

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

DATE: 26 MARCH 2014

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- A. Nancy Joyce called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- B. ROHAN A. led the invocation.
- C. 5 were absent; 0 were late.
- D. Nancy Joyce entertained any motions to change the 19 MARCH 2014 executive summary. The 19 MARCH 2014 executive summary was approved as amended at 6:07 p.m.
 - i. Michael M.: Correction on Page 9.

II. Officer Reports

- A. Mr. Alex Coccia, Student Body President
 - i. None
- B. Ms. Nancy Joyce, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Thank you all for making the time to meet every week. There have been many controversial discussions and thank you for having the courage to state your opinion. You all represent a tradition. Thank you all for discussing important things. I've really enjoyed it. I'm really looking forward to seeing what you all will do. On behalf of the entire student body, thank you!
- C. Mr. Juan Rangel, Chief of Staff
 - i. Today, Juan will be typing the minutes as the Student Union Secretary is at physics tutoring. There is a message at the end of the minutes for you to read from Ali after Nancy sends them out.

III. General Orders

- A. Resolution SS1414-22
 - 1. Zach W. motioned to untable resolution, Carolina W. seconded
 - 2. Megan M. made motioned to amend the resolution by changing "ability" to "ability or disability"
 - a. Motion to amend constitutional amendment was passed with 24 in favor
 - 3. Nancy J. reread constitutional amendment as amended.
 - 4. Michael M.: First of all, I absolutely think we should not tolerate discrimination in any form. I think, who are we to prove some human characteristics are more important than others? How are we to say pregnancy and marital status do not matter? What about height and weight? I'm not one to say that one discrimination is more important than

others. My proposed amendment would rid archaic language. It includes “this constitution grants God-given dignity to all. This constitution acknowledges god’s given rights.” It takes it out of our hands. It is more progressive. We should value all life. I believe the Department of Internal Affairs would also support this amendment. If you think we should respect all diversity, you should vote on my amendment. If, however, nobody would like to take this, what does the new administration believe on this? Do we want our last meeting to be divisive?

5. Olivia L.: Michael voiced a lot of my concerns when the resolution for first proposed. I think these are phenomenal additions, but what are we leaving off. I had a lot of discussions with a lot of people. I hope people keep an open mind. And this it is a well written amendment.
6. Alex C.: We clearly agree on the goal. What I say is that we need to look at the examples like what was happening at Texas A&M. It was just and right for them to do that. We have the statement of inclusion already, but it still took us 25 years to pass a GSA. My concern is that it would leave it up for interpretation because it would leave up for an ethics committee to decide.
7. Connor C.: What about an amendment that would add any other forms of discrimination at the end of the list?
8. Kyle M: We should be cautious of repetition. “Or any other characteristic” would make it redundant. We don’t need to add that all inclusive at the end, because it is there already.
9. Carolina W.: I want to talk of my experiences this past week. The best thing for me to do after reading the proposed resolution would be talk to the seniors I represent. I don’t want to disclose names, but I talked to many and received emails from people I had never met before. But I printed the emails that asked me to approve this specific language. People who were LGBTQ. “I ask you to pass this amendment for a clear message.” I think the fact that these groups reached out to me shows how important this is for them.
10. Jake G.: I like Connor’s idea.
11. Connor C.: I think my idea is a good compromise between the two opposing opinions.
12. Danny C.: The constitution already makes it clear that we don’t tolerate any form of discrimination.
13. Rohan A.: I just want to call your attention to another part of the section of this part of the Constitution. “Friendship” was in the original one. Why was that kept? It was really ambiguous. People could be forced to be friends. Roommate situations could be one example.
 - a. Alex: This is not one of the things we considered.
14. Rohan: Made motion to eliminate “friendship”.

- a. Juan D. motion to vote, 2nd by Phil K.
 - b. Motion passed with 17 in favor.
15. Danny C.: The conversation at my department was unanimous. This was not an appropriate amendment. We had a long conversation on this. It was pretty evident that it deserves more time.
- a. Michael L.: Do you mean you voted on the entire resolution or the new amendment?
 - b. Danny: We didn't discuss Michael's proposed resolution?
16. Rohan: What is the opinion of the new administration?
- a. Lauren Vidal: We would like to research what other institutions are doing. We understand that we may be excluding. We need to see how our university compares.
17. Michael M.: It means a lot to me as a person. It strikes me in my core. As an unidentified minority, I know what it feels like.
18. Juan R.: I thought it would be a good idea to add this specific language after talking to multiple students applying to the University, many of them accepted, who were undocumented. They are excited that the University changed their policy but we are still seen anti-immigrant because we were one of the last ones to do so compared to other universities. If we don't pass this, this is another indication that we are still hesitant to include them within our student body.
- a. Michael Murphy: Do you know how they feel about an amendment like Michael's?
 - b. Juan R.: No I don't. But it makes it open for interpretation.
19. Meghan M.: Michael, what part don't you feel part of?
- a. Michael M.: I would rather feel a part of the entire person, not be identified by only one part of me. We don't tolerate any acts of unjust discrimination. We don't have to specify. It should be an overarching theme.
 - b. Tom R.: Did you ask students about overarching language?
 - c. Meghan M.: I got emails from people asking for specific the language.
 - d. Michael M. I didn't share my proposed amendment to any other group.
20. Melissa K.: I would like to take the new amendment back to my hall.
21. Erin K.: When I started thinking about it, I realized we have the same goals. This should be postponed. This should not be

