

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Minutes

April 1, 2009

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- i. Cynthia called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
- ii. Cynthia led the invocation.
- iii. Robyn Grant, Denise Barron, Kristen Lewis, and Ted Horn were absent.
- iv. Cynthia entertained a motion to approve the April 1, 2009 executive summary. Nick motioned to approve minutes. Austin seconded. *The April 1, 2009 executive summary was approved at 6:16 p.m.*

II) **Podium**

III) **Officer Reports**

- i. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body President
 - i. Agenda.nd.edu
 1. Grant discussed that the current website is unattractive and difficult to use.
 2. Grant mentioned he will be meeting tomorrow with the coordinator of the website to discuss possible revisions.
 - ii. Community Summit
 1. Grant discussed the issue of Taxi Reform and emphasized that several members comprised of taxi company officials, student leaders, and campus administrators are planning on creating a committee to address this issue.
 - ii. Encouragements to Senators
 1. Grant encouraged everyone to come to student government to offer suggestions, meet Nancy, check mailbox.
 2. Grant also emphasized the content of student government should be both formal and informal.
- ii. Ms. Cynthia Weber, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Senate Procedure and Content
 1. Cynthia discussed that the initiative of senate meetings is not to belabor and emphasized that the next few meetings will be learning experiences.
 2. Committees: When senators sign up for committees, the chairmen will need to give short reports, which will comprise the bulk of the meeting.
 - a. Cynthia emphasized that although there may be disagreement on campus, it is the goal of these reports to mirror those disagreements at senate meetings
- iii. Mr. Ryan Brellenthin, Chief of Staff
 - i. Ryan emphasized that he is a liaison for students and the administration in case that Grant and Cynthia are busy.
 - ii. Administrative Tasks:

1. Ryan emphasized that every senator should pick up their binder and those who are absent should be notified.
- iii. Past Experience in Academic Affairs
 1. Ryan mentioned that he worked on the online syllabus database. This has been an overlapping initiative from last year administrator with this year's.
- iv. Ryan discussed the role of Kristen Lewis, who was absent, but currently serves as a faculty liaison to senate meetings on Wednesday night and reports back to the faculty senate.
- iv. Ms. Kristen Lewis, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Absent

IV) **Committee Reports**

- i. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Last Year's Accomplishments
 1. Austin briefed that in the past, the committee has been responsible for the Last Lecture Series in which these professors gave talks and we organize that
 2. Also, Austin brought up Majors Night, which is a big project every year in the JACC for freshmen to discuss academic goals with professors and upperclassmen.
 - ii. Outlook for this year:
 1. Austin emphasized the one of the ongoing goals for this year is to lower the textbook prices and currently, he is working with the bookstore.
 2. Also, Austin discussed the online syllabus database, which will allow students to have information on each respective class.
- ii. Committee on Campus Technology
 - i. Walker said the committee deals with all things campus technology-related and serves as a liaison between students and OIT.
 - ii. Outlook for this year:
 1. Austin mentioned that he is working with OIT to redesign the Course Registration website. OIT is currently underway with usability tests for the course system and SunGard is the company that provides the software for this registration system.
 2. Austin hopes to redesign the ND Agenda website and mentioned that this will get redone to make it more intuitive.
 3. Austin also discussed that iTunes U is coming up as well and he has currently been working with OIT to upload content.
 - iii. Austin mentioned that this is a very task oriented committee and should provide the opportunity for anyone to work side by side with OIT.
- iii. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Denise was absent so Grant and Gus discussed the current agenda.
 - ii. Grant emphasized that the biggest problem is the gap between students, administration, and community.

