

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE
Executive Summary
February 24th, 2010
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. INVOCATION

- i. Cynthia called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
- ii. Chase led the invocation.
- iii. Walker, Nick, Ashley, Charlie, and Kelly were absent.
- iv. Cynthia entertained a motion to approve the February 17th, 2010 executive summary. Bradley motioned to approve the minutes. *The February 17th, 2010 executive summary was approved at 6:10 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- i. **Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body President**
 - i. Grant is finalizing the CLC resolution information
- i. **Ms. Cynthia Weber, Student Body Vice-President**
 - i. None
- ii. **Mr. Ryan Brellenthin, Chief Executive Assistant**
 - i. Ryan mentioned that we will address the economics issue today
- iii. **Ms. Kristin Lewis, Faculty Senate Liaison**
 - i. Kristin was absent.

IV. Committee Reports

- i. **Committee on Academic Affairs [Austin Hollander]**
 - a. None
- ii. **Committee on Campus Technology [Walker Anderson]**
 - a. Absent
- iii. **Committee on Community Relations [Denise Baron]**
 - a. Denise mentioned that the CommUniversity date has been changed because of staff capacity issues. [new date: April 10th]
 - b. Denise is also finalizing the letters for Community Summit
 - c. Denise's community has also been working with Northeast Neighborhood
- iv. **Committee on Gender Issues [Patrick Tighe]**
 - a. Patrick mentioned that we are in the midst of Sexual Assault Awareness week.
 - b. Sexual Awareness Week:
 - a. Movie tonight discussing rape charges
 - b. Time to Heal Dinner on Friday at Legends
- v. **Committee on Multicultural Affairs [Nika Giger]**
 - a. Nika's committee met on Monday to discuss the resolution for next week on diversity and MSPS
 - b. Nika is also working on the International Display for International Week.

- vi. Committee on Oversight [Kevin Kimberly]**
 - a. Kevin's committee is currently in the process of editing (student government video).
 - b. Two resolutions for next week
 - c. Kevin reminded that senators who are elected for the next term are required to attend senate meetings in March in order to better transition into their new roles for April
- viii. Committee on Residence Life [Nick Ruof]**
 - a. Absent
- viii. Committee on Social Concerns [Rachel Roseberry]**
 - a. Rachel thanked everyone for coming to the Forum last night.
 - b. The Green Summit also went really well on Monday.
 - c. Rachel will be selling the benefit CD this Thursday.
 - d. Other than that, Communiversity Day next week.
- ix. Committee on University Affairs [Jeff Lakusta]**
 - a. T-shirts were passed out for Transpo
 - b. Over 200 people rode Transpo Friday night.

V. GENERAL ORDER

A. SS0910-[13] – Academic Forum

i. Brief History of Forum:

1. Austin mentioned that the Academic Forum has been held for the past 4 years
 - a. Jenkins' topic of Why God was the first issue that was discussed.
2. This past year, the Forum has not been held.
3. It is a great experience for students to engage in dialogue.
4. The purpose of this resolution is to propose that the Forum becomes an annual event.

ii. Grammatical corrections- none

iii. Questions on Background of Resolution:

1. Matt asked why the Forum was not held this year:
 - a. Austin said the speaker had an issue in the Fall and it was intended to be moved from the Fall to the Spring.

iv. Discussion on the Resolution:

- i. Elise thinks it is really important from a recruiting standpoint that would attract a lot of students; adds to the intellectual engagement
- ii. Jeff thinks in a cover letter, we should address backup plans to get the right speaker.
 - a. Denise added that in other conversation we have had the Forum a big part of campus life.
- iii. CJ's concern is that there needs to be a lot of thought to be put into the topic.
- iv. Andrew mentioned that as an incoming student, he was introduced the Forum.

- v. Andrew added that perhaps students can read books over the summer in anticipation for the forum.
- vi. Maria emphasized that the Forum's notion as an interdisciplinary issue.
- vii. Taylor thinks that this issue can expand more that can cater to other groups as well.
- viii. Erika motioned to previous question. Chase seconded.
- v. **Voting on Resolution:**
 - 1. The I's have it and this resolution has passed.

