

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE  
Executive Summary  
January 27, 2010  
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

- i. Cynthia called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- ii. Chase led the invocation.
- iii. <sup>Megan</sup> Megan D. was absent.
- iv. Cynthia entertained a motion to approve the new January 20th, 2010 executive summary. Matt motioned first. CJ seconded. *The January 20th, 2010 executive summary was approved at 6:09 p.m.*

**II. PODIUM**

**III. OFFICER REPORTS**

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

- a. Grant thanked everyone for the current fundraising efforts for Haiti.
- b. With regard to budget control for food services, Nick's committee will compile a survey to get questions answered such as the following:
  1. Why can't we have Styrofoam to go?
  2. Why can't card meals rollover week to week?
  3. Why can't we swipe more than 3 times a day?
  4. Why does South have limited hours?

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

- a. Cynthia emphasized the importance of today's meetings for resolutions
- b. Cynthia has worked on two cover letters for several resolutions:
  1. One was delivered to Fr. Jenkins and the other was delivered to Fr. Poorman

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

- a. None

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

- a. Professor Gupta was absent.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- a. None this week
- b. Elle has been coordinating with Eddy Street commons with regard to new business ventures:
  - i. Urban Outfitters
  - ii. Ryan added that there is a two page document that will be passed around to emphasize the University's interest in having this store at Eddy Street Commons.
    - a. Senators who are interested ought to sign the form

- ii. **Committee on Academic Affairs** [Austin Holler]
  - a. Austin got Professor James McAdams confirmed for the Last Lecture Series:
    - i. Date TBA
  - b. Majors Night: February 9th
- iii. **Committee on Campus Technology** [Walker Anderson]
  - a. Walker's committee will be drafting a document entailing characteristics interested in the replacement for Gordon Wishon
  - b. This month, his committee will be working on trying to get a computer cluster in Jordan
- iv. **Committee on Community Relations** [Denise Baron]
  - a. Denise's committee met on Monday to form a subcommittee for the Community Summit in Late March
  - b. Denise's committee is also planning on the Chicago trip committee
    - a. Planning meeting on Sunday
  - c. Denise has been meeting with several people in CSC to draft a 1-credit course for Northeast Neighborhood
  - d. Denise also met with several people in CSC to create a social history of SB program for people already involved in service opportunities.
- v. **Committee on Gender Issues** [Patrick Tighe and Robyn Grant]
  - a. Robyn talked about the Forum tomorrow from 7:30-9:30 in the Carey Auditorium and expressed her optimism for a productive meeting.
- vi. **Committee on Multicultural Affairs** [Nika Giger]
  - a. Nika met on Monday to talk about MSPS and the diversity certificate
  - b. Met with LaTonya Ferguson at the Career Center and Iris Outlaw about MSPS
  - c. Planning for International Week at the end of the week
- vii. **Committee on Oversight** [Kevin Kimberly]
  - a. Kevin will start filming next Sunday
- viii. **Committee on Residence Life** [Nick Ruof]
  - a. Nick is working on food services
  - b. Nick has been given the idea to form Stew Quad
    - i. Cristi added that this idea came up between her hall council and St. Ed's hall council.
    - ii. Matt Robinson strongly advocated the naming of Stew Quad
    - iii. This resolution will be discussed in Nick's committee.
- ix. **Committee on Social Concerns** [Rachel Roseberry]
  - a. Rachel is hoping to release the benefit CD next week.
  - b. Rachel will have a meeting about CommUniversity Day
- x. **Committee on University Affairs** [Jeff Lakusta]
  - a. Jeff mentioned that the Transpo cards (about 4000) have been handed out around campus.
  - b. They will be passed around for one more day.
  - c. February 12<sup>th</sup> – Transpo Session

## V. GENERAL ORDER

### i. Election of Senate CLC and COR Representatives

- i. The I's have it and this has been tabled.

### ii. Tabled

- a. One of the Senate responsibilities is to hear election appeals
- b. Prior to asking for a motion to bring forth our representatives, Kevin contextualized the situation:
  1. In the constitution, Kevin mentioned that there is an appeal process for someone deemed a candidate but not someone who has attempted candidacy and was denied.
  2. Basically, for people who want to appeal, they come to Senate within 36 hours and appeal;
  3. Marcello, VP of elections, will come up and state the case against the person appealing and the person appealing will state his/her case
  4. After this debate, Senate will ask as many questions as possible
  5. Senators will then vote and it takes 2/3 (majority); if this is satisfied the appeal will get overturned.
  6. Paige added that any member of the body who has a personal interest not shared by the rest of the members of Senate may exclude themselves either from discussion or voting.
- c. Cameron and Marcello introduced themselves
- d. Cynthia entertained a motion to add the election appeal of Cameron and Marcello to the agenda
  1. The I's have it.
- e. **Presentation:**
  1. Cameron:
    1. Cameron wished to thank everyone for taking the time to hear his appeal and understands that Marcello is clearly doing his job adhering to these clauses.
    2. Basically, Cameron came in a bit late (45 minutes after the deadline) after his class to hand the petition.
    3. Marcello called back and said that he could not accept the petition on the basis of the student body constitution.
    4. Recently, Cameron became more informed about how these processes work.
    5. If there is an election violation, then that complaint is sent to the judicial council, whose job is to assemble an election committee, which has a hearing to evaluate the case.

