

**NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE**  
**Executive Summary**  
Wednesday, November 17, 2010  
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. Opening Business**

- a. Andrew called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. Patrick led the invocation.
- c. AJ, Alex, Chase, Ellen, Mariah, and Matt were absent.
- d. Andrew entertained any motions to change the November 10, 2010 executive summary.
  - i. Julie requested to change the word 'feel' to 'fell' in IV.b.General Questions.iii; this change was made without objection.
  - ii. Tegan moved to approve the summary. Erin seconded. *The November 10, 2010 executive summary was approved at 6:08 p.m.*

**II. Podium**

- a. Ms. Catherine Soler, Student Body President – State of the Student Union
  - i. Catherine first thanked everyone for what they have done since April 2010 and hopes everyone has found a valuable experience in their time so far.
  - ii. Positive attitudes, willingness to work, and belief in one another have advanced the goals of the administration thus far.
  - iii. There have been several major accomplishments.
    1. A discount program has been established that will further relations between students and the surrounding areas while benefitting both directly.
    2. There are now three humus varieties in the dining halls.
    3. A computer cluster has been constructed in Jordan Hall.
    4. The revamping of the DeBartolo Student Lounge has begun.
    5. Successful programs from the past have been maintained, including but not limited to the Lease Fair, College Readership Program, and the TRANSP0 Midnight Route.
  - iv. Student Government is still in a different place than it was in April 2010.
    1. The revamping of pep rallies has been a major focus that does not normally face Student Government.
    2. Representing the student body when dealing with community issues has been of the utmost importance so far.
    3. Anytime the passing of a student occurs, it deserves a special focus and response, this time in the case of Declan Sullivan.
  - v. Catherine is proud of everyone on campus, particularly student leaders who have fulfilled their responsibilities and have done what they are supposed to do.

- vi. The focus for the next couple of months is to keep pushing ideas to new limits.
  1. The beND Campaign has brought enthusiasm to the campus and begun to establish everlasting personal relationships with the community and community leaders.
  2. The End Hunger Campaign will establish an everlasting component and focus on a major issue.
  3. FUEL has continued to be a great way to get more people involved in the work of Student Government.
  4. Whine Week was successful in connecting with students and seeing just what changes they really want.
  5. Partnering with a school in the community (Pearly) has taken the broad focus of Student Government even further.
- vii. There is still a good amount of time left to make an impact.
  1. The structure and role of the Off-Campus Council will be changing soon to establish more everlasting components to respond to off-campus issues.
  2. A major focus will be to further the beND Campaign.
  3. Student Government should continue to be a resource for students on a wide range of issues, especially via the Whine Week suggestions.
- viii. The major goal moving forward is to continue doing our best to connect with peers and the greater student body as the Notre Dame Student Government.

### III. Committee Reports

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs [AJ McGauley]
  - i. Paige, filling in for AJ, mentioned that the next Last Lecture Series will be given by Professor Landon from the Physics Department in the Jordan Auditorium on Thursday, December 2 from 7-8pm.
- b. Committee on Campus Technology [Casey Cockerham]
  - i. Notre Dame is working with Xerox to redo the printing contract and update everything as much as possible to lessen the printing issues on campus in dorms and academic buildings.
  - ii. The Committee is looking into the feasibility of installing a system to update students about laundry machine usage in the dorms.
- c. Committee on Community Relations [Claire Sokas]
  - i. The tutoring program at Pearly Elementary kicked off Monday and is well on its way; volunteers are still needed so see Claire to help out.
    1. Claire will be meeting with officials at the school to further their fine arts department as well.

- d. Committee on Gender Issues [Mariah McGrogan and Timothy Castellini]
  - i. Solidarity Coffehouse will be on Thursday to express the fair treatment of all, regardless of sexual orientation; this will be followed by Solidarity Sunday Mass at the Basilica along with Solidarity Sunday as a whole.
- e. Committee on Multicultural Affairs [Brigitte Githinji]
  - i. A questionnaire will be sent out to gauge multicultural discussion in the Hall Council and see what students have to say about the issues; senators should gather this information from each of their meetings.
- f. Committee on Oversight [Paige Becker]
  - i. The Committee did not meet this week, but work on sorting the archives has continued.
  - ii. The next Judicial Council amendment will be on the agenda soon.
- g. Committee on Residence Life [Matthew High]
  - i. Matt was not present, instead cheerfully fulfilling his duty as the Sorting Hat Moderator at the Harry Potter Dinner.
- h. Committee on Social Concerns [Patrick McCormick]
  - i. The Holy Cross Harvest Food Drive will conclude this Friday at a conclusion event from 12-1:30pm.
  - ii. On December 4 at 12pm, there will be a big rally in the Joyce Center, along with many other big partners and offices, that focuses on a 3-on-3 basketball tournament; the point of this event is to garner more focus on the Sudan situation.
    - 1. Check out 'playingforpeace.nd.edu' to register and find out more about the event.
    - 2. Apparently, Catherine, Andrew, and Nick will be forming a team; Brian was informed that he made the cut, as a cheerleader, to bring positivity to all aspects of the game.
- i. Committee on University Affairs [Chase Riddle]
  - i. Chase was not present.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Off Campus Concerns [Emily LeStrange]
  - i. Emily thanked everyone who helped out with the Lease Fair as well as all of those who attended.
    - 1. There have been quite a few reports of people signing leases due to the information they acquired at the Fair.
  - ii. An article ran in the *Observer* about TRANSPO usage being on the decline, so please continue to promote the use of the route.
    - 1. There can never be enough promotion about TRANSPO; the Committee is also working on different promotional ideas and will take any suggestions.

