

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE
Executive Summary
March 18th, 2010
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- i. Cynthia called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM
- ii. Erika led the invocation
- iii. Walker, Robyn, Charlie, Kolin, Megan C. and Taylor were absent
- iv. March 3rd, 2010 Executive Summary approved

II. Podium

- i. Mr. Grant Schmidt: State of the Student Union
 - a. He said on behalf of the Student Senate, we have a come a long way.
 - b. "It is easy to be a leader when surrounded by hard working, dedicated people
 - c. It was the goal to making the voice of the student body louder, and make student government the go-to group
 - d. We have pushed to make sure students are consulted before decisions are made
 - e. Administration is truly outstanding, but it is our responsibility to keep them in check
 - f. This year, student government has been loud
 - i. People used to say "Don't vote for Grant Schmidt- he is way too buddy-buddy with the administration"
 - ii. Based on this year, that is not true
 - iii. We have pushed some buttons, and there have been times that the administration has not been happy with us
 - g. We have looked at issues that affect students on a day to day basis
 - i. Importance of medical amnesty, and looking at situations at the lowest possible administrative level
 - h. We have improved the brand of Student Government, and put Student Government on the map. Students know what we do. We have created tangible results.
 - i. Without Cynthia, I would be a disaster. She is absolutely essential to the stability of this office. Her decision is extremely honorable not to continue with student government next year
 - j. Ryan Brellenthin has been an amazing chief of staff. He waits for the right times to provide his advice, and is passionate about his academics.
 - k. Denise Baron is the reason that there has been so much progress in community relations. She never accepts the status quo or deals with any baloney
 - l. Jeff Lakusta- TRANSPO has been successful because of him. His smile, goofiness, and laid back nature make him the guy everyone wants around. He reminded us that we can't take ourselves too seriously, but at the same time, that we do have an important role
 - m. Kevin Kimberley is a guy that gets things done. Strategic plan will be valuable in coming years.

n. Nika Giger - MAC is a tough and controversial committee. She has thought of numerous ways to improve the diversity on campus. We have had a difficult time getting responses from the administration, but she has brought up issues that touch so many students

o. Rachel Roseberry is always on a mission. She is extremely busy, but will always stop to help somebody else. Global Water Initiative has been more successful than it was ever imagined.

p. Nick Ruof is always honest. He jumpstarted our ability to have tangible results. Medical Amnesty is one of the most important

w. Pat and Robyn also had a challenging committee. They have been very successful, between the Love Your Body campaign, comic strip, etc.

q. Austin Holler got a lot accomplished through his work on library renovations, college readership, textbook prices, majors night, and economics department decision.

r. Walker Anderson has blown campus technology out of the water. He has had hundreds of initiatives, and really strengthened the student government relationships with OIT

s. Tej, Paige, Kevin Doyle, Gus Gari, Elle, and Bridget also all did great jobs

t. Involvement has exceeded all expectations. With every other student leader on campus, we have truly made a difference. I told you this at the beginning of the year, leave this campus knowing that we made a difference. Please realize that we have made this campus a better place.

u. We have a very responsive and eager campus. We have responded to this call.

v. Catherine Soler and Andrew Bell – complete confidence that their administration

w. For the next step – Catherine and Andrew- keep things in perspective. You are the role models of this university. People are always looking to you for the next step. At some point, it is not just student government. We are leading one of the most prominent universities in the country.

x. Don't hold back. Do something about the most controversial topics.

y. This job has been easy and a pleasure because of you.

z. Thank you for dedication, and for making this one heck of a place to be.”

