

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE  
Executive Summary  
November 18, 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. Patrick and Adam were absent.
- iv. Cynthia entertained a motion to approve the new November 11, 2009 executive summary. Marc Anthony motioned. Daniel seconded. *The November 11, 2009 executive summary was approved at 6:09 p.m.*

**II. PODIUM**

**III. OFFICER REPORTS**

**i. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body President**

- a. Grant introduced the tentative map for Transpo
- b. As of right now, the route has been divided into 3 regions:
  1. North campus
  2. Notre Dame Ave
  3. Downtown
- c. The key to relay to students is that if someone needs to get off on the path but that is not an official stop, they can still get off that region
- d. Regarding the pep rally, Grant and Cynthia relayed the frustration, on behalf of the student body, with the Irish Greens venue.
- e. For the final game (Senior Day), seniors will be recognized before the game.

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

- a. Rich Gonzalez, senator of Keough Hall was officially sworn in today.
- b. Cynthia introduced Christian, the new The Shirt President.
  1. Christian passed out posters and mentioned that the committee applications are online
  2. With regard to the profits, Christian mentioned the money supports a charity fund (students that suffer from catastrophic medically-related issues), rector fund, and other student organizations.
  3. Cynthia emphasized that The Shirt project is a huge revenue that impacts even tuition costs.
- c. Today, Grant and Cynthia had a meeting with Chuck Hurley from the registrar office with regard to ListServ emails. This will be talked about in new business.

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

- a. Ryan introduced the Student Services Advisory Committee, which will

establish a best working survey with regard to different services on campus (RecSports, food services, maintenance, etc...)

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

- a. None

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- i. Wall of Ideas** [Elle Metz]
  - a. Handicap accessibility, sidewalks across tennis courts, health center advisory board, Jordan clock
- ii. Committee on Academic Affairs** [Austin Holler]
  - a. Austin discussed the success of the College Readership Day
  - b. Professor McIntyre is unavailable for Last Lecture
  - c. Clocks in Debartolo
  - d. Policy for excused absences for imminent deaths in the family
- iii. Committee on Campus Technology** [Walker Anderson]
  - a. Walker said that Tech Week went really well
  - b. Tomorrow, Walker and his committee members will be having a video conference with Sun Guard.
  - c. Something that came out of the ideas box was to look into the Jordan Computer Cluster. Although the initiative was cutoff when Jordan was built because of funding, Walker and his committee hope to look into that
  - d. Walker's committee is also answering and providing feedback dealing with OIT's new services in order to benefit students data.
- iv. Committee on Community Relations** [Denise Baron]
  - a. Denise's committee did not meet, but in addition to prior initiatives discussed, Denise will be getting in contact with the President of the Northeast Neighborhood in order to discuss student involvement.
- v. Committee on Gender Issues** [Patrick Tighe and Robyn Grant]
  - a. Robyn mentioned that they are looking to put together a survey about gender and dorm inequality issues for the RAs.
  - b. They are still looking into meeting with Ann in order to condense sexual services info for the dorms.
  - c. Collaborating with GRC to come up with ideas/events for the spring
- vi. Committee on Multicultural Affairs** [Nika Giger]
  - a. Nika's committee met on Monday to talk about the diversity certificate issue.
  - b. Nika met with Dean Page, who provided excellent feedback on the certificate.
  - c. With regard to the certificate, the goal is to essentially legitimize a document that can be perhaps put on a student's resume to show their involvement in different multicultural events, classes, etc...
  - d. Cynthia added that this is a very useful tool long-term and career wise.
- vii. Committee on Oversight** [Kevin Kimberly]
  - a. Kevin's committee is working on the strategic plan

- b. Next week, Kevin should have a revised resolution and a senate resolution as well
- viii. **Committee on Residence Life [Nick Ruof]**
  - a. Regarding Sbarros, that will be in place until summer 2010; they are open to changes so send Nick an email
  - b. They are also looking at the off-campus meal plan
  - c. Working on medical amnesty
- ix. **Committee on Social Concerns [Rachel Roseberry]**
  - a. Rachel mentioned that T-shirt sales are finished and she hopes to label each one for students to hopefully pick them up before Thanksgiving break.
  - b. Right now, Rachel's committee has been working on a GWI benefit cd.
  - c. If senators know any musicians on campus who would be interested, they should let Rachel know.
  - d. Rachel's committee is also currently working on putting the wishing wells in the dorms.
    - a. CJ asked about the security of the jugs to which Rachel said that the lid of the jugs is pretty tightly sealed so you really can't reach for the change/dollars.
  - e. There will be a table on Friday, before the UConn game, to put a water jug in LaFortune for alumni to possibly donate.
  - f. Rachel's committee is also looking into establishing the student government.
- x. **Committee on University Affairs [Jeff Lakusta]**
  - b. Jeff's committee did not meet this week.
  - c. Transpo is ready to go down.
  - d. Potential resolutions in the coming senate meetings.