rush. I would feel excluded if I saw the list but my group wasn't in the list.

22. Kyle M.: I urge we table this and pass this to the new administration. Can I call attention to Resolution SS1314- 08 to call attention to sexual assault cases. Considering it and considering our role, we need to encourage the new administration to take it up. Alex and Juan want inclusion and we want to ensure that the people coming to our university are not discriminated. Juan brought up undocumented students and their hesitancy they have of coming to our university. Is it best to begin by changing our non-discrimination clause? I think we need to have this conversation.
23. Dottie S.: I support everything Kyle just said. Some people want some this but actions will speak louder than words. This non-discrimination clause won't do much.
 - a. Nancy: Clarification on whether this was a motion and a second.
 - b. Kyle M. and Dottie S.: It was not.
24. Carolina W.: I agree with Dottie, but why do we need to table this? People here are hurt. This has been here forever. We need to take the first step now. Is this an effective way? People have told me it is. It would impact them and their group that we make this decision today.
25. Alex C.: I would agree with Carolina. What you have power is in this amendment today. It is an action and I urge you to have a conversation about it.
26. Nancy J.: I have refrained from speaking so far but I do want to mention one thing. I would caution you, just because you are unfamiliar, doesn't mean that people have not been working hard on this. I hope you don't think there hasn't been a lot of research and time put into this resolution.
27. Olivia L.: I'm confident that this is something the administration has been working on. Amending it now is important. We shouldn't be putting it off to the new administration.
28. Michael M.: I think action should be taken and be more bold. We need to be inclusive to everyone. I truly believe the language I propose would encompass everyone. I would really like to see somebody propose my amendment. Either debate it or even voted on.
29. Michael L.: If it is tabled today, would it have to be brought forward completely new?
 - a. Nancy J.: Yes
 - b. Michael L.: When this was brought forward last time, we wanted a longer list. We have changed the conversation

tonight. I don't feel comfortable enough without bringing the new idea to my dorm. It needs to be brought to our constituents.

30. Zach W.: There is no limit to how many constitutional amendments we have. The student body at large is not analyzing the clause as we are. The student body will view this as an expansion. If Matt and Lauren want to take further steps, that's great.
31. Jake G: I was going to say the same thing. Zach is being widely reasonable. The next administration could consider the new idea.
32. Sarah P.: I have talked to my constituents. It is an action right now that we can take. We are running out of time. We are very passionate about what the resolution says. Students believe there is a great sense of inclusion but it is not listed. I talked to an undocumented student at another university and he said this would be very important for us to do. I want to reiterate that this is a really important issue. We would be sending a clear message to all students and I think it is something that a lot of people would view to be a positive one.
33. Bob P.: We are still talking about the resolution? No motion has been made, correct?
 - a. Nancy J.: Yes.
 - b. Bob P.: Would anybody be in favor of closing the meeting?
 - c. Bob P. made a motion to close the meeting.
 - d. Katie M.: Why?
 - a. Bob P.: This would be a lot easier to discuss if it was just voting members of senate.
 - e. Nobody seconded the motion and the motion failed.
34. Juan D.: Glad to be back during an important discussion. The list that has been proposed is very important. I just got my green card and social security number. I am more susceptible to identity fraud. When I came to ND, I found the community to be welcoming. If we start making division within the student body instead of making a cohesive student body, we would have people identify themselves by labels. I feel that would add to the complications and any kind of divisions that would be wrong. We want everyone to feel welcomed.
35. Andrew G.: I just want to say that I think that the amendment as it stands now is lacking. But if we don't pass this, it would be a failure on our side.
36. Kyle M.: There are two groups: one says that groups that are discriminated against need to know they are going to be discriminated and the other says we need to urge inclusivity. I want to make sure we aren't forcing things on them.

