

## NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

### Executive Summary

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

#### I. Opening Business

- a. Andrew called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- b. Alex led the invocation.
- c. Ryan and Tommy were absent; AJ, Mariah, and Nick were late.
- d. Andrew entertained any motions to change the minutes. *Without objection, the September 29, 2010 executive summary was approved at 6:06 p.m.*

#### II. Officer Reports

- a. Ms. Catherine Soler, Student Body President
  - i. Catherine thanked everyone for helping out at the Stepan Pep Rally; though attendance was disappointing, it was great for the students and the football team.
  - ii. The pep rally this Friday will be at Irish Green and is set to start with a walkover from South Quad at 6pm with a walkover.
  - iii. Catherine emphasized the opportunity to help Father Jenkins out with the collection at the game, per what his recent e-mail said.
  - iv. Next Tuesday at 6pm at the Robinson Community Learning Center, the second Safety Summit will be held.
  - v. Catherine, Andrew, and Nick will be presenting to the Board of Trustees tomorrow (Thursday).
- b. Mr. Andrew Bell, Student Body Vice President
  - i. Andrew wants to make Senate more lively and fun; the structure of the Senate leads to the majority of the work being done in committees, but the point of the large meetings is to take advantage of the time we spend in committees to talk about the issues.
- c. Mr. Nicholas Ruof, Chief of Staff
  - i. Nick had nothing to report.

#### III. Committee Reports

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs [AJ McGauley]
  - i. The first Last Lecture talk is set for October 28 at 7pm in Washington Hall and will be given by Professor Ed Hums of the Accounting Department; it should last about an hour to allow for those wanting to attend the Halloween Dance at 10pm.
- b. Committee on Campus Technology [Casey Cockerham]
  - i. An outreach event for technology earlier in the week went successful, though it might have been a tad awkward at times.

- c. Committee on Community Relations [Claire Sokas]
  - i. The Farmer's Market is tomorrow (Thursday), so please encourage people to attend.
  - ii. Claire is working on establishing some relationship with schools in the community to aid in educational efforts.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues [Mariah McGrogan and Timothy Castellini]
  - i. This week continues Body Image and Eating Disorders Awareness Week, so continue to spread the words about events.
  - ii. Tim is still working with Professor McKenna to organize the first lecture for the series the Committee is going to start.
- e. Committee on Multicultural Affairs [Brigitte Githinji]
  - i. Brigitte said that Father Doyle thought that the Committee should work on advertising diversity events and pushing diversity within the campus more.
    - 1. Brigitte asked for suggestions about how to do this.
  - ii. Multicultural Commissioner Training was held Monday; Brigitte mentioned that participation of the actual Commissioners was not great.
- f. Committee on Oversight [Paige Becker]
  - i. Paige asked everyone to write down on the slip of paper in front of them the things they would like to change about the structure of Student Government, per the homework she assigned last week.
- g. Committee on Residence Life [Matthew High]
  - i. Currently, the Committee is compiling information about ResLife to get a solid base before meeting with them about several concerns.
  - ii. Matt is scheduling a meeting with Food Services to talk about the little things that can change.
    - 1. Tim thought that North Dining Hall not having the grilled chicken strips like South Dining Hall does is a travesty and quite possibly a gender issue though the relationship may be weak.
- h. Committee on Social Concerns [Patrick McCormick]
  - i. The next Pizza, Pop, and Politics event will be held tomorrow (Thursday) in Geddes Hall, so please encourage people to attend.
  - ii. A resolution is on the table concerning the Sudanese situation.
- i. Committee on University Affairs [Chase Riddle]
  - i. The Committee has been working to increase the utilization of the College Readership Program.
  - ii. Chase also met with NDSP officials about the recent issues on campus in the parking lots and dorms as well as the recent issues of getting on campus.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Off Campus Concerns [Emily LeStrange]
  - i. Many businesses have responded to the packets sent out for the upcoming off campus discount program; the website will be live next Monday.

1. Applause was provided for Emily's extremely hard work in getting discounts for Fun Tan.
  - a. Emily then insinuated that Andrew might need a tan, which he could then use the discount towards.
    - i. Tim scolded Emily for criticizing a person recovering from being sick.
  - ii. Emily met with Peggy to start planning for the upcoming lease fair; it is currently set for November 10 from 11am-3pm in the LaFortune Ballroom.
  - iii. Thanks to Tegan's hard work, an order was placed for 1,500 new TRANSPO cards to update the schedules from last year's card.

#### IV. General Orders

- a. SS1011-08: Expressing Support for the Full Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and for Efforts to Secure Sustainable Peace in Sudan

##### *Introduction*

- i. Patrick introduced the resolution saying it was a result of the increased call to draw attention to the current referendum in Sudan; Notre Dame has been specifically asked to also draw attention to this issue of moral significance being such a huge Catholic university.
- ii. A delegation of officials was sent to Notre Dame to talk about the referendum and current situation in Sudan; they felt it was a great opportunity to talk to Notre Dame before they head to the United Nations to talk about the issue more.
- iii. Patrick then talked about the situation more and showed a video that introduced the issue further.
  1. Sudan, the largest African country, is currently deciding whether or not to divide into two countries.
  2. The last time a similar situation occurred in Sudan, millions of lives were lost.
  3. Many think that what could result in Sudan could possibly make Darfur look 'manageable' in a sense.
  4. The issue is not just of human justice but also of security, where chaos in the area could allow terrorist regimes to set up camps in the Sudan area again.
- iv. The point of getting students involved is to encourage them to act on it and put pressure on those who have the opportunity to shape policy in the United States to pay great attention to the situation.
  1. If students take ownership of the issue, students can make a difference and get important officials involved.
  2. Students can stand in solidarity for peace and justice in Sudan.

