

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- a. Andrew called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.
- b. Andrew led the invocation.
- c. Daniel, Kaitlin, and Yiting were absent.
- d. Andrew entertained any motions to change the October 27, 2010 executive summary. *The October 27, 2010 executive summary was approved at 6:16 p.m.*

II. Officer Reports

- a. Ms. Catherine Soler, Student Body President
 - i. CoR has been focusing on improving the Off Campus Council and making more venues available for off campus students to express their opinions; Catherine will keep everyone updated and Ryan Hawley will be bringing an amendment to the table soon concerning the Off Campus Council.
- b. Mr. Andrew Bell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Andrew apologized for starting late.
- c. Mr. Nicholas Ruof, Chief of Staff
 - i. Nick reminded everyone that attendance is extremely important both for Senate meetings and committee meetings; his announcement comes since as of late, senators have not been attending meetings as they should.
 1. There are consequences for a series of unexcused absences that could result in loss of job.
 2. Excused absences for legitimate reasons are okay and should be reported to Andrew or the appropriate committee chair in advance of the absence.

III. General Orders

- a. SS1011-08: Amending Article XIII of the Constitution [Oversight]
 - i. Without objection, this resolution was postponed to a future Senate meeting.

IV. New Business

- a. SS1011-08: Support for the Expansion of the Rent-A-Text Program
Introduction
 - i. Kevin moved to agree to the resolution and bring it to the table; Alex seconded.
 - ii. AJ explained that Student Government is still in the business of trying to make books affordable for students and one of the ways to do this is to expand the Rent-A-Text program.

- iii. This resolution is a pertinent reminder and notice to everyone involved that students are worried about these issues.
 - 1. This includes the bookstore, professors, and administrators.
 - 2. This resolution will signal everyone involved that this is an issue students care about and there will be grounds for a talking point.

General Questions

- i. Brigitte mentioned that a lot of the effort put forth in the text of the resolution might not be fully conveyed by the title.
 - 1. AJ mentioned that it does get to the point because it keeps it inclusive about the entire program.

Grammatical Changes

- i. An indent was made, a semicolon replaced a comma, and a their was changed to its, all changed without objection.

Debate/Discussion

- i. Kevin voiced his support and thought the program has made great strides in saving money for students.
- ii. Claire said that the resolution would be beneficial for other majors, like hers (Science focused), that did not have many books offered to rent.
- iii. Mark asked about the percentages of people who used the Rent-A-Text program.
 - 1. AJ was not sure about exact percentages but was sure that the bookstore ranked about 9th in Follett bookstores in terms of usage.
- iv. Casey asked why some professors did not list their books.
 - 1. AJ mentioned that the root causes of this were unclear besides the fact that the first semester only included books listed on the national list.
- v. Matt asked if the bookstore was interested in expanding the current selection and if they would actually profit.
 - 1. AJ mentioned that the only issue is that professors must agree to use the textbook for four (4) semesters; as long as it has this four (4) semester criteria, they will make a profit.
- vi. Erin asked what would keep a professor from breaking their four (4) semester commitment.
 - 1. AJ clarified that the professor is not making as big a commitment to us as they are to the bookstore and would have to answer to them.
- vii. Jessica asked where the resolution would be going if it were to pass.
 - 1. Andrew said that it would be sent to deans, chairs within colleges, various professors, and the bookstore.
- viii. Marina mentioned that requiring a professor to use the same book for four (4) semesters could hinder their ability to educate as necessary.

Voting

- i. By a voice vote, the resolution passed at 6:50pm with no dissent.
[applause]

V. Announcements

- a. AJ reminded everyone to watch the Academic Forum tonight (Wednesday) starting at 7pm.
- b. Catherine announced that Whine Week will be this upcoming week so please spread the word and be ready to help out.
- c. Patrick announced that the dorm side of the Hunger Project has started this week; posters need to go up concerning the Holy Cross Harvest Food Drive.
 - i. Luke also announced that the Hunger Project now has a Facebook page so spread the word and 'like' the page.
- d. Leslie announced that Farley is hosting Taste ND at the end of the week.
- e. Ellen announced that the Badin Art Show opens up tomorrow (Thursday) from 7-10pm, complete with food; it will go on for a while but the opening night is tomorrow.
- f. Emily asked for help to hand out the new TRANSPRO cards to students outside of DeBartolo; for some odd reason, no one signed up on the Google Doc she sent out, therefore she is forcing you to do so at the back at the room.
- g. Catherine offered Ally pins for anyone who wants to take on the pledge of support for the GLBT community.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Andrew entertained a motion to adjourn. Luke moved to adjourn. Ryan seconded. *The November 3, 2010 Senate meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Kimberly
Student Body Secretary

