

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- a. Andrew called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.
- b. Andrew led the invocation.
- c. Jack, Ryan, and Professor Gupta were absent; Leslie, Mark, and Marina arrived late.
- d. Andrew entertained a motion to approve the March 31, 2010 executive summary. Matt motioned to approve the summary. Michael Ryan seconded. *The March 31, 2010 executive summary was approved at 6:32 p.m.*
 - i. Matt made a motion to strike Section C of General Orders titled Irish Clover concerning the yet to be given awards.

II. Podium

- a. Swearing-in of President and Vice President
 - i. Marcelo swore in Catherine as Student Body President in accordance with Section 6.7 of the Constitution.
 - ii. Marcelo swore in Andrew as Student Body Vice President in accordance with Section 6.7 of the Constitution.
- b. Swearing-in of Senators
 - i. Andrew swore in the senators in accordance with Section 6.7 of the Constitution.

III. Officer Reports

- a. Ms. Catherine Soler, Student Body President
 - i. Catherine introduced herself and said she looks forward to working with the senators for the year.
- b. Mr. Andrew Bell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Andrew also introduced himself and informed the senators that a workshop will immediately follow the meeting in order to aid in the transition of senators into their roles.
- c. Mr. Nicholas Ruof, Chief of Staff
 - i. Nick introduced himself and the non-voting members of Senate, including Ben Noe as Parliamentarian, Bridget Bredemann as Webmaster, and Kevin Kimberly as Secretary.
 - ii. Pictures of the senators will be taken at the next Senate meeting; be prepared if you so please.
- d. Mr. Brian Coughlin, Student Senate Advisor
 - i. Brian introduced himself as the advisor to Senate on how it operates, not necessarily to participate in the debate or dictate what Senate should do.
 - ii. This is Brian's tenth year of advising Senate, so he's solid.

- e. Mr. Vijay Gupta, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Professor Gupta was not present.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs [Mick Mulhall]
 - i. Mick introduced himself as the proposed chair.
 - ii. The Committee has handled things in the past like the Last Lecture Series, Majors Night, and textbook issues.
 - iii. Mick plans to continue the past initiatives and take up new ones like installing a textbook rental program (possibly through Follett), the revamping of advisors on campus, working on teacher-student relations, and fostering a more academic environment.
 - 1. Competition in the classroom may be something the Committee looks at in order to foster a more academic environment.
 - iv. Kevin motioned to approve Mick; Alex seconded; Mick was approved as the Chair by a voice vote at 6:41pm with no dissent. [applause]
- b. Committee on Campus Technology [Casey Cockerham]
 - i. Casey introduced himself as the proposed chair.
 - ii. The Committee has handled things in the past like the revamping of the LaFortune Computer Cluster and installing printers in all of the dorms.
 - iii. Casey plans to revamp 'agenda.nd.edu' in conjunction with 'The Wall' in LaFortune, make Concourse more user friendly, and improve the accessibility of course registration.
 - iv. Alex motioned to approve Casey; Julie seconded; Casey was approved as the Chair by a voice vote at 6:43pm with no dissent. [applause]
- c. Committee on Community Relations [Claire Sokas]
 - i. Claire introduced herself as the proposed chair.
 - ii. The goal of the Committee is to further the relationship between the South Bend community and the Notre Dame community through student and community leaders.
 - iii. The Committee will plan its usual events like the Freshman Bus Tour, Community Summit, and CommUniversity Day, and work on providing more community-based learning and internships for students.
 - iv. Erinn motioned to approve Claire; Jessica seconded; Claire was approved as the Chair by a voice vote at 6:45pm with no dissent. [applause]
- d. Committee on Gender Issues [Mariah McGrogan and Timothy Castellini]
 - i. Mariah introduced herself as the proposed co-chair.
 - ii. Mariah said the Committee works closely with the Gender Relations Center, Core Council, and Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association.
 - iii. Mariah said the Committee has taken up initiatives like planning Eating Disorder and Body Image Week and Stand Against Hate Week, and representing the voice of students in regards to gender and sexuality issues.
 - 1. Mariah wants to make these weeks more campus friendly.