- a. I motion to close debate and urge everyone to vote in favor of this amendment.
 - a. Rohan, 2nd.
 - b. Motion passed by 24 votes.
- 37. Kyle M. motioned to vote, Rohan A. 2nd.
 - a. Rohan A. requested a private vote.
 - b. Nancy J.: I'm going to say no.
 - c. Michael M.: A senator should have a right to vote like they wish to do so.
 - a. Nancy J.: As chair, I have prerogative.
 - d. Danny C.: Point of Order.
- 38. Break for pizza
- 39. Nancy affirms public vote. Resolution was passed by a vote of 23 in favor, 3 against, and 3 abstaining.
 - B. Resolution SS1314-23
 - 1. Michael L. presented the resolution.
 - 2. Kyle M.: Lyons Hall has faculty and changes the experience for the better. O'Neill will have one.
 - 3. Michael L. explained the "Resolved" clauses as well as the Enclosure Proposal (identification, distribution, and organization). Faculty Fellows was a thing of the past but it has fallen through the holes so we hope somebody in each dorm would be responsible for it.
 - 4. Rohan 1st, Erin 2nd.
 - a. Resolution passed unanimously.
 - C. Assistant Student Union Treasurers Approval
 - i. Kristen P. presented Janie Goodsen and Joe Schneider.
 - ii. Angel Z. endorses Joe and Rohan A. endorses Janie.
 - iii. Erin K motioned to vote. Nominations were approved.
 - D. Irish Gardens Manager Approval.
 - 1. Kristen P. presented Henry Hillstrom. His favorite flower is pommadaisy.
 - i. Kyle M.: Do you have a green thumb? Well, preferably two?
 - i. Henry H.: Yes
 - ii. Cristin P.: If you were going to give a girl a flower, what would it be?
 - i. Henry H.: Depends on situation. If it was a dancem, probably a permadaisy. If it was in IHOP, it would be a yellow rose.
 - iii. Cristin P.: Where are the Irish Gardens?
 - i. Henry H.: In the basement of this building. We get the flowers from northern Europe and a shed next to the airport.
 - iv. Olivia motioned to vote, Erin 2nd it. Henry was approved by the senate.

E. The following awards were discussed amongst the senate. In order to avoid breaches in confidentiality, the winners of the following awards will not be listed. The names of the winners will be released at the Student Leaders Banquet on April 7th.

1. Michael J. Palumbo Award Approval
 - iv. The award was approved.
2. Frank O'Malley Teaching Award
 - i. The award was approved.
3. Irish Clover Award.
 - i. The award was approved.
4. State of the Student Union
 - i. The state of the student union was given by Mr. Alexander F. Coccia, Student Body President
 - i. Attached.

di. New Business

1. Resolution SS1314-24

- i. Rohan A., Kyle M., and Phil K. presented the resolution
- ii. Phil K:
 - i. Concerns: Zahm residents were not asked for input in reconfiguration of dorm halls.
 - ii. Asking: Office of Residence Halls ask for input from residents and that timing of announcement be better
- iii. Kyle M.: Because we know how foundational student living is, there is lack of understanding of how deeply these type of changes impact their residents. Girl dorms are now being reconfigured to take common rooms. For example, Lewis Hall had to fit in Office of Housing. Administration doesn't understand how important common rooms are to residence halls. There was a lack of communication between the two parties and there is a stronger divide between the administration and residents.
- iv. Tom R.: Was the rector aware if changes?
 - i. Phil K.: Our first rector resigned, we had an interim rector, and the new rector was aware but none of the hall staff knew about the changes. He didn't reach out to the residents.
 - ii. Kyle M.: Things like this may happen, but we want an increase of communication between administrators and residents themselves.
- v. Cristin P.: A lot of rector's also aren't pleased with the changes of room changes. For example, this occurred in Badin. A conversation should be had at a larger scale.
- vi. Erin K: Farley has been impacted too. The larger community is impacted with whatever happens in one residence hall.

Some of my best experiences happened in 5-guy rooms in Zahm.

- vii. Michael Murphy: Housing contract has been signed too and I don't think is unfair.
 - i. Kyle M.: We don't want to change any logistics but that this doesn't happy in the future.
- viii. Stephanie K.: This situation is very unique, but sometimes this has to occur after more students are added.
 - i. Rohan A.: Whole idea is for the communication to flow more freely and that in a timely manner. Residence halls should be notified beforehand. More seniors may be pushed off campus by actions like this.
- ix. Alex C.: Will you transition your successors on this?
 - i. Rohan A., Kyle M., Phil K.: Yes.
- x. Kyle M.: The administration doesn't understand that living situations take longer than a 2 week notice could provide.
- xi. Phil K.: The communication doesn't exist between the students and the Office of Housing. Had they talked to Zahm, they would have realized that the common rooms are the heart and soul of the residence hall.
- xii. Olivia motioned to vote. Resolution has passed unanimously.

