

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- a. Andrew called the first annual Halloween Senate meeting, in the style of Harry Potter, to order at 6:06 p.m.
- b. Chase led the invocation.
- c. Ben, Conor, Jack, and Matt were absent.
- d. Andrew entertained any motions to change the minutes. *Without objection, the October 13, 2010 executive summary was approved at 6:15 p.m.*

II. Officer Reports

- a. Ms. Catherine Soler, Student Body President
 - i. Nick and Catherine just met with the safety task force from the Northeast Neighborhood; they received feedback and the crime report and are looking for better and more interactive ways to distribute these things to students.
- b. Mr. Andrew Bell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Andrew asked for feedback about the e-mail sent out about Senate; most people agreed that it helped give them some kind of reference for what to talk about during Hall Council meetings.
 - ii. Some of the chairs have mentioned that meeting attendance has decreased; Andrew reminded all senators that these meetings are mandatory and must be attended.
- c. Mr. Nicholas Ruof, Chief of Staff
 - i. Nick will be signing autographs after the meeting, though there is no known reason why anyone would go get one.

III. Committee Reports

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs [AJ McGauley]
 - i. The Last Lecture will be tomorrow (Thursday) at 7pm in Washington Hall; please encourage everyone to attend.
 - ii. AJ and Chase have rescheduled the meeting with the Kaneb Center about utilizing the newspapers provided by the College Readership Program
- b. Committee on Campus Technology [Casey Cockerham]
 - i. Casey is currently working with OIT to fix the PDF printing problem that has come up recently; ~~the problem origin~~
- c. Committee on Community Relations [Claire Sokas]
 - i. Right before Fall Break, Claire met with representatives about taking on Pearly Elementary, which just lost its funding for afterschool programming.

1. The school has asked Notre Dame to staff the program, which includes helping out Monday through Thursday with Kindergarteners through fourth graders from 3-4pm.
 2. If the school can exceed its standards and raise its scores, which is helped by this afterschool program, they will get more funding and some of the taken away funding back.
 3. If anyone is interested, please see Claire; it will begin this upcoming Monday.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues [Mariah McGrogan and Timothy Castellini]
- i. Mariah and Tim reminded everyone to be aware of the heightened risk during Halloween weekend.
 1. CSAP has an ongoing poster campaign about the risks during Halloween season as well.
- e. Committee on Multicultural Affairs [Brigitte Githinji]
- i. The Committee is beginning to lay the foundation for the spring semester lecture series about the importance of diversity post-Notre Dame.
 - ii. There will be a makeup session for the Diversity Commissioners upcoming.
- f. Committee on Oversight [Paige Becker]
- i. The elections amendment is not ready as promised, but there is a meeting with the Committee and officers to hammer out the details forward; it should be on the table next week.
 - ii. The archives project is continuing along, thanks to much work from Kaitlin.
- g. Committee on Residence Life [Matthew High]
- i. Nick reported that reports from students who went through ResLives are being compiled together.
- h. Committee on Social Concerns [Patrick McCormick]
- i. The launch for the Hunger Project went well on Tuesday; the next step is to focus on the Holiday Harvest Drive, starting next week on Monday.
 1. The launch for the Drive as a whole has already occurred, but in regards to Notre Dame, it will begin next week.
 - ii. A 3-on-3 basketball tournament to promote awareness of the Sudan issue is being planned.
 - iii. The University of Portland will be using the resolution passed by the Notre Dame Senate to draft their own one.
- i. Committee on University Affairs [Chase Riddle]
- i. Chase received an e-mail from the lady in charge of interior design at Notre Dame and directed him to the person he should talk (i.e. bureaucracy).
 - ii. The Committee has been helping out with Alcohol Awareness Week and the various events over the next few days; an e-mail will be sent out to everyone to forward to residents in the halls.

- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Off Campus Concerns [Emily LeStrange]
 - i. The lease fair is set for November 11; about thirteen (13) representatives have responded.
 - 1. The Committee is currently looking into creating documents for the fair.
 - ii. Currently, about thirty (30) businesses have signed up for the off-campus discount program.
 - iii. Emily encouraged everyone to continue pushing the late night TRANSPO, as there has been inconsistent usage lately.