- iv. Tim introduced himself as the other proposed co-chair.
- v. Tim mentioned that his goal was to make the issues more mainstream on campus so that students can feel comfortable talking about them.
- vi. Michael Ryan motioned to approve Tim; Erin seconded; Tim was approved as the Co-chair by a voice vote at 6:47pm with no dissent. [applause]
- vii. Tierney motioned to approve Mariah; Marina seconded; Mariah was approved as the Co-chair by a voice vote at 6:48pm with no dissent. [applause]
- e. Committee on Multicultural Affairs [Brigitte Githinji]
 - i. Brigitte introduced herself as the proposed chair.
 - ii. The Committee is in charge of serving the needs of the ethnically and racially marginalized on campus and promote multicultural events on campus.
 - iii. The Committee has handled issues and projects in the past like cultural competency, the International Showcase, creation of a Diversity Certificate, and orientation for prospective and incoming students.
 - iv. Brigitte plans to continue these things while making the issue of diversity a more comfortable one at Notre Dame.
 - 1. This could be done by reforming Diversity Council to make it a more inclusive body.
 - v. John motioned to approve Brigitte; Mark seconded; Brigitte was approved as the Chair by a voice vote at 6:50pm with no dissent. [applause]
- f. Committee on Oversight [Paige Becker]
 - i. Paige introduced herself as the proposed chair.
 - ii. The two main purposes of Oversight are to uphold the Constitution and advance the efficient operation of the Student Union.
 - iii. Paige plans to continue previous projects like the Strategic Plan that outlines goals and initiatives of the past, present, and future, organizing archives, and revising the Constitution.
 - iv. A goal of this year's Committee will be to make the Constitution more accessible to students.
 - v. Brigitte asked if anyone could amend the Constitution to which Paige responded that anyone can work with the Committee to do so.
 - vi. Mick asked Paige how she landed the internship with John Boehner and she responded that she has connections.
 - vii. Alex motioned to approve Paige; Kelsey seconded; Paige was approved as the Chair by a voice vote at 6:53pm with no dissent. [applause]
- g. Committee on Residence Life [Matthew High]
 - i. Matt introduced himself as the proposed chair.
 - ii. The Committee has worked on things in the past like establishing a medical amnesty policy, rector-student relations in dorms, and obtaining

- little things like fixing lights, mints in the dining halls, and benches on Main Circle.
- iii. This year, the Committee will continue to work on the medical amnesty policy and rector-student relations in the dorms, as well as improving the new hot Grab 'N Go options and getting lights on McGlinn Fields.
 - iv. Chase asked if Matt has anything to do with the letters sent to those who have too much fun on the weekend to which Matt responded that he is not that 'Res Life.'
 - v. Ellen motioned to approve Matt; Michael seconded; Matt was approved as the Chair by a voice vote at 6:55pm with only Matt himself abstaining. [applause]
- h. Committee on Social Concerns [Patrick McCormick]
- i. Patrick introduced himself as the proposed chair.
 - ii. Patrick's view of the Committee is that it connects the part of the Notre Dame Mission Statement that learning should become justice directly to the students.
 - iii. The big goal of the Committee last year was to implement the Global Water Initiative, which was highly successful.
 - iv. This year, the Committee will focus on The Hunger Initiative, sustainability, homelessness and education in the community, and any other issues that come up during the year.
 - 1. Pat also wants to see Student Government and the Committee serve as a leverage for job creation in the community.
 - v. Claire asked Patrick if there were any things the Committee was working on at the time to which Patrick responded that CommUniversity Day was coming up, today being the last day to sign up. (i.e. a shameless plug)
 - vi. Erin motioned to approve Patrick; Leslie seconded; Patrick was approved as Chair by a voice vote at 6:58pm with no dissent. [applause]
- i. Committee on University Affairs [Chase Riddle]
- i. Chase introduced himself as the proposed chair.
 - ii. The Committee played a big role in establishing the TRANSPO Midnight Express last year and dealt with other things like fixing O'Shag's clock.
 - 1. Chase passed around TRANSPO Midnight route cards.
 - iii. The Committee will continue to make its mark in whatever way it can because it takes care of all other concerns that kind of drop off the map.
 - iv. Mick was confused about the difference between the Residential Life and University Affairs Committees, but Catherine mentioned that there are clear distinctions in that the latter deals with the catch-all issues.
 - 1. Other future initiatives include planners for the Student Body and revamping the DeBartolo Lounge.
 - v. Matt asked if Chase would be continuing the University Affairs award and Chase said he plans to continue it and the competition in a new way.
 - vi. Luke motioned to approve Chase; Tegan seconded; Chase was approved as Chair by a voice vote at 7:04pm with no dissent. [applause]

- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Off Campus Concerns [Emily LeStrange]
 - i. Andrew directed the senators to the Executive Order from Catherine on creating this ad hoc committee to address major concerns about off campus issues.
 - ii. Emily introduced herself as the proposed chair.
 - iii. The Committee will focus on issues pertinent to off campus communities including continuing and improving the new TRANSP0 route, implementing an off campus meal and discount program, and creating a Good Neighbor Series to help promote relations between students and their neighbors.
 - iv. The Committee will also work on updating and improving the newly created 'offcampus.nd.edu' site and installing a traffic light on the corner of Twyckenham Drive and Vaness Street.
 - v. Tegan motioned to approve Emily; Tom seconded; Emily was approved as Chair by a voice vote at 7:07pm with no dissent. [applause]

V. General Orders

- a. Confirmation of Nominees for Senate Committee Chairs
 - i. The confirmations were done in conjunction with committee reports.
- b. SS1011-01 – Bestowing Emeritus Status on Mr. Grant Schmidt [Oversight]
 - General Questions*
 - i. Daniel asked why emeritus status exists and Andrew said it is more so a tradition and a formal way to recognize the work previous leaders put in.
 - ii. Kevin asked who else gets emeritus status and Andrew said the President, Vice President, and Chief of Staff formally do via resolutions.
 - Grammatical Changes*
 - i. Andrew asked for any grammatical changes but there were none.
 - Debate/Discussion*
 - i. Paige mentioned that Grant did a great job at making Student Government visible to the students and therefore more effective.
 - Voting*
 - i. Jessica motioned to proceed to voting; Pat seconded.
 - ii. By a voice vote with no dissent, the resolution passed at 7:12pm. [applause]
- c. SS1011-02 – Bestowing Emeritus Status on Ms. Cynthia Weber [Oversight]
 - General Questions*
 - i. There were no questions.
 - Grammatical Changes*
 - i. Matt requested to change the period at the end of the fifth whereas clause to a semicolon; this was changed with no dissent.
 - Debate/Discussion*
 - i. Bridget spoke on behalf of Cynthia saying that she went above and beyond her job as Vice President and worked well with the numerous issues that came up in Senate.

Voting

- i. Alex motioned to proceed to voting; John seconded.
 - ii. By a voice vote with no dissent, the resolution passed at 7:14pm.
[applause]
- d. SS1011-03 – Bestowing Emeritus Status on Mr. Ryan Brellenthin [Oversight]

General Questions

- i. There were no questions.

Grammatical Changes

- i. Matt requested to change SS1010 in the top right corner of the header to SS1011; this was changed with no dissent.

Debate/Discussion

- i. Chase mentioned how effective Ryan was last year at giving students a voice and how hard of a worker he was.
- ii. Patrick echoed Chase's thoughts and said Ryan is a perfect example of the servant leader.

Voting

- i. Tegan motioned to proceed to voting; John seconded.
 - ii. By a voice vote with no dissent, the resolution passed at 7:17pm.
[applause]
- e. Approval of Senate Bylaws
- i. Andrew directed the senators to the bylaws for the year and explained these are the general rules for the year.
 - ii. Michael motioned to approve the bylaws; Ellen seconded.
 - iii. By a voice vote with no dissent, the bylaws were approved at 7:19pm.
- f. Introduction and Nominations for Elected Senate Liaison Positions
- i. Andrew mentioned the different agencies that Senate sends representatives to and their functions and duties -- Financial Management Board, Campus Life Council, Council of Representatives, Judicial Council Executive Elections Committee.
 - ii. Andrew asked the senators to review the positions before the next meeting to see if they are interested in running for any of them.
 - iii. Andrew tabled the nominations for the positions to the beginning of the next Senate meeting.
- g. Solicitation of Senators' Committee Preferences
- i. Andrew asked each senator to list their top four committee preferences.

VI. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

VII. Announcements

- a. Catherine passed around posters for April Awareness Month on the big three service events of the month and for the Bald and the Beautiful event that Student Government is promoting.

- b. Mariah passed around flyers on violence prevention and a literary contest on the topic, the Gender Relations Center talking series on sexuality, and a clothesline project on sexual assault; she also passed around posters concerning a six-speaker panel on homosexuality at Notre Dame in conjunction with Stand Against Hate Week that will be on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7pm in the Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library.
- c. Catherine also announced the annual Team ND retreat set for August 18 – August 20, 2010 for all incoming leaders.
- d. Nick informed the senators that it is important to take all of these events and announcements back to their hall government meetings.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Andrew asked the senators for a voice vote to adjourn. *The April 7, 2010 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Kimberly
Student Body Secretary

