

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE  
Executive Summary  
November 11, 2009  
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

- i. Cynthia called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- ii. Grant led the invocation.
- iii. Jeff, Ashley, Bradley, and Ted were absent.
- iv. Cynthia entertained a motion to approve the new November 4, 2009 executive summary. Chase motioned. *The November 4, 2009 executive summary was approved at 6:10 p.m.*

**II. PODIUM**

**III. OFFICER REPORTS**

- i. **Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body President**
  - a. With regard to Health Services, Grant discussed some of those issues:
    1. Has Health Services been informing students about H1N1 and have they been providing students the appropriate treatment?
  - b. Three key symptoms they are looking at when checking for the flu:
    1. 104 degrees, severe cough, sore throat
    2. Based on these symptoms they inform students that they have the flu, but they do not necessarily diagnose them with a particular strain.
    3. Post-appointment, the primary recommendations Health Services suggest are for students to get rest, drink fluids and isolate themselves.
  - c. Furthermore, another issue is that there are 4 doctors staffed at the Health Center throughout the day until 5:30pm.
    1. Director at Health Services asked if it would be beneficial to have doctors on Saturday.
  - d. Regarding flu sites, they will take samples from students and send those to the CDC research institutes who will then assess the severity of the flu on campus.
  - e. Next meeting, Grant hopes to discuss about creating an advisory council on the issue of health services at Notre Dame.
  - f. One idea that came up is perhaps providing a list of doctors off-campus for students, i.e.- specialists
  - g. Regarding LaFortune Arcade, Grant mentioned that if anyone would like to help with the sub-committee, the most recent suggestion has been creating a mini-Como lounge.
  - h. Regarding Transpo, it will most likely be signed tomorrow and 100% official. It will guaranteed to start after Thanksgiving.

**ii. Ms. Cynthia Weber, Student Body Vice-President**

- a. Cynthia introduced the new senator, Rich Gonzalez, replace Marc Anthony.
- b. Cynthia will be meeting with Frances to discuss the Task Force on Life at Notre Dame. Cynthia would like to discuss with senators about recommendations and questions that Cynthia could potentially ask at this meeting.

**iii. Mr. Ryan Brellenthin, Chief Executive Assistant**

- a. Regarding executive programming board, Ryan mentioned that they have a netID.

**iv. Professor Gupta, Faculty Senate Liaison**

- a. Mr. Gupta was absent.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**i. Wall of Ideas [Elle Metz]-**

- a. The following suggestions came up:
  - i. Gushers, Scooby doo fruit snacks in the dining hall;
  - ii. apple slices in north and reeses chunks in south;
  - iii. sprinkler issues;
  - iv. sending email to student body about DVD and college readership;
  - v. suggestion box by huddle;
  - vi. online syllabus;
  - vii. agenda.nd.edu ;
  - viii. academic forum;
  - ix. work towards limiting emails;
  - x. resolution commending gameday operations and arrests;
  - xi. health services ;
  - xii. resolution thanking NDSP ;
  - xiii. fix O' Shag clock ;
  - xiv. off-campus doctors ;
  - xv. channel listings on TV ;
  - xvi. campus garden ;
  - xvii. analysis of policy for students taking medical leave;
  - xviii. evaluation of registration process and qualifications ;
  - xix. off-campus students should be able to use \$5 guest pass ;
  - xx. more bike racks

**ii. Committee on Academic Affairs [Austin Holler]**

- a. Austin went to the faculty senate meeting last week. Some of the issues that came up:
  - i. CIF Revisions: there will be a withholding of grades for students who do not fill the CIFs. This is essentially an incentive to increase the response rates.
  - ii. Last Lecture Series: Austin plans on handing the hand-written letter to invite Professor McIntyre sometime soon.

**iii. Committee on Campus Technology [Walker Anderson]**

- a. Walker was absent.

