

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

October 14, 2009

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- i. Cynthia called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
- ii. Claire led the invocation.
- iii. Zach and Ted were absent.
- iv. Cynthia entertained a motion to approve the new October 7, 2009 executive summary. Chase motioned. *The October 7, 2009 executive summary was approved at 6:12 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- i. **Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body President**
 - a. None
- ii. **Ms. Cynthia Weber, Student Body Vice-President**
 - a. Happy Birthday Nick!
 - b. Introduced new faculty senate
- iii. **Mr. Ryan Brellenthin, Chief Executive Assistant**
 - a. Ryan mentioned that he is continuing to work with Board of Trustees
- iv. **Professor Gupta, Faculty Senate Advisor**
 - a. Professor Gupta introduced himself as the new faculty senate advisor

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i. **Committee on Academic Affairs [Austin Holler]**
 - a. Austin mentioned that after fall break, his group is planning on a publicity day for College Readership. There will be a table in LaFortune for giveaways.
- ii. **Committee on Campus Technology [Walker Anderson]**
 - a. Walker met with Brian (OIT) and SAO to discuss student content for iTunes U. Private-side launch will be coming soon.
 - b. Walker's meeting with the SunGuard CEO will get confirmed tonight.
 - i. Walker would like to eventually draft up an executive summary to outline the course registration redesign
 - c. For tech week, after fall break, there will be posters ready to put up in the dorm; November 9th-12th
 - d. Walker mentioned that OIT is ready to completely remodel the LaFortune cluster over Christmas Break:
 - i. Same machines along with several additions
 - ii. The only concern is that it may not be finished for the first weeks of school, so there may be an attempt to get DeBartolo Cluster for 24 hours during that lag period.
- iii. **Committee on Community Relations [Denise Baron]**
 - a. Denise's group picked November 1st for the art fair event near North West neighborhood; Denise plans on sending an email soon.

- b. Fall Festival is coming up on October 30th from 2-5 on North Quad
- c. Other than that, Denise's Committee is still working on the off-campus safety issues.
- iv. Committee on Gender Issues [Patrick Tighe and Robyn Grant]**
 - a. Patrick mentioned that his group is still finishing up Body Image Week
 - b. Gender and Violence will be sponsoring a play:
 - a. The play is a national success dealing with the topic of sex:
 - i. Focuses on issues of consent and awkward sexual relations
 - ii. Focuses on how can we better understand these issues and relationships with other people
 - iii. Date: October 29th in Mendoza school for Business
- v. Committee on Multicultural Affairs [Nika Giger]**
 - a. Nika's committee members met this past Monday and basically they focused on the diversity certification issue that they want to push forward with:
 - i. FSU has a similar program
 - ii. On Monday, they decided the particular changes, so over Fall Break, Nika hopes to write a proposal and plan on a meeting with Dr. Moss and Dr. Page
 - iii. Potential resolution after Fall Break
- vii. Committee on Oversight [Kevin Kimberly]**
 - a. Kevin met on Sunday to discuss amendments, which he will have next week.
- viii. Committee on Residence Life [Nick Ruof]**
 - a. Nick didn't meet.
- viii. Committee on Social Concerns [Rachel Roseberry]**
 - a. For Farmer's market, Rachel mentioned that the alternative location will be in the library (because of rain) ; about 9 vendors will be present
 - b. Time: 3-5:30PM
 - c. Regarding T-shirt Sale, Rachel hopes to move it to after fall break.
 - d. Howard Hall is hosting "totter for water" in which they will have a giant seesaw. This will start Thursday (kickoff party tomorrow) in order to collect donations for the Global Water Initiative.
- ix. Committee on University Affairs [Jeff Lakusta]**
 - a. Jeff's group did not meet but he and Cynthia did meet with Ann to talk about the intellectual environment issue.
 - i. It is shaping up really well and Jeff hopes to meet with more professors down the road.
 - ii. Transpo Launch has been pushed after fall break

V. GENERAL ORDER

- i. Introduction of FLEX- Freshman Leadership Experience**
 - a. FLEX is essentially a crash course for freshmen to get involved with student government
 - b. Cynthia mentioned that there different aspects about FLEX:

1. Mentoring- freshmen are grouped with older members and learn things such as meeting with administrators, etiquette, finding a passion project
 2. Hearing experiences
 3. Working on a project in a small group
- c. Cynthia mentioned that FLEX is comprised of 4 different committees:
1. Freshman booklet- Basically, this involves compiling experiences that people had as freshmen and providing these inputs for future freshmen classes students before they arrive.
 - a. Daniel asked how beneficial it would be to the freshmen since they already get a ton of packets:
 - i. Grant said this is more of an idea that encourages freshmen (based on anecdotes) to i.e.- do this before you graduate
 - b. Nika thought such a booklet would be helpful since the summer before ND, everyone's excited to read stuff that they receive from ND.
 2. Student Outreach- formed out of a notion last year in which there was an ad hoc senate committee whose job it was to reach out to the student body
 1. Grant added that the responsibilities entail kind of what Ellie does in terms of getting the word out in order to establish a grassroots campaign as to what problems students are frustrated about at the moment.
 2. Grant said that the "whats the deal series" was a big project which compiled surveys and days from prior students.
 3. For this year, Grant hopes that these freshmen in FLEX can seek out from others as to get students' opinions, complaints, or what they want done.
 3. Freshman Orientation – standing committee through FLEX right after freshmen have their initial experiences:
 1. Looking in hindsight, Cynthia emphasized that such a focus group committee would be relevant
 4. Discounts Off-Campus- Last year, Cynthia said that Bob and Grant sold an off-campus booklet. This FLEX committee would be working on effective ways to push this for off-campus:
- d. Cynthia said the interview and selection process is complete and the first meeting is tomorrow

1. Andrew asked whether if these committees are something freshmen work on all year since the frosh-o related meetings primarily occur at most for one or two blocks a year:
 - i. Cynthia responded that in addition to its role as focus group, she wants the to be more comprehensive for students which Cynthia sees could extend beyond just one or two days
 2. Robyn said that even though FLEX is new, it's nice for freshmen to take on tangible initiatives.
- e. Cynthia encouraged senators to inform their freshmen in their respective dorms to get involved

ii. Announcement of Student-Run Pep Rally

- a. Grant said that originally, the plan was to have the rally in the Stadium but it will now move to Irish Greens.
- b. Although they hadn't received a completely clear response, student government wanted a Michigan-like rally
- c. Grant mentioned that the risk for having the rally on Thursday would involve not having all the football players come, except the captains.
- d. Dan Collins and Grant felt that it would be best to fully support the Friday initiative of having it on Irish Greens and they both wish to emphasize that this time, there will actually be a designated students section
- e. There will be an email sent out at midnight. Students should get out there at 5:30
- f. By combining all the efforts and since it is USC, Grant said it will be huge regardless.
- g. Comments:
 1. Taylor asked whether there will be a Trojan horse to which Grant responded, yes.
 2. Claire asked why the rally is not in the stadium:
 - a. Grant responded that the concerns were:
 - i. Contained area in the Irish Greens, (unlike stadium) the stadium wouldn't fill to capacity to get that crazy and raucous environment
 - ii. Daniel strongly dislikes this idea of switching the rally to the greens. He feels like it is asking a lot from the students and that time and time, the situation seems to only get worse.
- h. Cynthia said regardless of past experiences, it is important for students to get fired up for the rally.
 1. Student government is fully supporting it
- i. Daniel asked what happens if students show up late

1. Grant emphasized that its not a problem since this time there is a designated student area
- j. Charlie feels that it is almost an embarrassment that the rally is not in the stadium.
- k. Chase said that in general, he feels that as a student representative, it's not the students' faults that the rally is not in the stadium, but as student leaders, we should have a responsibility to get students involved.
- l. Elise agreed with Chase in that it doesn't matter how cold or rainy the weather is and that it is important to get the dorms riled up and try to make the best of it.
- m. Taylor asked what the capacity was and what they were expecting
 1. Cynthia responded thousands will be able to fit in
- n. Andrew, in response to Charlie, felt that the bigger embarrassment would be for students to not go.
- o. Last thing, Grant wanted to emphasize that a rally on Irish Greens is what the football team wanted, GameDay operations wanted. Basically, student government did not slack off and after further collaboration, this was in the best interest for both parties

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- i. Claire asked when Five Guys is opening; Grant responded that it will be open before the USC game.
- ii. Matt asked whether there any new ideas for venues on Eddy's Street:
 - i. Cynthia responded that she received dozens of responses from students and she and Grant are communicating these ideas to the developers

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Martha said that Ryan Hall are the officially known as the Wildcats
- ii. Have a great Fall Break!

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- i. Cynthia entertained a motion to adjourn. Daniel motioned first. Cristi seconded. *The October 14, 2009 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Tej Mudigonda
Student Body Secretary

