

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

January 20, 2010

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- i. Cynthia called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- ii. Andrew led the invocation.
- iii. Ellie and Matt R. were absent.
- iv. Cynthia entertained a motion to table the approval of the December 9, 2009 executive summary minutes for next meeting. The I's have it.

II. PODIUM

III. OFFICER REPORTS

i. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body President

- A. Grant lauded the success of the fundraiser for Haiti. We hope to push this fundraiser for a couple of more weeks.
- B. In CLC, there will be some amendments and changes to DuLac.
 - a. It is a big responsibility for CLC to make suggestions to any amendments in DuLac.
 - b. Any issue can be brought up; next week Mr. Bill Kirk will be coming to CLC to discuss any particular issues that can be amended.

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

- a. None

iii. Mr. Ryan Brellenthin, Chief Executive Assistant

- a. Ryan mentioned that the Haiti-ND website and the Notre Dame website will be updated with Haiti fundraising opportunities.

iv. Professor Gupta, Faculty Senate Liaison

- a. Professor Gupta was absent.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i. **Wall of Ideas** [Elle Metz]
 - a. None
- ii. **Committee on Academic Affairs** [Austin Holler]
 - a. February 9th- Majors Night; timing has not been established.
 - b. The official time hopefully from 6:30-8:30PM
 - i. There will be posters next week.
- iii. **Committee on Campus Technology** [Walker Anderson]
 - a. Walker mentioned that the LaFun cluster is under renovation
 - b. Gordon, director of OIT, is resigning; next week
 - c. There will be two resolutions:
 - i. Commendation of Gordon's efforts at OIT

- ii. Color printer in LaFortune
- iv. **Committee on Community Relations** [Denise Baron]
 - a. Denise's committee initiated work on CommUniversity Day.
 - b. Community Summit will be at the end of March
 - c. Denise has been working on developing a script for students volunteering in South Bend to learn how their service fits in the context of the history of South Bend.
 - d. Denise has been working on a program development (1-credit course) for student representatives in the Northeast Neighborhood Council
 - e. On February 5th, student government will be going to inner city Chicago high schools to talk about ND and possibly help with recruitment.
- v. **Committee on Gender Issues** [Patrick Tighe and Robyn Grant]
 - A. Pat handed out resources (Spirit of Inclusion, buttons, and pens).
 - B. Pat requested senators to report back to their dorms that on January 28th from 7:30-9:30pm, there will be a forum including Sr. Sue, Patrick Bears, Ms. Lafferty, Dan Meyers, Laurel (SMC) to discuss the recent cartoon in the Observer and to discuss initiatives to address spirit of inclusion and homophobia issues on campus.
 - a. Open to all students, faculty, and staff
 - b. The goal at the end of the panel is to create a dialogue between students and faculty to create a long-term plan.
- vi. **Committee on Multicultural Affairs** [Nika Giger]
 - a. Nika's committee, which will meet tonight, hopes to take a look at RA training and possibly draft a resolution
 - b. MAC will also be going to the February 5th Chicago sessions.
- vii. **Committee on Oversight** [Kevin Kimberly]
 - a. No updates
- viii. **Committee on Residence Life** [Nick Ruof]
 - a. Lights on McGlenn field and medical amnesty policy are the current issues at hand.
- ix. **Committee on Social Concerns** [Rachel Roseberry]
 - a. Rachel's group will be hosting a student entrepreneurship forum
 - b. Feb 2nd- GWI benefit CD will be sold
 - c. There will be a documentary on the clean water crisis in DPAC
 - d. The CSC's spring seminar this semester will have a follow-up seminar dealing with the water issue and sustainability.
 - i. The group limit is under 10 students
 - ii. The immersion experience will be going to the Clinton Global Initiative University (a conference in Miami, FL).
- x. **Committee on University Affairs** [Jeff Lakusta]
 - a. Tomorrow, Jeff advised senators to come to his office to pick up Transpo maps, which will be displayed on laminated cards.

- i. Grant iterated the importance of pushing the word for students to pick up these maps and have the resource of the timings/location for Transpo.