6. In this case, because Cameron wasn't technically a candidate, he didn't a candidate in the first place.
7. This led to Marcello's final say to turn down the petition.
8. Cameron requested the Senate to overturn the decision in consideration of the forty-five minute delay.
9. At the end of the day, all Cameron is asking is for the chance to run.

2. Marcello:

1. Marcello's job is to run an election and if there are any campaign violations, he looks into that.
2. On Friday, about 12:45, Cameron came in with his advisor to turn in a petition, which was past the deadline (which was noon), and Marcello had to make the decision to accept Cameron and CJ's petition for student body president and vice president.
3. At that point, Marcello met with several members at SAO and viewed to constitution, which stated that "no petition shall be accepted after the deadline without prior written approval of the election committee" (p. 39-40, Section 17).
4. Time was not stated in latter clause, however, another clause clearly stated that noon was the deadline (p. 39).
5. Marcello made the final decision not to accept the petition.

f. CJ and Andrew would like to exclude themselves for discussion and voting:

g. **General Questions/Discussion:**

1. Erika asked why Cameron couldn't complete the task earlier to which Cameron mentioned ultimately it was his lack of responsibility to adhere to the deadline.
2. Matt asked whether Cameron knew of the consequences to which Cameron felt that it didn't seem too formal.
3. Taylor asked the exact time when Cameron picked up the petition to have them signed to which Cameron said he wasn't sure the exact time.
4. Nick stated that in running for a significant position, if one doesn't know the consequences, then why should that person be able to run for this position
  1. Cameron apologized.
5. Matt asked why they jumped into the race so late:

1. Cameron said that on Saturday, he was approached by someone who recommended him to run.
6. Erika asked how Cameron intends to answer this situation if he does get elected.
  1. Cameron said at the end of the day it's not his job to deflect responsibility and that he intends to educate himself immediately.
7. Rachel asked if Cameron would be comfortable with this precedent and change the constitution:
  1. Cameron said that a Friday noon deadline has no basis on anything and is aware that it is in the constitution.
  2. Cameron did mention that noon deadline was a difficult time in the midst of classes
  3. Because there is no constitutional setting or precedent for Cameron to get an appeal via Judicial Council, Cameron felt that that was the rationale.
8. Zack asked if Cameron thinks it is fair while other candidates were able to turn their petition on time:
  1. Cameron said in terms of penalty, it is certainly on him but given the democracy in allowing other students, he feels that giving him the chance to run would be fair.
9. Matt R. asked if senate does choose to accept him as a candidate, what sanctions does Cameron accept:
  1. Cynthia said someone can motion to impose sanctions to deny candidacy
  2. Marcello said that currently, there are 3 approved tickets.
10. Matt L. said if Cameron decided to run on Saturday, why didn't they pick up the petition until at least Wednesday:
  1. Cameron was not sure.
11. Nick asked Marcello if they could turn their petition earlier to which Marcello said yes.
12. Chase asked Marcello if any election appeals have been overturned in the past.
  1. Marcello responded that this is the first time there has ever been an email.
13. Pat asked if candidates receive information about the deadlines and rules to which Marcello responded yes.
14. Patrick asked if candidates can appeal to have an extension on these petitions in case they could not meet the deadline to which Marcello responded yes.