III. Officer Reports

i. Mr. Grant Schmidt

a. None

ii. Cynthia Weber, Student Body Vice President

a. Next Senate in March 24th, 2010

b. Can't have Senate on the 31st because of a Finance test

c. Try to reschedule for that Monday, March 29th

iii. Ryan Brellenthin

a. Grant, thank you for the speech

iv. Professor Gupta

a. Professor Gupta was absent

IV. Committee Reports

- i. Committee on Academic Affairs, Austin Holler
- ii. Committee on Community Relations
- iii. Committee on Campus Technology
- iv. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - a. Resolution for MSPS next week
- v. Committee on Oversight
 - a. Finising up the video, two resolutions next week
- vi. Committee on Residence Life
 - a. Resolution about getting students on the committee for rector hiring
 - b. Resolution about Rec Sports
- vii. Committee on Social Concerns
 - a. Sign ups open on March 29th for Communiversity Day (on April 10th)
- viii. Committee on University Affairs
 - a. Resolution today, TRANSPO treats this week

VI. General Orders

- i. SS0910-19: A Resolution Calling for the Addition of a Student Leader to the Direct Decision Process of the Commencement Speaker
 - a. Jeff introduced
 - b. General Questions
 - 1. Claire asked about the confidentiality aspect, and if that is the reason there is not a student on the committee now
 - c. Grammatical Changes
 - 1. Semi colons
 - 2. Change "receiving input" to "collecting input"
 - d. Debate/Discussion
 - 1. Brad said he would rather have two people on it. "Student Body President AND Senior Class President", rather than having it say OR
 - i. Chase seconded
 - ii. Chase said he thinks it is too much responsibility for one person
 - iii. Maria said she agrees, it would moderate their views
 - iv. Nika said she would lean more towards senior class president rather than just student body president, especially because next year the President will be a junior
 - v. Brad said the way it is written now, it could go either way
 - vi. Rachel asked if there was a reason we were asking for either/or
 - vii. Cynthia said part of the reason we put either was because the president is involved. Last year, for the Student Body President, his phone was ringing off the hook.
 - viii. Chase said we could maybe change it to "student government representative"
 - ix. CJ said he thinks or is fine, and since we do not have anyone on the committee now, one is better than one
 - x. Jeff said that this is so that the students can feel good about it, but it is not the last word. No one is going to completely disagree with Fr. Jenkins. We want to be realistic about the input that will

be accepted. The difference between and/or might not really matter

xi. Andrew asked if having two people would hurt our chances of getting anyone

aa. Not sure

xii. Maria said she doesn't think it will matter if it is really one or two. It would be good to have two opinions.

aa. Martha said she has a similar opinion

xiv. Susan said she thinks it is better to ask for two

xv. Brad moved to previous question, Matt seconded

xvi. With a vote of 20-2-2, this amendment has passed

2. Chase brought to discussion to change it to "any student government representative

i. Jeff said there is something to be said for it to be given to a specific person. Something about consistency

ii. Brad said he thinks it is important to keep it defined

iii. Ryan said there was a similar one for the right to life committee. The more defined who the person is, the better

iv. Chase rescinded his comment, and said he agrees now that a specific person is important

3. Erika asked how this representative is going to gage their constituent's response without violating the secrecy aspect

i. Jeff said that the idea would be, because of the position he/she is in, that person would have a general feeling, without having to talk to them

ii. Matt said that since the person was elected, he/she would have an accurate representation

iii. Jeff said it would never come down to a situation or "him" or "him" because they do not send out two invitations

4. Claire asked Jeff when the decisions are made

i. We do not know. It is announced in March, but technically it could be made up to two years in advance

ii. Erika said she thinks it is concerning that they could be made so far in advance

e. The resolution has passed with unanimous vocal vote.

V. New Business

i. If anyone wants to go to the Community Summit, they need to let Denise know by today.

1. 10 AM – 1 PM, next Friday, March 26th

VI. Announcements

i. Martha said there is a Ryan Hall Blood Drive tomorrow

a. Free smoothie and a t-shirt

ii. Sam said tonight is the Cavanaugh Hall dance a thon

- iii. Tiffany said Howard Hall Bone Marrow drive is downstairs right now
- iv. Brad said St. Mary's dance-a-thon is next Saturday

VII. Adjournment

- i. Chase motioned, Erika seconded
- ii. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM

