when we talk about this, she thinks of her best guy friends and how awful that would be. This is just as serious for guys as it is girls. Please follow up with anyone on cabinet about this. She hopes that we will do something about this.

**V. New Business**

- a. There was no new business.

**VI. Announcements**

- a. Michael Lindt announced that the Fisher roof sit game is going on the weekend of the Michigan State game, this is going to the Brother Andre house. A spike ball tournament is also being held.
  - b. Alex C. asked the senators to please take two posters.
  - c. Sarah P. announced that the Great Gatsby dance is this Friday, it is going to be extremely fun and extravagant. There are several surprises for the night, dress accordingly.
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- d. Toni Schreier asked to have the academic commissioner's emails from the senators, as well as the social concerns commissioners.
- e. Robert Pak announced that the Duncan Classics is coming up this fall.
- f. Rohan A. asked where the Andre House.
  - i. It is the one in Pheonix, Arizona.
- g. Michael L. announced 226 days until the Fisher Regatta.

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Without objection, *the 11 SEPTEMBER 2013 Senate meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandria Chloe Wellman  
Student Union Secretary