- iii. Grant suggested that we should try to promote an offcampus website along with more programs and events
- iv. Grant reiterated the Taxi Reform committee.
- v. Gus, former chair, discussed that in the fall, there have been several initiatives the committee has undertaken.
 - 1. In the beginning of the year, there has been a Freshmen Bus Tour
 - 2. There has been a Fall Festival, which is community service outreach program where kids and families come and meet.
 - 3. Gus also mentioned that the committee helps organize the Community Summit as well.
- vi. Grant also brought up the upcoming CommUniversity Day.
- vii. Gus reported that he brought advertisements for the Off-Campus Transition Affair. Senators should pass out these posters to the dorm and help promote this event. Gus mentioned details regarding this program as follows:
 - a.) The Off-Campus Affair consists of NDSP and upperclassmen students, both groups who tell current students the procedures involved with moving off campus.
- viii. Gus emphasized that the statistic that $\frac{1}{2}$ the senior class is off campus so anytime issues arise, the committee will help assist in these matters.
- iv. Committee on Gender Issues (2 chairs- Robyn + Pat)
 - i. Robyn was absent so Pat discussed the agenda.
 - ii. Pat mentioned that the committee's past accomplishments:
 - 1. Health and Body Image workshop
 - 2. Rape and Sexual Assault T-shirt with statistics on rape.
 - 3. Pat worked with Sexual Assault committee to improve the sexual assault policy in DuLac and is optimistic about the changes being made by the university to DuLac's policy
 - iv.) Outlook for the Year:
 - 1. Pat mentioned that he would like to change the drinking rules because there is a clear discrepancy in girls dorms and guys dorms and that this a perennial issue coming up on campus
 - 2. Pat also discussed the Dove Poster Campaign. He mentioned he would like to bring in a Dove campaign model, who could help change the ideal notions of beauty and what type of models are featured on ads. Specifically, Pat wants to feature ND students to be on these posters and be more of an ND issue.
 - 3.) Pat hopes for the committee to promote more activities for the lesbian and gay community. For example, Pat discussed ideas the idea of a dance.
- v. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Nika mentioned that in the past, the committee has looked at policy issues from revising content in the Contemporary Topics course and Resident Assistant training.
 - ii. Outlook for the Year:

1. Promoting the International Showcase in the fall.
 2. Promoting a Native American Studies Minor.
 3. Pushing for more service on MLK Day.
- vi. Committee on Oversight
- i. Kevin reported that committee serves to make sure everything is functioning well according to the constitution and making the constitution more accessible
 - ii. He discussed the statistic that over 60% of the student body mentioned that they did not even know there was a constitution
 - iii. Kevin hopes for the committee to continue to help revise the constitution and work with Ian, who is current judicial council president, to change the constitution
 - iv. Outlook for the Year:
 1. Compile all previous notes in CLC meeting, senate meeting, and form an archive to look back and help revamp issues as we look forward to future endeavors.
- vii. Committee on Residence Life
- i. Nick mentioned that he hopes the committee can address issues dealing with: dining hall, 24 hour space, Grab N' Go, disability access to different buildings, and iTunes U.
- viii. Committee on Social Life
- i. Rachel discussed that the committee will work on social issues that deal with the campus and community
 - ii. 2 big events coming up in the next week:
 1. Communiversity Day: Rachel recommended everyone to get the word out to friends. The goal is to get 1000 students to participate.
 2. Farmer's Market is coming to ND to work on sustainability issues this Tuesday. There will be posters in senators mailboxes sometime soon.
- ix. Committee on University Affairs
- i. Jeff mentioned that University Affairs like a catch-all committee.
 - ii. Jeff reported the committee hopes to increase students' representation for Eddy Street Commons in the year to come.

V) **GENERAL ORDER**

- a. Confirm nominees for Senate Committee Chairs
 - 1.) Academic Affairs chair Austin mentioned that he was on it last year. No objections to Austin's appointment and he was confirmed
 - 2.) Campus Technology chair Walker introduced himself. He was on the committee last year and expanded the committee's sphere of influence to different offices and is the brainchild behind the course registration issue. No objections to Austin's appointment and he was confirmed.
 - 3.) No objections to Denise's appointment and she was confirmed as Community Relations Chair.

