

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

DATE: 25 SEPTEMBER 2013

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- a. Nancy Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- b. CONNER COLE led the invocation.
- c. 5 were absent; 0 were late.
- d. Nancy Joyce entertained any motions to change the 18 SEPTEMBER 2013 executive summary. *The 18 SEPTEMBER 2013 executive summary was approved at 6:04 p.m.*

II. Officer Reports

- a. Mr. Alex Coccia, Student Body President
 - i. He will send out an email for playing for peace on October 12th. This will be a day of service, sports, and networking.
 - ii. There are cab cards available. Senators please take these to your dorms.
- b. Ms. Nancy Joyce, Student Body Vice President
 - i. On Monday, we have an event that Student Government is sponsoring that is about Fr. Hesburgh and his role in the Civil Rights movement. It is free but ticketed, we have tickets for you. We would definitely encourage you to go. Juan has the tickets at his desk, please grab a ticket from Juan.
 - ii. The sexual assault prayer service on Sunday was very successful, thank you for publicizing the event and leading walkovers.
 1. Just to clarify, make sure that anyone who is asking that this was not a spontaneous event. We have been planning this for a while in response to the sexual assaults on campus as a whole. It is a response to all of the emails as a whole, not just the one we received this weekend. This is an ongoing response. This will happen after every single email about sexual assault we receive. If you have any questions, come ask Nancy.
- c. Mr. Juan Rangel, Chief of Staff
 - i. You should all have a new schedule for the meetings, and the FUELers will be joining you now.
 - ii. There will also be a new constitution put in your binders next week.

III. General Orders

- a. Resolution SS 1314-09
 - i. This is a resolution brought by Jacob Stanton but presented by Nancy Joyce. This resolution changes the SUB names to be more consistent. The Art Director is being changed to the Director of Art.
 - ii. Rohan Andresen motioned to vote. Stephen Scobee seconded.
 1. Voted unanimously except for Thomas Rogers who changed his mind and voted yes after Nancy J. explained what the resolution meant again. It passed.
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b. Celebrating Diversity Council

- i. Luis Llanos explained the make up of Diversity Council to the senate.
- ii. There was a short break while the projector was being set up.
 1. It was established that several people in the room had exams this week.
 - a. Juan Jose Daboub rescheduled his finance exam in order to be present at this meeting.
 2. There was good feedback on the sexual assault prayer service.
 - a. Bob Pak said many Duncan boys came.
 - b. Olivia LaMagna was very pleased that it was even with men and women attending.
 - c. Carolina Wilson thought Fr. Pete did a great job. Will he be doing all of them.
 - i. Unfortunately, no, Nancy J. said. Moving forward, it will be a very student led prayer service.
 - d. Christin Pacifico brought it up at HPC and said there was much positive feedback about this initiative with it at HPC.
 - i. In the future, Nancy would like a partnership with HPC in order to spread the details about the prayer services.
 - e. Nancy J. and Alex C. are open to feedback about this, and would love for you to come talk to them.
 3. Jose D. asked when Nancy J. would be baking cookies for the senate. Nancy J. brought to the table different types of cookies to vote on.
 - a. Kyle McCaffery motioned to vote.
 - i. It was not seconded. Rohan A. motioned to discuss and it was seconded.
 1. The senate agreed to pool money in order to pay Nancy J. for the cookies that would be baked.
 2. Juan Jose D. votes for whatever is easiest for Nancy to bake.
- iii. Carolina Ramirez, the Student Government Liason to Diversity Council presented.
 1. The topic today is diversity.
 - a. It can be an uncomfortable topic, but she would like to challenge us to talk about it openly as student leaders.
 - b. The main type of diversity that was focused on was racial diversity.
 - c. Diversity is very important, it brings a variety and richness to our culture. It is an important part in social and professional life.