V. GENERAL ORDER

i. Senate Resolution SS0910-09 Proposing the Review of Notre Dame's Policies Regarding Homosexual Members of Our Community

- A. Robyn highlighted the backdrop of this issue: the cartoon, blogs, the Observer:
 - a. The goal is to address the motivational intolerance of members at Notre Dame.
 - b. This language doesn't just appear in the Observer, but is present in dorm rooms, etc...
 - c. There are inadequate educational programs and the limited capabilities of the GRC
 - d. It is time to give students who are even more deprived and it is time to stand up for the homosexual members of the ND community
 - e. By staying silent, we are simply on the side of those initiating this discrimination
 - f. The goal is to create a reform based on the proposed resolution SS0910-09
- B. Grammar Changes:
 - a. Claire motioned to strike the comma from the second resolved clause but leaving the semi-colon outside the quotation marks; CJ seconded
 1. It is the opinion of the chair that the I's have it and resolution stands amended without the comma
- C. General Questions:
 - a. Charlie clarified the intent of this resolution:
 1. Robyn responded that they are basically calling for a review of the policies; though policies get reviewed, nothing happens.
 2. The goal is to hopefully create a task force to review the current efforts (educational efforts, sexual policies, etc...)
 - b. Taylor asked whether changes go to DuLac:
 1. Changes vary with respect to different organizations/task forces:
 - i. For example- how Core Council is structured (only 8 students), legal protection (DuLac), granting club status, etc...
 2. Patrick Bears, representative from Core Council, mentioned that the process of how people can be on the council is that students submit an application, which gets reviewed in a very selective process.
 - c. Taylor asked whether this Core Council is like Senate in CLC:

1. Patrick responded that Core Council has a direct channel with the administration in a similar capacity.
- d. Kevin asked why there are only eight members:
 1. Patrick stated that the Core Council was initially created to address gay and lesbian issues, but he was not sure how the number was chosen.
- e. Patrick also brought up other catholic colleges that have pro-homosexual clubs and that ought to be a precedent for Notre Dame's status.
- f. Claire asked about the legal support issue to which Robyn said it refers to the non-discrimination clause
- g. CJ asked what the reason is that gay/lesbian clubs have been denied club status in the past:
 1. Patrick said the reason is that the administration felt that Core Council provides the sufficient needs such that a gay club would be unnecessary.
- h. Colin asked what makes this resolution any different from past resolutions:
 1. Cynthia said it touches on legal issues but also asks for a more comprehensive review from faculty, students, and student affairs to look at cultural issues and policies as well.
 2. Denise said that it has only been about 5 times in the past 13 years that such a resolution dealing with non-discrimination policy has been passed.
- i. Grant basically said that what this resolution entails is a task force
 1. Grant's concern is that we may want to be more specific that we'd like to convene this task force in the next month prior to the next elections.
 2. Even with legal protection, Patrick said that this is something we ought to clarify as well.
- j. Grant said it would be god to invite Peggy or someone from General Council to provide a better understanding about the non-discrimination policy
- k. Pat added that if this task force can address that CoR council is not sufficient, this can be a catalyst to create a new club and meet those needs.

D. Discussion:

- a. Basically, the Observer cartoon represented a violent threat to students:
 1. It has been a very sensitive issue to current students and potential applicants about the symbol for our university in the media and press.