dii. Announcements

1. Carolina W.: Posters for the official schedule of Senior Week of 2014. Post them in your dorms. Take 2 or 3! Thank you!
2. Cristin P.: Tomorrow at 7pm in DBart 155 info session with Delotte Tech Consultants. There is a trip to Panama. They are raffling Kaplan prep courses at any time for any exam.
 - i. Thanks to senators for spending hours for Hall of the Year Presentations and providing input.
3. Tom R.: Morrissey Beach Party is April 12 at 7-10pm. Lights, DJ, and life guards included.
4. Andrew G.: FCC is hosting two more events. Bonfire tomorrow on Holy Cross Hill. Smores will be provided. An on Friday, there is a dance at 10pm-1am in ballroom. We will be showing March Madness during the dance.
5. Olivia L.: Last apparel sale on April 1. Tell people about it. 100% will go to Real Services to nonprofits in South Bend. Buy even if you aren't in the class.
 - i. Rohan A.: Real Services is great organization in town that lost a lot of money from federal sources.
6. Bob P.: Bald and Beautiful will be occurring soon. Both Bob and Dottie will be cutting their hair. A highlander passed from cancer

and many others are suffering. We need to show solidarity. Duncan Classic on April 9-11. Same days as Bald and Beautiful.

7. Alex C.: Please be quiet for club meeting in the Student Government Office.

8. Stephen S.: What about binders?

i. Nancy J.: You can keep them for memories.

9. Jen S.: List of places of worship off campus. Please replace the old one with this one.

10. Carolina W.: Thanks to Alex, Nancy, and Juan for setting such a great example.

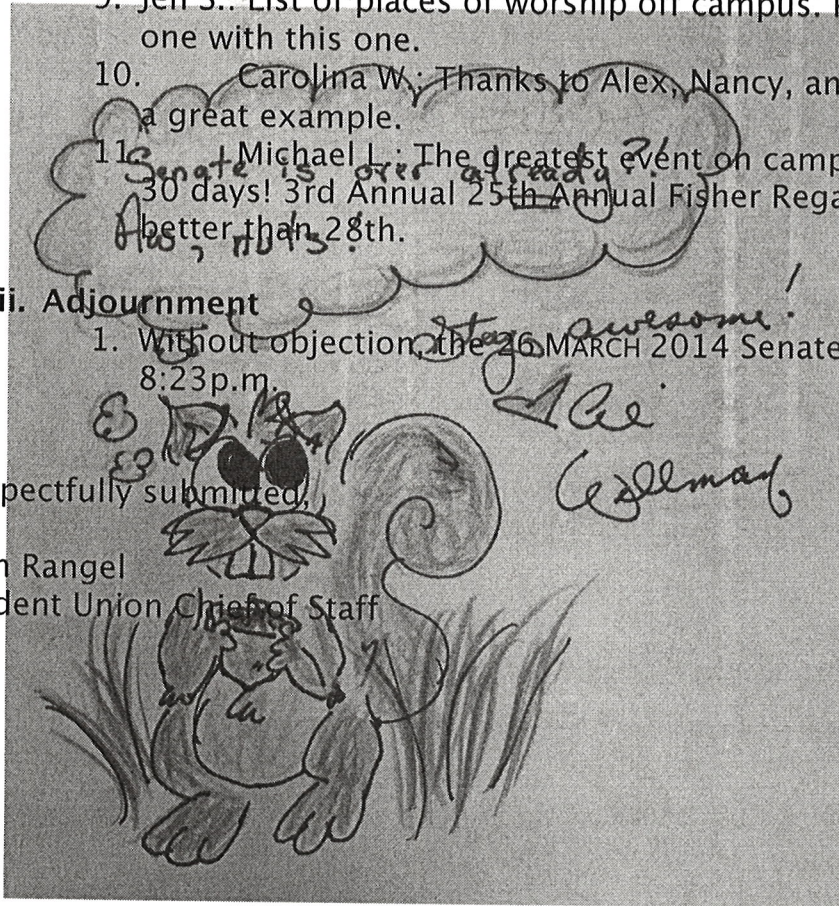
11. Michael L.: The greatest event on campus is coming up soon. 30 days! 3rd Annual 25th Annual Fisher Regatta! 25th sounds better than 28th.

diii. Adjournment

1. Without objection, the 26 MARCH 2014 Senate meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Rangel
Student Union Chief of Staff



Hello dearest senate! It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I must be away from our very last meeting together. I have very much enjoyed your enthusiasm and spirit during my term as secretary, and wish you all the best during the rest of your time at Notre Dame. I have enjoyed getting to know all of you, and please do not hesitate to email me if you need anything, would like to grab coffee or lunch, or to say hello. You are all fabulous people and will go on to do great things!

Best, Ali Wellman ☺