

**NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE**  
**Executive Summary**  
**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**Notre Dame Room, LaFortune**

**I. INVOCATION**

- i. Cynthia called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.
- ii. Andrew led the invocation.
- iii. Bradley, Brian, Ellie, and Kolin were absent.
- iv. Cynthia entertained a motion to approve the March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 executive summary. *The March, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 executive summary was approved by unanimous consent at 6:15 p.m.*

**II. PODIUM**

**III. OFFICER REPORTS**

- i. **Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body President**
  - i. None
- i. **Ms. Cynthia Weber, Student Body Vice-President**
  - i. None
- ii. **Mr. Ryan Brellenthin, Chief Executive Assistant**
  - i. None
- iii. **Mr. Gupta, Faculty Senate Liaison**
  - i. None

**IV. Committee Reports**

- i. **Committee on Academic Affairs [ Austin Hollander ]**
  - a. Last Lecture scheduled on April 13<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Posters next week
- ii. **Committee on Campus Technology [ Walker Anderson ]**
  - a. New LaFun Computer Cluster
  - b. New Student Government Website
- iii. **Committee on Community Relations [ Denise Baron ]**
  - a. Denise briefly mentioned CommUniversity Week
- iv. **Committee on Gender Issues [ Patrick Tighe ]**
  - a. Patrick mentioned that GRC will be cosponsoring an event in which an ND alum will discuss her experiences being homosexual at ND and a professor will present
    - a. More information next senate.
- v. **Committee on Multicultural Affairs [ Nika Giger ]**
  - a. Nika has a resolution today.
- vi. **Committee on Oversight [ Kevin Kimberly ]**
  - a. Kevin is still working on the video.
- viii. **Committee on Residence Life [ Nick Ruof ]**
  - a. Resolution
- viii. **Committee on Social Concerns [ Rachel Roseberry ]**

- a. Rachel mentioned that tonight at 7: cosponsoring Water Stupid!
- ix. **Committee on University Affairs [ Jeff Lakusta ]**
  - a. University Affairs is wrapped up and the last event will be a performance on Transpo this weekend

## V. GENERAL ORDER

### A. SS0910-[20] – Educational Opportunity for Displaced Haitian Students

#### a. Background:

- i. What is the way the university can support the people in Haiti after the Earthquake other than solely monetary benefits.
- ii. Specifically geared for the students in Haiti
- iii. Resolution merely asks that university investigates the possibility to let students come Fall 2010 for Haitian students.

#### b. Questions: none

- i. A university in NO planned on doing this initiative as well
- ii. Taylor asked about transferring of credits.
- iii. Regarding precedent, Grant mentioned that past administrations evaluated students on a case by case scenario for displaced students

#### c. Grammar:

- i. Redundant “That” in the first resolved
- ii. In third Whereas, “ability” to “opportunity”

#### d. Debate/Discussion:

- i. Jeff commented on the strength of the program in promoting Catholic mission
  - 1. Chase agreed
- ii. Taylor asked about the language barrier:
  - 1. Ryan responded that the college educated class should have proficient English skills
- iii. POI- Nika mentioned that she knows someone who has come to ND from an HBCU and she transitioned well.
- iv. Gus inquired about the educational standards to which Ryan responded that the general sentiment is that this is opportunity is possible.
- v. Erika motioned to previous question. Nick seconded. The I’s have it.

#### e. Voting:

- i. The I’s have it and this resolution has passed.

### B. SS0910-[21] – Amendment to the Constitution’s Senate Article VI

#### a. Background:

- i. Kevin clarified that this resolution makes minor changes to different committees
- ii. For 9 and 10, the constitution mentions the transition aspects and celebrating diversity workshop