- v. Patrick mentioned that Father Hesburgh always saw Notre Dame as a place to serve as a lighthouse for moral issues of our generation where we can be called to both help and serve.

#### *General Questions*

- i. Julie mentioned that her dorm seemed supportive of the resolution but was not sure what it was calling for and what would result from it.
  - 1. The point of the resolution is to get students talking about it and continue to spotlight the issue as one of grave importance that could define a generation.
  - 2. The purpose is to do this in an official way as a statement from the student body.
- ii. Jessica asked what it is we are exactly calling for Sudan to.
  - 3. Patrick clarified that Student Government is not officials taking a side on the policy issue but is supporting full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and continuation of the peace between the areas of the country.
  - 4. The resolution is focusing on the issue as one that matters to the students here at Notre Dame.
- iii. Mark asked if the White House has commented on the problems.
  - 5. Patrick said that the President did give a speech recently on the Sudan issue at the UN, but a consistent, ongoing focus on the issue has not been established yet.
- iv. Kelsey asked if anyone would be brought to campus to talk to the students as a whole about the issues so everyone can be informed about the issue and realize what the resolution is really focusing on.
  - 6. Patrick and Mariah have been working on getting Nichola Kristoff to come and talk about the issue as an expert on international development and issues.

#### *Grammatical Changes*

- i. Minor changes to punctuation (addition of and, capitalized letters, semicolon/quote relationship) were made without dissent.
- ii. An addition of a comma to a clause was brought to the table but rejected by a voice vote.

#### *Debate/Discussion*

- i. Mark mentioned that he thought it would be important to emphasize the national security aspects of the issue in Sudan.
- ii. Yiting mentioned that this is a drastically important measure for the Senate to take and will hopefully spark some discussion and education.
- iii. Julie said that when presenting the issue to her dorm at Hall Council, most girls did not know about the issue and were happy that more information was being spread about it.
- iv. Jessica supported it but thought that planning events to spread awareness would be important to continue the conversation.

- v. Erin mentioned that events will be planned by the Committee on Social Concerns for the future.
- vi. Brigitte mentioned that for students to get involved is a huge thing.

*Voting*

- i. By a hand vote of 28-0-0, the resolution passed at 6:50pm. [applause]
- b. Campus Improvements Discussion
- i. Andrew thanked everyone for sending in comments about improving student life at Notre Dame; comments will be taken very seriously and some will be brought up at each Senate meeting.
  - ii. Andrew mentioned Tom's idea of improving ways to let students know about what Student Government actually does for the student body.
    - 1. Erin thought that a lot more people actually want to be involved in Student Government but do not always know how to get involved.
      - a. Erinn thought that this would be especially important for things that were not as accessible to students.
      - b. Daniel also mentioned that informing people about what specific positions do would be important.
    - 2. Brigitte suggested adding more open houses for Student Government besides Student Government 101 and the LaFortune Open House.
    - 3. Casey suggested running a campaign through more effective communication to get students up to the Student Government Office and make Student Government more visible.
    - 4. Claire thought that putting more advertisement out there clarifying things people can directly do to get involved; she suggested putting something on the LaFortune LCD screens.
    - 5. Kevin thought maybe the *Observer* could do a two-part type series about what Student Government is and how people can get involved.
    - 6. Chase suggested using the computer desktop backgrounds in computer clusters to advertise how people can get involved around the times that people can get involved (elections, application deadlines, etc.).
      - a. Emily also thought that the *Observer* and computer desktop backgrounds could advertise what Student Government is actually doing, not just how to get involved.
    - 7. Hallie suggested finding ways to generate more traffic to the website so people can utilize what is there.
    - 8. Hallie mentioned that some girls in her dorm were a little surprised that Student Government was asking for suggestions.
    - 9. Kaitlin and Luke suggested making a video about the structure and different areas of Student Government.

- a. A video was created last year for this exact reason – to introduce freshmen (and others) to the different areas of Student Government; Luke wisely suggested utilizing and advertising the video more.
  - b. Kaitlin suggested that having some footage of meetings might be useful as well.
10. Erinn thought that putting some box like “I wish we had...” on the website to allow students to send suggestions would be good.
11. Casey warned about using e-mail and suggestion boxes for things that students want to change because of the immaturity that people still possess when filling these things out.
- a. Tom also suggested a forum to be held for students to complain and talk about issues on campus if e-mail was not as effective or useful.

**V. New Business**

- a. There was no new business.

**VI. Announcements**

- a. There were no announcements.

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Andrew entertained a motion to adjourn. Kevin moved to adjourn. Michael Ryan seconded. *The October 6, 2010 Senate meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Kimberly  
Student Body Secretary