B. SS0910-[14] – Dissolution of Policy Studies in the Economics Major

i. History of the 2 Departments:

- 1. 10 years ago, there was one economics department consisting of quantitative and policy studies; when economics became more quantitative, it was split into two departments, with the idea that the policy studies department would slowly dissolve itself
- 2. Dean McGreevy, upon taking office, decided to dissolve the policy studies department
- 3. The proposal is for professors to stay on in other departments, but it is unclear how this is being done
- 4. Tomorrow, Academic Council will vote to officially dissolve the department of policy studies
- 5. Maria asked if this was a financial issue; Denise answered that it wasn't the initial reason behind the decision but it is a consideration; Ryan clarified that there are many debates about recruiting and academic freedom, but financial considerations haven't had a focus in the conversation; Cynthia says one of the perceived reasons behind the move is that some outside schools and employers do not see Notre Dame's extra policy-based classes as beneficial
- 6. Martha asked what the proposed timeline is; Ryan said that it would be that there would be officially one department in the next academic year
- 7. Jeff asked if the policy-based classes would still be offered; Ryan answered that it could be the classes are not offered or that economics professors will teach these classes, but outside the department
- 8. Tiffany asked if it was possible that students would change their majors as a result of the change; Ryan answered that is a consideration more appropriate for debate on the resolution
- 9. Martha asked about the differences between economics and econometrics

ii. Austin's Presentation of the Resolution

- 1. We are asking that tomorrow at Academic Council, they withhold the decision to dissolve the department of Economics

and Policy Studies until students are more fully educated and consulted in the decision

2. The next step is for the administration is to more fully educate the students on the subject
3. The resolution also asks for any future move of this magnitude be decided only after asking for student input
4. Ryan said that we will not discuss whether it is good for the department to be dissolved, but whether students should be consulted before the decision is made
5. Jeff asked how Academic Council will be notified; Grant said that it will be e-mailed to them and he and Ryan would be at the meeting tomorrow; Ryan clarified that they will only discuss postponing discussion, not making a decision about whether or not the dissolution should happen.
6. Matt asked if the dissolution may still happen at a later date if Academic Council decides to postpone

ii. Grammatical changes

1. Taylor asked what the meaning of the fourth "whereas" clause was, and Denise clarified that there has been no detailed explanation of how the dissolution and movement of professors would be carried out.
2. Chase asked about the use of the word "institutes"; Denise said that it could refer to even departments that aren't degree-granting entities; Jeff said he felt as though "institutes" is out of place and maybe "departments" is a better word.
3. Martha moved that in the fifth whereas clause, "within the university" be inserted after "institutes." The motion was passed by unanimous consent
4. Taylor moved that a comma be inserted after 2009. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

iii. General Debate

1. Brad was in favor of the resolution.
2. Claire said that until the resolution goes to Academic Council, nothing really be implemented.
3. Maria moved to strike "make an effort to" (the second "Resolved" clause). The motion was seconded. There was no debate and it was passed by voice vote.
4. Gus feels that adding a tenured professor is no easy task.
 - a. Ryan feels that no professor can be moved into a department without mutual consent and in the event.
5. Gus asked if there was any pressure for tenured professors to retire to which Grant responded yes.
6. Taylor agrees that this is a huge issue in terms of dissolving an entire part of a major.

7. CJ mentioned that a lot of decisions are made in Mendoza without student input. Perhaps this dissolution is an acceptable measure as well.
8. Chase feels like it is difficult to say in terms what line to draw as to whether we need student input or not; perhaps getting rid of this major is right for the students
9. Matt L. emphasized to look at this as an academic issue in general in order to create precedence.
10. Taylor thinks leaving the resolution as it is keeps it open for discretion.
11. Brian mentioned that when government changed to political science, there wasn't much controversy other than some angst.
12. CJ said that debate seems to reflect that some want the wording to be stronger and others want it to be weaker
13. Maria said that the resolution is fine the way it is
14. Jeff said that we should focus on the spirit of the resolution and not split hairs; Jeff said he wondered about the pros of getting rid of the department, and realized this is why we need to be further educated
15. Nick moved previous question, it was seconded, and passed by voice vote
16. Passed with a vote of 21-0-2, resolution has passed

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- i. Cynthia wanted to remind that the next couple of senates will be important because of resolutions.
- ii. Andrew passed out fliers for committee chair selection.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. BP auction tomorrow!
- ii. This Friday- Farley Fiasco
- iii. LHOP Saturday night

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- i. Cynthia entertained a motion to adjourn. Claire motioned. *The February 24th, 2010 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.*

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