- 4.) Gender Relations Co-Chairs: Robyn was absent; Patrick introduced that he had a ton of allergies. Patrick emphasized that LBGTQ, dorm equality, and policy orientation is the primary goal and hopes to expand the committee's role beyond planning events. No objections to Patrick's appointment and he was confirmed. No objections to Robin's appointment and she was confirmed.
- 5.) Multicultural Affairs Nika Giger introduced herself and mentioned that she was previously the senator wanted to continue her role in student government. One of the big goals Nika mentioned is to hopefully see what everybody wants to do, the training for the RAs, and changes to the contemporary topics course. No objections to Nika's appointment and she was confirmed.
- 6.) Oversight Chair Kevin introduced himself. Kevin want to do ACE and somehow integrate political science and psychology and enter the educational psychology field. No objections to Kevin's appointment and he was confirmed.
- 7.) ResLife chair Nick introduced himself and his background. No objections to Nick's appointment and he was confirmed.
- 8.) Social Concerns Affair Rachel introduced herself. Rachel has hugged a tree and her number one priority is to work with the Global Water Initiative. No objections to Rachel's appointment and she was confirmed.
- 9.) University Affairs Jeff Lakusta introduced himself. He started Eyes on Africa, a non-profit organization, and has raised nearly almost 80,000 dollars and first fundraiser. Jeff hopes to create a sustainability initiative for people to find a house to live. No objections to Jeff's appointment and she was confirmed.

b. Motion to Approve Resolutions

1. Barrera motioned to readdress the senators' resolutions and advised that it is improper precedent to not send these resolutions to the Oversight Committee, which has not been informed, for proper approval.
2. Cynthia reported that she had written the current resolutions based on prior standards. Cynthia entertained a motion to move into voting.
 - i.) Nick motioned first and Riddle seconded.
 - ii.) The measure was passed 27-1-0 and it has been decided to uphold the current resolutions without sending them to the Oversight Committee.
3. All senators were sworn into office.

c. Emeritus Status Bestowing

- i. Kevin motioned to approve resolution SS0809-01 bestowing emeritus status on Bob Reish. Vote to bestow Emeritus status to Bob Reish was approved and Bob Reish was bestowed Emeritus status.
- ii. Kevin suggested changing SS0809 to SS0810 Emeritus Status for Grant Schmidt. Chase motioned first and Senator Nick seconded to change resolution from SS0809 to SS0810.
- iii. Kevin motioned and Chase seconded to make grammatical correction for Emeritus Grant Schmidt from 2007-2008 to the 2008-2009 term.
- iv. Vote to bestow Emeritus status to Grant Schmidt and it was approved.
- v. Resolution to bestow Emeritus status to Karen Koski was approved and Karen Koski was bestowed Emeritus status.

d. Approval of Senate Bylaws

- i. Kevin discussed that these by laws serve the function to go over procedural expectations such as attendance policies, for example.
- ii. Pat mentioned that Committee meetings require attendance by members.
- iii. Kevin and Riddle motioned to approve the bylaws. The senate voted to approve the bylaws.

e. Senate Committees and Special Interest Positions

- i. Cynthia clarified the positions on the Committee on Oversight.
- ii. Grant clarified that the CLC was responsible for having printers in every dorm in these years to come. Ultimately, CLC resolutions are reported by Fr. Poorman.
- iii. Cynthia mentioned that there will be a vote on nominations for chairs during next meeting.
- iv. Cynthia suggested that senators should use the next week to think about these positions. She clarified that every senator serves on 2 committees.
- v. Senators wrote down their top 4 preferences.
- vi. Brian Coughlin discussed his duties to work with student government and to advise Student senate.
 - a. His primary role is to advise Cynthia and Ryan and provide the historical perspectives of past senate meetings.
 - b. He is not here to participate in debates.
 - c. He offered that he can bring the current university perspective and is willing to bring in a university authority representative to future senate meetings to discuss areas that senate committee members may be interested in.
- vii. Special Interest Positions were introduced.
 - a. Ellie offered fliers to be put up in the bathrooms about Communiversity Day.

VI) **NEW BUSINESS**

VII) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- i.) Ryan apologized that the meeting took a long time.
 - a.) Ryan introduced the Robert's Rules of Orders and recommended to look over the constitution.
- ii. Grant mentioned that if senators have to leave, they should come forward and vote on resolutions prior to leaving.
- iii. Grant requested 5 students to serve and come to the CLC meeting and line the path to the Dome to introduce city officials.
- iv. Senator Mark Anthony Rose brought up the second annual KO challenge and starting at 1PM this weekend.

VIII) **ADJOURNMENT**

- i. Cynthia entertained a motion to adjourn. Charles motioned. Ryan seconded.
The December 1, 2009 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:38PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tej Mudigonda
Student Body Secretary