- b. Brian emphasized that this is Tech Week and to be on the lookout for those staffed at dorms.
- iv. **Committee on Community Relations** [Denise Baron]
  - a. Denise wanted to thank everyone for coming last week.
  - b. Denise said that her committee has picked the December event:
  - c. Downtown South Bend Tree Lighting: Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm
    - i. Chase ingeniously suggested to use Transpo following the event.
  - d. Denise also talked about creating a committee for Eddy Street commons
- v. **Committee on Gender Issues** [Patrick Tighe and Robyn Grant]
  - a. Patrick mentioned that his 3 subcommittees are working on the "Gay and Lesbian" events for the spring, Dorm inequalities, how student government can help with sexual assault on campus.
  - b. Patrick said that *Sex Signals* went really well and many students encouraged bringing them back possibly in the spring. In addition, Patrick thought about perhaps having a follow-up forum to enrich the conversation of sexuality on campus.
- vi. **Committee on Multicultural Affairs** [Nika Giger]
  - a. Nika's committee met on Monday to focus on the diversity certificate.
  - b. Nika's committee members plan on meeting with Dean Page sometime soon.
  - c. Nika hopes to spread the word about Notre Dame to Chicago students
  - d. MLK Day preparations are also underway.
- vii. **Committee on Oversight** [Kevin Kimberly]
  - a. Kevin mentioned that the intro video to student government at Notre Dame is underway.
- viii. **Committee on Residence Life** [Nick Ruof]
  - a. Nick's group met on Sunday at the Bookstore and is currently working with Food Services
  - b. Nick is working on the disparities Reeses chunks and apple slices in the dining halls.
  - c. By 2011-2012, ND Card services will be putting essential phone services on the back of the card.
    - 1. he reason why there is such a delay is because the ordering process is cheaper when the cards are ordered in batches for every 3-4 years so there is a slight delay at the moment.
- ix. **Committee on Social Concerns** [Rachel Roseberry]
  - a. Rachel would like to install wishing wells in each dorm; however, this requires rector approval. Thus, sometime in the next week, Rachel hopes that senators could talk to the rectors and perhaps have them sign an approval form.
  - b. Rachel received an email from the Office of Sustainability. The top five dorms are: Pangborne, Walsh, Howard, Zahm, PE
  - c. Other than that, Rachel mentioned that T-shirt sales are finished.
  - d. Rachel is also working with the CSC on World AIDS Day.
- x. **Committee on University Affairs** [Jeff Lakusta]
  - a. Jeff was absent.

- b. There will be two resolutions next week to thank security guards and Game Day operations.

## V. GENERAL ORDER

### i. Senate Resolution SS0910-06; CoR Collaboration Fund

- a. Cynthia discussed the CoR collaboration Fund that was instituted for clubs to appeal to in order to obtain funding.
- b. However, there has been debate regarding the use of the funding and the wording.
- c. The purpose of this resolution is to clarify those issues.
- d. Kevin discussed that the recent German Club's issue with funding for Oktomerfest is what stirred the formation of this resolution.
- e. Kevin's Modifications:
  - 1. 3.5- Additional clause
  - 2. 3.4 – Lays out what funds are to be used for,
  - 3. 3.4c- Kevin emphasized that these changes are to clarify CoR's job of refusing to grant money the following year after a club has already received money the prior year. Basically, it is CCC's job, not CoR's job, to set the funding amount. It is CoR's job to simply evaluate, qualitatively, whether there should be funding based on the numbers on provided by CCC.
  - 4. 3.4d: A club cannot have the event and then request money in CoR the following Day
  - 5. 3.5 can be summarized as the following process:
    - a. Club submits appeal at least a week before CoR to CCC. Previously, it was 2 weeks and the change is now to 1 week.
    - b. The CCC takes the appeal and takes this to the Division Chair, which decides on the details regarding the funding.
    - c. The Division chair hands this to the CCC President, who has the authority to modify the funding amounts and give the final word.
    - d. Then, the CCC decides whether to take the club's recommended amount or recommend their own amount.
    - e. Important: regardless of what the CCC says, it has to present to CoR what the club asks and what they feel is the appropriate amount. Both amounts, thus, must be presented.
    - f. If both amounts are aligned (request and approved amount), then CoR votes in either favor or opposition (yes or no).
    - g. If the CCC decides to recommend a different amount of money, then both amounts are presented to CoR. CoR then has the right to motion (two motions) to accept or refuse CCC's amount or the club's amount. Once again, CoR cannot propose its own amount but just vote (yes or no).

- f. Questions:

1. Taylor asked what if CoR votes no on either of the recommendations.
  - a. Kevin said that another CoR member can appeal on behalf of the club and re-take up the issue.
2. Taylor asked what is considered a mutual interest:
  - a. Kevin emphasized that it involves more than 1 club.
3. CJ asked if clubs undergo the appeal process, whether this automatically necessitates the amounts being reported to CoR.
  - a. Kevin responded yes.
4. Nick asked the reasoning behind not looking at the prior year's money.
5. Nick also asked where this money is coming from and how is it being replenished.
  - a. The money comes out of the same pond for student organizations. If it doesn't get used up, it goes into a contingency fund to be used.
6. Gus, in regard to 3.5d, asked about the timeline issue because in the Oktomerfest, some CoR members were under the gun.
  - a. Kevin responded that the resolution kind of supports no retroactive evaluations, but by providing a deadline, it would rule clubs out.
7. CJ asked if the 1 week deadline could be established not before CoR but before the event.
  - a. Kevin reiterated the issue of ruling clubs out.
8. Pat asked why multiple deadlines can't be instituted so some deadlines are enforced and it is not just a rush at the very last minute.
- g. Kevin emphasized that the CCC cannot just provide funding to all major events.
- h. Regarding the origination of the fund, Brian said that the fund was designed for clubs to collaborate with other student organizations (student governments, SUB) in order to put on new activities
- i. Daniel motioned to end questioning and vote on the resolution.
- j. Cynthia proposed to pass the senate resolution:
  - i. Vote: 23-3-0
  - ii. With this vote, the amendment has passed

**ii. Senate Resolution SS0910-07; CoR Collaboration Fund**

- a. Kevin mentioned that basically, for the organizations in the constitution, he has been reviewing what could be changed
- b. For the first change, people don't actually receive "a copy" of Roberts rules but an "abridged version" of Roberts rules.
- c. Wording change: "ethics committee" to "ethics commission"
- d. It does state in b, that elected officials should stay during their entire term. However, there has been a lot of confusion due to study abroad and thus

- there has been a clarification that students who do plan on studying abroad, they cannot be elected.
- e. Elise asked about the application of this student HPC to which Kevin said that HPC bylaws override this requirement.
  - f. Kevin mentioned that students can be elected while studying abroad for the following semester.
  - g. Cynthia stated that this amendment or resolution is not changing any restrictions, but merely clarifying what has already been written.
  - h. Brad motioned that he would like to make an amendment to the resolution regarding the study abroad policy.
    - i. However, Cynthia responded that the amendment would change the entire nature of the resolution. It would be appropriate for someone to motion this resolution for future consideration in another senate meeting.
      - 1. Taylor motioned first and Daniel seconded.
      - 2. It is the opinion of the chair that the I's have it.

### iii. Discussion of Rector-Student Relationships

- a. Nick motioned to table this discussion. Adam seconded.
- b. The vote to table the discussion- motion has failed.
- c. Cynthia discussed that the role of rectors has been to provide an extension of the community.
- d. Grant mentioned this is an important topic for several reasons.
  - 1. The rector essentially serves as the motherly or fatherly figure to provide advice.
  - 2. One thing student government would like to assess is not how rectors should do their job, but to foster and improve that environment with rectors.
- e. Grant discussed the tentative plan:
  - 1. Talk with the senators and hall president in order to ask for their feedback, not ask for anecdotal evidence
- f. Today, Grant and Cynthia would like to get out whether this is a topic of interest and perhaps have a general idea of what to get out of this.
- g. Andrew feels that though discipline is not the focus of the conversation, it almost seems essential to the discussion.
  - 1. Cynthia agreed.
- h. Elise said that CLC, they have talked about this before. Elise mentioned that some of the rectors and rectresses have had this conversation before. However, there has been a lot of disagreement as to what the rector and rectress's role is.
- i. Taylor asked about the rector appreciation day to which Grant responded that it is not happening.
- j. Taylor suggested that rectors talk to freshmen (private meetings) but recommended that it should continue all 4 years. This friendly relationship should be pushed forth all four years.

- k. CJ agreed with what Elise was saying that some of the personalities are not conducive to the ND community.
- l. Brad proposed that the meetings of rectors/students should be a requirement, and after that, it's a two way street: it is the student's role to take that initiative to meet with the rector.
- m. Maria feels that it would be better to perhaps create a program that can provide that advisory role because she feels a lot of rectors are not cut out for that.
- n. Daniel feels that the RAs supplement the rector's role and bridges that cultural gap. So that big brother/big sister expectation should come from the RAs as opposed to the rector.
- o. Claire asked how the rector's role is defined:
  - 1. Grant mentioned that the point of this discussion is how we can continue to foster a relationship similar to the mother and fatherly role; the issue of the rector's role will be discussed next week.
- p. Taylor asked what the process of evaluation of rectors to which Brian will discuss next week.
- q. As a transfer, Martha hopes that this issue can address transfer students.
- r. Elise suggested perhaps a weekly meeting, having coffee, etc...
- s. Austin said that the primary concern is safety. Austin also emphasized that the RA relationship is good but those qualities of an RA should not necessarily be in the rector.
- t. Denise hopes that mental and emotional health can also be addressed.
- u. Taylor brought up the issue of study abroad evaluations.
- v. Brian suggested creating more individual avenues for students to voice their opinion of the rectors in the context of rector evaluations.
- w. Susan asked when they are planning on having this meeting to which Grant said that there will be one more follow-up meeting.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- i. Taylor suggested Panda Express to replace Sbarros.

#### **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- i. The mayor for Braddock, PA is coming and if anyone is interested, they should see Dense.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- i. Cynthia entertained a motion to adjourn. Bradley motioned. *The November 11, 2009 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Tej Mudigonda  
Student Body Secretary