## V. GENERAL ORDER

### i. Member of Senior Staff of Student Affairs; Continuing Discussion of Rector-Student Relationships

- a. Cynthia introduced Sister Sue from Student Affairs to discuss the role of the rector.
- b. From Sister Sue's perspectives, she would like to explain what Student Affairs does in terms of rector hiring in accordance with the packet and is willing to answer any questions on the process.
- c. On the first page of the packet is the hiring advertisement for Rectors that is currently being implemented in various websites, newspapers, and magazines.
- d. Ms. Sue takes a quick overview of people who apply and sees if there are any viable candidates.
- e. The second page discussed the requirements/skill set needed by a rector.
  - 1. Cynthia asked if in the eyes of student affairs, the rector has the role of providing discipline and being a counselor simultaneously

- f. On the third page, this discusses the interview schedule; sometime in the spring, Student Affairs has a sense of how many serious candidates of rectors will be interviewed.
- g. Hopefully, the individual who is hired ought to have the stability of living in a hall for at least 3+ years, thus continuity is very important.
  - 1. There are usually more rectors invited than positions available for the interview
- h. Sr. Dunn called attention to the longer interview (10-11:30AM) which consists of various leaders (2 rectors, 1 campus ministry advisor, assistant rector, and 2 student leaders).
  - 1. Student leaders are selected based on a collaborative decision taken by Student Affairs and other members of Senior Staff.
  - 2. The goal is to seek out a student leader who is somewhat very involved in the hall.
  - 3. Jeff was wondering if they keep a list of interested people or do students have to apply.
    - a.) Sr. Dunn mentioned that there has never been a shortage of interested students and she essentially hopes that there's a mix.
- i. On the fourth page, the role of the assistant rector discussed.
  - 1. Initially, graduate students and professionals are invited to attend an introductory meeting
- j. On the fifth page, the memo regarding hall life survey is discussed:
  - 1. Over 70% of students have participated in the hall life survey in prior years.
  - 2. About 252 students supplied their telephone numbers and who received follow-up phone calls.
  - 3. About 9 students had issues with their rectors and followed up in person to address these issues with Student Affairs.
- k. Taylor asked if the new rector has the opportunity to meet with the old rector in order to get a sense of the dorm atmosphere:
  - 1. Sr. Dunn responded that usually this occurs but it varies from circumstances.
- l. Ryan asked three questions:
  - 1. Is there a preference for religiousness for rectors?
    - a. Sr. Dunn responded no, but it varies from size and need of the hall to fill the ministry
  - 2. Is there a preference for ARs to be a ND grad vs. a graduate from another school:
    - a. Sr. Dunn responded no, but ND grads do recognize the quality/atmsphere
  - 3. Ryan asked if Sr. Dunn had a list of past professions of rectors:
    - a. Sr. Dunn responded: pastoral ministers, high school teachers

m. Further Questions:

1. With regard to the Rector Role and training issues that addresses the quality and roles of the rector, Grant feels that they are somewhat abstract so he asked how the balance between good friends and disciplinarian as the role for the rector is addressed?
  - i. Sr. Dunn responded that during training sessions, different workshops are established to increase or enhance skills; sometimes these sessions are sponsored by campus ministry and other committees
2. Grant asked if there could be a requirement for rectors to perhaps touch base with every student in the first semester:
  - i. Sr. Dunn responded that it could be a plausible idea
3. Claire asked in Sr. Dunn's experience, is there an informal forum for rectors to get together to which Sr. Dunn mentioned that all of the rectors meet together once a month. In addition, they do meet in informal settings.
4. Regarding the motherly/fatherly roles, Matt asked how that issue is addressed.
  - i. Sr. Dunn responded that these qualities are addressed as the administration tends to seek out rectors with good pastoral skills.
5. With regard to the "full-time" job nature of the rectors, Sr. Dunn mentioned that the restriction of hours for their part-time jobs is usually 10-15 hours, but that this issue is discussed with Fr. Poorman prior to the job.
6. Jeff inquired about the possibly of putting a packet of information for new rectors.
  - i. Brian responded that he doesn't see this as important as the hall survey because these surveys are unique to each dorm.

n. Cynthia thanked Sr. Dunn for coming to student government today.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- i. None

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- i. Center for the Homeless Luncheon in early December; there will be a raffle for student government members.
- ii. Ms. ND tomorrow
- iii. Jeff announced the \$5000 fundraiser for Eyes on Africa foundation
- iv. Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> Carroll Christmas

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- i. Cynthia entertained a motion to adjourn. Matt motioned. *The November 18, 2009 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Tej Mudigonda  
Student Body Secretary