- h. Paige highlighted that because CJ and Andrew are abstaining, it would count towards the 2/3.
- i. Paige also added that we can't lose two more people or we lose quorum.
- j. Paige iterated the options for senators.
- k. Ryan said that the status quo is that they are off the ballot and the debate is whether they should be on the ballot or not.
- l. **Discussion:**
  - 1. Elise stated that if she was in that position, it would be awful to not get to run, but with the explicit instructions and given the lack of whole-heartedness to run, the rules should be followed.
  - 2. Brian emphasized that there was a comment about the Friday noon deadline, which might be arbitrary, but it was set by previous administrators and Senate because it allows time for administrators to review academic and disciplinary eligibility to give candidates approval to campaign over the weekend.
  - 3. Charlie said that we should give Cameron the chance to run given the seriousness and his ability to get the signatures.
  - 4. Nika agreed with Charlie in spite of not meeting the deadline.
  - 5. Having had four years of student government, Jeff added that the trend has been to take it seriously and understand the spirit of the law, but at the same time, it is important to see that ultimately that it's the student body who votes and given those circumstances, we should at least let Cameron run.
  - 6. Cynthia added that right now we can motion to overturn Marcello's decision; that motion can include more sanctions.
    - 1. Kevin said that examples of these sanctions can include the amount of money used to campaign, time spent to run, etc...
  - 7. Susan feels that it is a bit harsh but it shouldn't go unpunished as well.
  - 8. Gus had a point of inquiry:
    - 1. Do they get approved on Friday or Monday?
      - a. Brian said most of the time, candidates
  - 9. Rachel feels that ultimately this issue deals with the constitution and making an exception now reflects a slippery slope in sanction policies.
  - 10. Matt L. feels that Cameron started to run on Saturday and didn't get enough time to get all the signatures; basically this why we have the rules in place for the deadline.

11. Chase said that Cameron has played an excellent role on CoR and he has held the President of CCC; in light of this, we should not take our roles too seriously.
  12. Claire agrees with the idea that we should let this first barrier slide and let CJ and Cameron.
  13. Austin added that we shouldn't make assumptions too much on the context but that we have to realize the end results in that Cameron got the job done and let Cameron to run.
  14. Zack said that this would set a precedent for future elections.
  15. Pat said that if we do decide to let Cameron run, we should consider sanctions along the lines that turning a paper late for class is still accepted, yet with punishment.
  16. Denise emphasized that we are negatively affecting other candidates who are running
  17. Denise also added that there is no appeal system in place for people who don't agree with how the rules work and that is telling of the system and its deadlines already in place.
  18. Denise emphasized that as student government leaders, we have taken an oath to adhere to the constitution.
  19. Nick feels a lot of bad for the guy and taking responsibility for his actions but it's a fairness issue ultimately in that it would take votes away from other candidates.
  20. Brian said on p. 39 in the constitution, it specifically mentioned candidates who miss the deadline.
  21. Susan wanted to address the idea of taking ourselves too seriously. Although there will be a precedent set to not follow the constitution if we do accept candidate, we have violated other portions in the constitution, i.e.- election of senators who have studied abroad.
  22. Erika emphasized that it's already late in the game.
- m. Jeff suggested that we should vote on whether to overturn it.
  - n. Chase suggested that we should have speakers to offer why we are voting for a particular decision.
  - o. Susan motioned to overturn the decision. Matt H. seconded
    1. Taylor motioned to previous question. Matt seconded.
      - i. The I's have it.
  - p. Cynthia emphasized that if we get 2/3, Cameron and Shane will be eligible to run for student body president/vice president.
  - q. With a vote of 8-17-0, this motion has failed. The Judicial Council's decision has been upheld and CJ and Cameron are ineligible to run.

**iii. Senate Resolution SS0910-10 Expressing the sense of the Student Senate Regarding Service of Gordon Wishon**

- a. Walker mentioned that this resolution expresses thanks to Gordon Wishon for his services
- b. Back in the day, we were darting by telephone – a system that Gordon has completely revamped.
- c. Gordon implemented the Gmail system and printers in every dorm.
- d. This document is to recognize Gordon's work.
- e. Questions:
  1. Brian asked why he resigned to which Walker said he is not sure.
- f. Brian added that the university has retained him as a consultant, however.
- g. Grammar Changes:
  1. 2 date changes: 09-10
  2. In the resolved, "to Gordon Wishon" should be added after "gratitude" and not at the end.
- h. Debate:
  1. Brian supports the resolution.
  2. Maria motioned to previous question. Erika seconded.
    1. The I's have it.
- i. By unanimous consent, SS0910-10 has been passed.

**iv. Senate Resolution SS0910-11 Proposing the Installation of a Color Printer in the LaFortune Computer Cluster**

- a. Taylor motioned to table this resolution. Matt seconded.
  1. The I's have it and this item has been tabled.

**v. Presentation of duLac Revisions**

- a. CJ motioned to table this resolution.
  1. The I's have it and this item has been tabled.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- i. None

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- i. McGlenn Hall Casino Night this Friday!
- ii. Haiti benefit concert tonight in the LaFortune Ballroom

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- i. Cynthia entertained a motion to adjourn. Susan motioned. *The January 27, 2010 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.*

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Tej Mudigonda  
Student Body Secretary**