- b. This tangible event (the comic) has proven that the environment at Notre Dame seems to be intolerant and requires changes in policy.
- c. Maria motioned to add the following clause after the first resolved clause:
 - 1. "Resolved that the student senate urges the university to addresses the addition of sexual orientation in the university's nondiscrimination clause in order to protect the students, faculty, and staff of the Notre Dame community against the above mentioned discrimination as soon as possible"
 - i. The Gender Issues Committee has agreed with this amendment
 - ii. Susan seconded.
- d. Matt asked how this clause is different from the last resolved in the context of legal protection
 - 1. Maria agreed that it would be reasonable to strike the last clause.
- e. With regard to the addition of that clause, Grant felt that a lot of people are going to be confused as to why the University has consistently said no.
- f. Grant would like to encourage that whether senators vote on this amendment or not, he would like to accept the invitation from Peggy and student affairs to get a better understanding.
- g. Maria motioned to previous question to which Erika seconded.
 - 1. It is the opinion of the chair that the Is have it.
- h. With a vote of 25-0-1, the resolution has been amended.
- i. Martha motioned to change the present title to "A resolution proposing the review of Notre dames policies and efforts to fulfill the spirit of the inclusion's statement"
 - 1. Bradley seconded.
- j. Denise feels that the title as it stands right now has the most emphasis with who exactly we are talking. It is important to show that we are not hiding behind the flowery language that ND has consistently shown in the past in prior documents.
 - 1. Walker agreed
- l. Martha motioned to previous question and Nick seconded
 - 1. It is the opinion of the chair that the I's have it.
- m. With a vote of 0-25-1, this amendment has failed to pass and the present title will stand.
- n. Erika asked about the transgender policy:
 - 1. Patrick said that the Core Council does not address any issues with transgender individuals which is why the title is LBGQ

- o. Nick motioned to correct the last resolved to cross out “especially” and cross the second line until “granting”
 - 1. Matt seconded
- p. Robyn agrees in that the goal is to reduce redundancy
- q. Tiffany motioned to amend the amendment to change “reviewing” to “review” to which Andrew seconded
- r. Maria voted and Susan seconded to move to previous question
- s. It is the opinion of the chair that the Is have it and we will proceed to voting on Tiffany’s amendment.
- t. With a vote of 12-8-5, this amendment to the amendment has failed and the floor is open to propose a new amendment to the final resolved clause.
- u. Brad motioned to previous question and Andrew seconded.
- v. It is the opinion of the chairs and the resolution stands as amended.
- w. Cynthia opened the floor to visiting groups.
 - 1. Mary, from PSA, expressed her support for the current resolution and recalled her success last year when about a 1/3 of the student body supported the addition of a non-discrimination clause to DuLac.
- x. Brad motioned to previous question to vote on the resolution in its amended form.
 - 1. It is the opinion of the chair that the I’s have it.
- y. With a vote of 24-0-1, SS0910-09 resolution has passed.

a. The Student Response to Haiti Disaster

- a. Cynthia highlighted Haiti’s disaster and its relevance to Notre Dame’s mission as a Catholic University
- b. Ryan said that personally, he had a chance to do a lot of work with Hurricane Katrina, and this issue has definitely been the gravest issue in his four years in terms of impact.
- c. Taylor proposed a trip perhaps for student government to offer service opportunities:
 - i. Matt highlighted that given the threat level and the notion that the University is responsible for its students, this does not seem to be a feasible option.
- d. Rachel wished to emphasize what her committee has in place to raise funds:
 - i. Funds will be going to: Red Cross, Catholic Relief services, Holy Cross missions, Friends of the Orphans, Notre Dame Haiti project, and a particular website in Haiti.
 - ii. There are donation cups in halls and representatives all across campus.
- e. Cynthia will look into requesting building managers to hopefully put these at more prominent locations.

- f. Jeff also mentioned that in addition to organizational efforts, there are a lot of student efforts.
- g. Maria pushed for faculty outreach.
- h. Taylor mentioned that a lot of times students don't carry cash and Grant responded that student government is working on Domer Dollars.
- i. Susan asked if this ends on Friday:
 - i. On Friday, the % will be decided as to where all the money will be sent
 - ii. On Friday, the money will be emptied and sent; we'll probably keep the buckets for another week.
- j. Brian suggested the idea of perhaps raising a Haiti fundraising competition.
- k. Erika asked whether we can create catchy posters to put around campus, i.e. "50 cents can feed a family of four"

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- i. Andrew discussed the email over the break with regard to student improveND survey.
 - a. Only 39% of the undergrads have completed it so far.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Out of 500,000 charities, Jeff's Eyes on Africa is in the top 100; please vote if you haven't!

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- i. Cynthia entertained a motion to adjourn. Susan motioned. *The January 20, 2010 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Tej Mudigonda
Student Body Secretary