#### IV. General Orders

##### a. SS1011-11: Amending Article XI of the Constitution

###### *Introduction*

- i. Ryan Hawley, the Off-Campus Council President, introduced the amendment as a way to overhaul the Off-Campus Council and be sure it can serve students better in the future.
- ii. There are two big changes the amendment accounts for.
  1. Students who are moving off campus but not currently off campus can now run for a position and vote next year.
  2. The position of Off-Campus Ambassador will be established; there will be several of them.
    - a. Their main job will be to report to the Off-Campus Council and take on big issues that come up from students.
- iii. There were also several other minor changes.
  1. The Off-Campus President and Off-Campus Vice President will maintain an advisory role throughout the entire year to aid in transition.
  2. There will no longer be a SUB rep from the Off-Campus Council since it was unnecessary and not useful.
  3. The Off-Campus Senator's role is now more defined.
  4. The Off-Campus Vice President will now serve on the Community Relations Committee or whatever committee is most appropriate to effectively deal with issues; previously, that person sat on the Programming Board.

###### *General Questions*

- i. Erinn asked if the new stipulation allowing students moving off to vote for those elections would restrict them in dorm voting.
  1. Ryan mentioned that this would take on a similar frameset as dorm elections, where seniors are allowed to vote for dorm elections and campus elections.
- ii. Yiting asked what the reason was for allowing people moving off campus to run and vote.
  1. Ryan mentioned that this opens up the pool of candidates and allows more people to run to lead a community they are about to be a part of.
- iii. Pat asked how you would differentiate who is moving off campus and their ability to vote in hall elections and/or Off-Campus Council positions.
  1. Ryan mentioned that those moving off campus still should have the opportunity to vote in their dorms because they have been involved in the dorm and can make a valuable judgment as well as voting for leaders of a community they are about to become a part of.

2. Nick also mentioned that the housing applications are in well before Off-Campus Council elections take place, so there will be accuracy in determining who can and cannot vote.
- iv. Julie asked what the duties of the Off-Campus Council members were and if people who were not already living off campus would be qualified to fulfill those duties.
  1. Ryan did not think that not already living off campus hindered someone's ability to lead the following year; it is not that hard to integrate and get things together.
- v. Tegan thought that it would be more unfair to only allow people who are already living off campus to run than to open up the opportunity for all who will be part of the community the following year.
- vi. Yiting asked what the role of the new ambassadors would be.
  1. There will be an ambassador for each neighborhood and they will be responsible for getting to know students and neighbors in the area as well getting pertinent information out.
  2. They will also be there to listen to issues and complaints that can then be brought back to the Off-Campus Council.
- vii. Catherine clarified that the main reason this amendment is being brought up is to legitimize and expand the role of Off-Campus Council; one of the ways to do this is through these ambassadors.
  1. Emily also spoke to the fact that these ambassadors would greatly help out getting information out to residents, which has been a problem this year so far.

#### *Grammatical Changes*

- i. Michael Ryan requested to change the second e to f in Section 17.4; this change was made without objection.
- ii. Tom requested to hyphenate the Off Campus not hyphenated in Section 11.3.l; this change was made without objection.
- iii. Dan requested to hyphenate the Off Campus not hyphenated in Section 11.3.g; this change was made without objection.
- iv. John requested to change the orientation of the two apostrophes in Section 17.4.f; these changes were made without objection.
- v. Kevin requested to hyphenate the Vice President not hyphenated in Section 11.3.l; this change was made without objection.

#### *Debate/Discussion*

- i. Erin came out in support of the resolution; much time was spent in CoR to make sure that the amendments would enhance Off-Campus Council and many feel this is the best way to revamp the Council.
- ii. Tim also expressed support for the resolution because it gives the body the opportunity to make an impact.
- iii. Pat mentioned that many guys in his dorm expressed concern with and thought the eligibility issues could be clearer; he is not sure that he

- agrees with the proposed change of allowing people who are not living off campus already to run for a position.
- iv. Julie thought the changes would be a great way to get more people involved in the Off-Campus Council, especially since so many people do not move off until senior year.
  - v. Dan also thought the changes could improve neighbor relations and hopefully alleviate some big issues.

*Voting*

- i. By a hand vote of 25-2-0, the resolution passed at 6:47pm. [applause]

**V. New Business**

- a. There was no new business.

**VI. Announcements**

- a. Tegan invited everyone to go to Baraka Bouts tomorrow night (Thursday) starting at 6pm; tickets are \$6 and sold at the door.
- b. Pat announced that the Notre Dame Club of Minnesota will be having a bon fire with smores on Thursday; check the posters for the time.

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Andrew entertained a motion to adjourn. Tegan moved to adjourn. Daniel seconded. *The November 17, 2010 Senate meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Kimberly  
Student Body Secretary