1. These changes propose for a comprehensive workshop in the middle of Senate once senators have adjusted; this single workshop would cover A-F
  - iii. Kevin thinks these changes will really help getting used to parliamentary procedures.
- b. Questions:**
- i. Taylor asked the day Senators have to get elected by to which Kevin responded March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - ii. CJ asked what will (F) diversity entail in the workshop.
    1. Kevin responded that it is more important to recognize these issues; along with MAC, diversity, in general, is a very important issue.
- c. Grammar:**
- i. None
- d. Debate/Discussion:**
- i. Chase commended these changes
  - ii. Erika's silence = enthusiasm
  - iii. Elise feels that this workshop is a great icebreaker
  - iv. CJ asked if the parliamentarian required to which Kevin said yes
  - v. CJ voted to previous question. Rich motioned. The I's have it
- e. Voting:**
- i. The I's have it and this resolution has passed.
- C. SS0910-[22] – Changes to the Organization of Home Student Football Section**
- a. Background:**
- i. Change from Kevin Doyle to Nick Ruof
  - ii. Kevin mentioned the goal of this resolution is reorganize the student section with the priorities for the students
  - iii. There have been numerous complaints in which grad students who have attended in the rival school would stir commotion with the undergrads
  - iv. Two goals:
    1. Keep undergrads together
    2. Recommend a new ordering
  - v. Kevin has been in touch with several college ticket offices and there has been much variation.
- b. Questions:**
- i. Matt asked if this has always been the seating
    1. Kevin is not sure about this but Brian mentioned that the seating has been reorganized over the years
  - ii. Erika was wondering if these changes can be made prior to the upcoming ticket sales to which Kevin responded yes.
  - iii. Susan asked where do St. Mary's and transfers sit:
    1. New transfers are in between freshman and sophomores- Martha



- iv. Denise asked if we have talked to the graduate student union to which Kevin said no.
- c. **Grammar:**
  - i. Taylor suggested to capitalize the “the”
  - ii. Chase asked to insert “that” after the “*Resolved*” clauses.
- d. **Debate/Discussion:**
  - i. Matt R. was wondering if graduate students would be upset after sitting in the endzone for four years.
  - ii. Martha felt that there are no cheap seats in ND stadium
  - iii. POI- Brian said that in order to qualify for a 5<sup>th</sup> year, you have to be enrolled in a graduate program
  - iv. Chase suggested in the resolution, we shouldn’t specify the order, but still keep that the students be clustered together.
  - v. Gus thinks if we add another Whereas clause, we should emphasize the alma mater
  - vi. Taylor motioned to previous question. The I’s have it.
- e. **Voting:**
  - i. The I’s have it and this resolution has passed.
- D. **SS0910-[23] – Reevaluation Calling for a Reevaluation of Programs and Efforts Dedicated to the Promotion and Maintenance of Racial Diversity Among the Student Body**
  - a. **Background:**
    - i. Nika said that basically, this resolution is a culmination of what MAC has done all year in terms of improvements for MSPS
      - 1. Curriculum, RA training, etc...
    - ii. Grant added that this resolution identifies specific committees
    - iii. Because MSPS’s resources are limited, this resolution pushes the administration to get more resources to MSPS and to get the majority of students to be available of these resources
  - b. **General Questions:**
    - i. Martha asked about the retention rate
    - ii. Taylor asked about the resources for the whole student body
      - 1. Nika said that MSPS doesn’t has much access to the student body; they usually send emails to students who have checked a box
    - iii. Nika highlighted the importance of Ms. Outlaw’s role in all the minority-related events. Ultimately the burden is placed on her for all these activities.
    - iv. Nika mentioned that Dr. Moss has been instrumental.
  - c. **Grammar:**
    - i. Taylor proposed putting quotations around Institutional Research
    - ii. On the last Whereas in the first page, Tiffany asked to change not sufficient to insufficient

- iii. Second to last resolved clause: example → i.e.
  - iv. Second to last Whereas: CJ proposed to change to Office of the President
  - v. Megan proposed to capitalize the word, “the” in the Whereas clauses.
  - d. **Debate/Discussion:**
    - i. Taylor thinks this resolution is a cohesive message.
    - ii. Cristi feels that diversity is a vital aspect and there definitely to be more funding and support for ND’s multicultural programs
      - 1. CJ agrees
    - iii. Regarding Contemporary Topics, Taylor commented that there needs to be a change to the levy.
  - e. **Voting:**
    - i. The I’s have it and the resolution was passed
- E. SS0910-[24] – Resolution Proposing to Have Two Students on the Interview Committee for Rector Applicants**
- a. Motion to table Senate resolution 24; Matt motioned.
  - b. The I’s have it

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- i. Next week is last Senate meeting.

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- i. Luau- Saturday
- ii. Latin Expressions is at Friday

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

- i. Cynthia entertained a motion to adjourn. Claire motioned. *The March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.*

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Tej Mudigonda  
Student Body Secretary**

