

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- a. Andrew called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. Andrew led the invocation.
- c. Jack and Tom were absent; Casey and Patrick were late.
- d. Andrew entertained any motions to change the November 3, 2010 executive summary.
 - i. Yiting requested to change the spelling of her name in l.c.
 - ii. Marina cleverly pointed out that the adjournment time of the meeting was before the time the resolution was approved.
 - iii. Alex moved to approve the summary. Tegan seconded. *The November 3, 2010 executive summary was approved at 6:09 p.m.*

II. Officer Reports

- a. Ms. Catherine Soler, Student Body President
 - i. Catherine thanked everyone for helping with Whine Week this week.
 - ii. Student Government has purchased 8,000 buttons with the decal that the football team wore at the Tulsa game to honor Declan Sullivan; any help handing out the pins at the game would be appreciated.
 1. Alex asked if band members could get the pins as well.
- b. Mr. Andrew Bell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Posters must go up and should be picked up in a timely manner; this has been a recurring problem throughout the semester and is not that hard to do.
 - ii. Andrew also thanked everyone for helping out with Whine Week.
- c. Mr. Nicholas Ruof, Chief of Staff
 - i. Nick requested that Andrew change the orientation of his gavel.

III. Committee Reports

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs [AJ McGauley]
 - i. AJ had nothing to report.
- b. Committee on Campus Technology [Casey Cockerham]
 - i. Casey had nothing to report.
- c. Committee on Community Relations [Claire Sokas]
 - i. Claire had nothing to report.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues [Mariah McGrogan and Timothy Castellini]
 - i. Mariah really pushed the issue of putting up posters, especially for topics concerning gender issues; you never know who has been affected in the dorm and what the posters might mean for students.

1. Getting these posters up in the dorms is crucial for advertising and getting the word out outside of the normal e-mail, so please work to complete this simple task.
- ii. Mariah will be sending an e-mail soon that should be forwarded to all residents about Solidarity Sunday.
- e. Committee on Multicultural Affairs [Brigitte Githinji]
 - i. Brigitte mentioned that many events concerning multicultural affairs usually include minority students talking to minority students; it is highly important to get everyone in the greater community involved.
- f. Committee on Oversight [Paige Becker]
 - i. The elections reform resolution is on the agenda.
- g. Committee on Residence Life [Matthew High]
 - i. Next Wednesday is Harry Potter Night in South Dining Hall; spread the word about the event and be sure to put up posters.
- h. Committee on Social Concerns [Patrick McCormick]
 - i. Patrick reminded everyone that the Holiday Harvest Food Drive is ongoing and to be sure that this is being advertised as the central component of gathering food
- i. Committee on University Affairs [Chase Riddle]
 - i. Chase had nothing to report.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Off Campus Concerns [Emily LeStrange]
 - i. The lease fair is tomorrow from 11am-3pm and will include pretty good giveaways (flat screen TV, surround sound system, airplane voucher, etc.); Emily sent out a template to invite students to the event that should be sent out to residents in the dorms.
 1. These events depend on promotion; many times, events are not well attended because students simply do not know about it.
 2. The event will educate students about what properties are available and how lease signing works.

IV. General Orders

- a. SS1011-10: Amending Article XI of the Constitution
 - i. Without objection, this resolution was postponed to a future Senate meeting.
- b. SS1011-10: Amending Article XIII of the Constitution [Oversight]

Introduction

 - i. Paige introduced Marcelo as the Judicial Council President.
 - ii. Currently, two bodies address election allegations.
 1. The Election Committee is made up of a representative from each dorm.
 2. The Executive Committee is six members of the Election Committee that deals with approved allegations from the Election Committee.

- iii. Currently, allegations are made to the Election Committee, which then votes on its merit; if it voted with merit, the Executive Committee then hears the allegation and makes a decision on a sanction.
 - 1. Marcelo spoke to the fact that the current process makes it extremely hard to actually efficiently run allegation hearings; the biggest problem is gathering people for the Election Committee to hear the initial allegation, which when not heard, dies without any analyzing.
- iv. The proposed idea is to create a single Election Committee that will now consist of seven voting members who are appointed by the Judicial Council Vice President of Elections and Judicial Council President through an interview process; there will also be two non-voting members serving in an informational role – Senate Liaison to the Judicial Council and the Oversight Committee Chair.
 - 1. The Committee will be chaired by the Vice President of Elections, who only votes in a tie.
 - 2. The seven (7) voting members will be selected from the student body at large; these students cannot hold another Student Government position via the enumerated rule in the Constitution.
 - a. These members will aid the Vice President of Elections in conducting elections.
 - b. They may not campaign for any ticket to maintain neutrality, though they can recuse themselves if need be.
- v. The new process will be more efficient and ensure that every allegation made is heard fairly.
 - 1. The Vice President of Elections will decide the merit of an allegation.
 - 2. If he decides the allegation has merit, the Election Committee will convene to hear the accused and the accuser; they will then make a decision on the allegation and a sanction, if necessary.
- vi. The other big issue that this resolution is reforming is the process of appeals, which is used when a candidate feels he/she has been treated unfairly.
 - 1. The biggest change in the process of appeals is that the Senate will no longer hear a complete appeal automatically; the Senate will hear short, 5 minute presentations from the Judicial Council and the accused and decided on the grounds for the appeal.
 - a. This is to avoid candidates prolonging an allegation that seems to fair and clear.
 - b. This will also make Senate's time more efficient.
 - 2. The other change is that the Senate will no longer be able to change or alter the sanction if they feel it should; they will only be able to vote up or down on the sanction given by the Election Committee.

- a. If the sanction is voted down, the Election Committee will have to reconvene to decide again.

General Questions

- i. Marina asked how often allegations are made to the Judicial Council.
 1. Marcelo mentioned that about three (3) allegations were made in the past two (2) years he ran elections.
- ii. Tommy asked about what the normal allegation is.
 3. Marcelo mentioned that allegations usually have to do with campaigning past the time limit.
 4. Another issue is campaigning on the second and third floors of LaFortune, which is not allowed via the regulations.
- iii. Tierney asked how many allegations feel through because of the current system.
 5. Marcelo responded that only two (2) were not heard, but many have gotten close.
- iv. Julie asked when the new Committee would be formed if the resolution was passed.
 6. Marcelo mentioned that this would have to be done soon since it would take constitutional effect.
- v. Daniel asked what the common sanctions were for most allegations.
 7. Marcelo mentioned that the continual use of any money remaining is usually revoked; sanctions are usually not major.

Grammatical Changes

- i. Hallie requested that a period (.) be added to the end of the sentence in Section 6.8.d.4; this change was made without objection.
- ii. Mark requested that a period (.) be added to III. and V.; these two changes were made without objection.
- iii. A heading was added to the VIII. to clarify Section 6.8 without objection.
- iv. 'Article VI' was added to the title without objection.

Debate/Discussion

- i. Alex spoke to the hard work that the Oversight Committee has put into making this amendment happen; the process has been fair and effective to make sure that the changes were the best they could be.
- ii. Tegan thanked Paige for doing an excellent job explaining everything from the current process to the revised process.

Voting

- vi. By a hand vote of 28-0-1, the resolution passed at 6:46pm. [applause]

V. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

VI. Announcements

- a. Matt announced that the interhall championships are this week so come out and support the dorms.

- b. Mike announced that the Miss ND Pageant is tomorrow at 8:30pm in Washington Hall.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Andrew entertained a motion to adjourn. Michael Ryan moved to adjourn. Pat seconded. *The November 10, 2010 Senate meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Kimberly
Student Body Secretary