- i. We have all been discriminated against in some way. Think about whether or not diversity is an issue on Notre Dame's campus.
 - 1. Notre Dame has taken many steps to improve diversity on campus. They have improved RA and Rector training.
 - a. The new video was shown. It is from the Call to Action town hall. This particular segment is from dorm life. We have all lived in a dorm at some point, and we should all feel safe and happy in that community. If that community is tarnished, it is not a good thing. The people in this video are your brothers and sisters, teammates and classmates.
 - i. Students in this video talked about their experiences with discrimination and race at Notre Dame.
 - d. Carolina asked for reactions to the video.
 - i. This video is from two springs ago.
 - e. The senate was split into groups of 5 or 6 to discuss the following questions:
 - i. What have your personal experiences on campus been? Have you ever encountered an issue of diversity, or witness discrimination?
 - ii. What do you think are the best ways to respond to discrimination as students?
 - iii. In a similar situation, is there anything that you wish could be handled differently by hall staff, professors, coaches, or other authority figures?
 - iv. It was then asked of the senate to talk about what they discussed.
 - 1. Nancy J. brought up that the problem may not be that the students are explicitly racist, it is the small, subtle things. These subtle, structural issues are harder to address.
 - 2. Erin Killmurray was very surprised about how the RAs and Rectors in the videos were handling it. As leaders, it is our responsibility.
 - 3. Kyle M. said that they talked about working from both sides. They should understand
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the stereotypes, some people do not understand the cultural types but it is also wrong to assume someone is a certain race. Working to educate on both sides without jumping to blaming would be a good idea.

4. Carolina Wilson thought it would be a good thing to open conversation about this. It is difficult to not feel offended, but it is also important to educate each other about what we feel and about each other's culture.
 5. Michael Masi brought up that there is a lot on campus that is validated and what is invalidated in daily actions. During move in, saying is that all you brought. Do we ignore sexual orientation? How can we get into validate people. Saying to a Katie that half of the people on this campus are named Katie is probably not nice. In the video, the girl who said "all you people who are half British or Irish", does that invalidate everyone who is not?
 6. Olivia LaMagna brought up that these can be opportunities to educate, not just feel hurt.
 7. Luis L. said that it isn't just about bringing more people of color into the school. It is about bringing people of different backgrounds together. He encourages people to go and learn people's stories. What else is going on besides your small or big town? There may be someone from a low socioeconomic class that you didn't even know about. There are some incredible stories walking around this campus.
 8. Christin P. is a tour guide and says there are people from every 50 states. There are people geographically from the same place, but everyone has their own story.
 9. Kyle M. had a conversation earlier in the week, and Christin had a good point. Taking an extra five minutes is a good thing. It is not about Caucasians reaching out to
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Hispanics or something like that. It is about on a personal level each person needs to reach out and be friends with the person next to them. This is on a more personal level, a smaller level, not a macro level.

10. Rohan A. brought up that there is a double standard with race. Last night in his room, there were a few African Americans yelling down the hall who were saying things that could be insulting to other groups. No matter who is saying it, it is not right.

11. Juan Jose D thinks that some people need to grow a thicker skin and move on. He is from El Salvador. Take it like a man.

a. Bob Pak slightly agrees with this. He has shrugged off negative Asian comments before.

b. Rohan A. said that as a minority, he thinks that he can take his own fights and sees the oversensitivity issue. He does also see the very real and hateful things that do need to end. You cannot just discount racism by saying man up.

2. Carolina R. thanked everyone for being here, and encouraged people to ask her questions by email in the future.

a. Nancy J. thanked Carolina R.

i. Nancy said how much she appreciated the senate's discussion and how special they are and what positive change they will bring.

IV. New Business

a. There was no new business.

V. Announcements

a. Catherine Kromkowski announced the talk announced earlier by Nancy J. in Washington Hall on Monday at 5:00 pm. There will also be a talk on the library mural. Irish State of Mind week is coming up which is a week dedicated to mental health in October. She would also like to ask the senate if they know a graphic designer.

b. Chas Jhin announced that the Mobile Summit is in three weekends. Muffit McGraw and a few guys who worked on Obama's campaign will be there. There will be a Hack a Thon in two weekends. It is a 24-hour event with free food and caffeine to make an app. There will be money as prizes. You do not need a

technological background to sign up for this. Please put up the posters in your dorm.

- c. Jennifer Sewell announced that there is a free iPhone and droid app from Campus Ministry, please download it. Mr. ND is also coming up for Walsh Hall, boys are needed.
- d. Erin K. shared that this is the first weekend that no houses off campus were visited by the police.
- e. Christin P. helped start a non profit called JIFI. Right now they are looking to take on new staff, so please encourage your friends to apply. The applications close October 11th. There will be an entrepreneurship fair coming up next week.
- f. Stephen Scobee announced that next Friday is the Sorin talent show, come see things that you have never seen before.
- g. Rohan A. announced Carolina W. made the front page of the South Bend Tribute.
- h. Michael Lindt announced that there are 212 days until the Fisher Regatta and that the Fisher Roof Sit was extremely successful.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Without objection, *the 25 SEPTEMBER 2013 Senate meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandria Chloe Wellman
Student Union Secretary