IV. General Orders

- a. Discussion of Communication with Students
 - i. Student Government is going to begin focusing on how to better communicate with students.
 - ii. A CLC task force will be forming to address this issue.
 - iii. Andrew asked for suggestions about how communication to students is currently and how it can improve.
 - 1. Alex mentioned that The Week e-mails are not read and usually deleted immediately, e-mails with images and PDFs are ignored, and the best way to write an e-mail is
 - 2. Elizabeth said girls in Welsh Family actually liked The Week e-mails but thought organizing the events by date might be better.
 - 3. Erin also mentioned that most girls liked The Week but thought it could be used more efficiently.
 - 4. Marina said most girls did not read The Week either.
 - 5. Erinn mentioned that more freshmen were interested in The Week than other grade levels.
 - 6. Yting said girls in McGlinn mentioned that putting The Week in the *Observer* might help and would get more viewers.
 - 7. Kevin mentioned that most guys thought the table tents were effective while most posters are overlooked.
 - 8. Erin thought that either way with The Week or several e-mails, people will complain and that some people are just going to not really care about it regardless of how you present the information; several others agreed.
 - 9. Erinn mentioned that electronic boards in the dorms or some other high-tech way to communicate information might be more effective.
 - 10. Tegan mentioned that more effective use of 'calendar.nd.edu' and Google Calendars could help awareness of events.
 - 11. Tommy encouraged more use of Facebook, especially the Notre Dame Student Government page, as a way of sending out events.

- a. Casey thought this would be a good starting point to encourage discussion, where representatives are able to respond directly to students' concerns.
 - b. Catherine also mentioned that Whine Week will be coming up to encourage students to provide complaints and little suggestions.
 - 12. Erin encouraged a better dissemination of how to get involved with Student Government.
 - 13. Brigitte suggested some central place where people can provide their complaints to where it is the known place for students.
 - a. Catherine mentioned that this was the original intent of The Wall, but it is growing gradually.
 - iv. Andrew asked if there were any issues getting the information to other students beyond Hall Council meetings.
 - 1. Tegan said most girls in Cavanaugh liked having announcements come through section and dorm meetings.
- b. Discussion of Potential Changes to Midterms Week
 - i. Typically, programming available to students is usually capped to a minimum during finals week but not necessarily midterms week, even though midterms often count for as much as finals do and include as much work and studying.
 - ii. Andrew asked whether it was worth pursuing a limit to activities during midterms week as there is during finals week.
 - 1. John thought that midterms in general are staggered and allow an easier schedule to fit in other events and activities.
 - 2. Kevin mentioned most guys in Siegfried did not think it was necessary because people set their own study schedules; Alex and the guys in Knott agreed.
 - 3. Leslie mentioned that many professors do not actually schedule midterms and papers during the official midterms week, so it may not help to limit that week's activities itself.
 - 4. AJ mentioned that the schedule of midterms may depend on the college a class is in; Dan agreed and thought reading days make the difference for finals.
 - 5. Tegan mentioned that most clubs and organizations already acknowledge that the week is full of midterms, so there is not much need for a mandated limit.
 - 6. Julie said that girls in PE actually were for a limit on activities during midterms week and were upset that they had to miss out on neat things to study; Erin and girls in BP agreed.
 - 7. Pat brought up that the week of Thanksgiving caused some issues with forfeits in hall sports as well.
 - 8. Hallie thought it might be a good idea to limit certain types of events and activities instead of a comprehensive, overall limit.

9. Marina and Tommy did not think it would be great to note one week as the midterms week of the semester because that brings the assumption that lots of work only occurs on that one week.

V. New Business

- a. Location of The Forum
 - i. Casey wanted to know why the location of The Forum was changed from the JACC to DPAC; being a school-wide event, he thought this defeated the purpose of The Forum itself.
 1. AJ mentioned that the reason given was that in the JACC, people were leaving in big clumps when they had to be somewhere; with the DPAC, the hope is that the people there will not leave since it is a smaller crowd.
 2. AJ said he would let the appropriate people know about the concerns brought up.

VI. Announcements

- a. Ellen announced that Badin would be holding the Badin Art Show next Thursday; applications are available for anyone to enter submissions.
- b. Bridget announced that Harry Potter Night will be November 17 at South Dining Hall; costumes are encouraged.
- c. Yting announced the Halloween Dance tomorrow (Thursday) from 9pm-12am in the LaFortune Ballroom; the dance is only open to freshmen and sophomores.
- d. Catherine encouraged everyone to attend the pep rally on Friday, beginning with the walkover starting at 6:10pm from Main Circle.
 - i. There will be a costume contest, judged by Coach Kelly.
 - ii. There will also be fireworks.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Andrew entertained a motion to adjourn. Dan moved to adjourn. Luke seconded. *The October 27, 2010 Senate meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Kimberly
Student Body Secretary

