

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE
Executive Summary
March 31st, 2010
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- A. Cynthia Weber called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM

II. Invocation

- A. Cynthia led the invocation

III. Roll Call

- A. Matt LaFortune and Taylor Ruby Gagan were absent

IV. Approval of Minutes

V. Officer Reports

A. Mr. Grant Schmidt

1. SouthBend Silverhawks game is on Monday, April 5th, Student Government is giving away tickets
2. Ideas for Catherine: Student Incident Report, Pep Rallies, Off Campus Housing, Taxis on Demand, Improve ND survey, Role of the rector, strengthening the coalition of COR council, continuing Haiti fundraisers

B. Ms. Cynthia Weber,

1. Thanked Peggy Natesco for being here today for Brian Coughlin
2. She encouraged Catherine and Andrew to continue the intellectual environment initiative

C. Mr. Ryan Brellenthin, Chief of Staff

1. Thanked outgoing committee chairs for transition forms, he is putting together binders
2. Thanked everyone for a great year

D. Professor Gupta

1. Professor Gupta was absent.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Academic Affairs

1. Austin thanked everyone, especially his committee members
2. Keep in mind April 13th is Last Lecture night

B. Committee on Campus Technology

1. Walker thanked Grant, Cynthia, and Ryan and all the senators
2. He thinks this year his committee was very successful is laying the groundwork and making connections with the administration; he is really excited for the new chair next year.

C. Committee on Community Relations

1. Denise thanked everyone as well
2. Communiversity Day is April 10th

D. Committee on Gender Issues

1. Robyn and Pat said the last event is a panel presentation on April 13th in the Carey Auditorium, part of Stand Against Hate Week

E. Committee on Multicultural Affairs

1. Nika said she is working on transition, thank you for another great year

F. Committee on Oversight

1. Kevin said there were 4 big projects- archive room, video, strategic plan, constitutional amendments
2. He also expressed thanks for a great year

G. Committee on Residence Life

1. Nick said there is a resolution today, and thank you to all for all your help

H. Committee on Social Concerns

1. Rachel also expressed her gratitude to everyone
2. Communiversitry Day!

I. Committee on University Affairs

1. Jeff said thanks to his committee, Grant, Cynthia, and Ryan, and good luck to Chase

VII. General Orders

A. A Resolution Proposing an Investigation of Providing

1. Pat explained that some students have expressed concern about this issue on campus
2. This resolution is asking for free and downloadable software on the OIT website possibly that would be available for use
3. Not by any means asking for a university wide filtering system
4. CJ asked if any other schools have done this
 - a. Pat said some other schools do have a university wide filtering system, and others have expressed similar concerns
5. Andrew asked about privacy
 - a. Pat said the computer wouldn't look at who is downloading the certain types of material
6. Grammatical
7. Debate/Discussion
 - a. Walker said just as a follow up, look up IP addresses, so you would have to log in
 - b. Kelly asked what would happen if someone got caught looking at porn
 - c. Claire asked if filtering only affected pornographic websites
 - i. Pat said it covers a variety
 - d. Jeff said it is important to emphasize this is private,
 - e. Ryan said it is important to also have the links for the support groups on the websites
8. Voting
 - a. With a unanimous vote, resolution was passed

B. Election Appeals

1. Kevin said this is addressing the issue that came up earlier in the year about turning in application late
2. This would state in the constitution that only approved members can appeal
3. There were concerns brought up in Policy Board
 - a. Undemocratic- not giving the person opportunity .
 - i. But there are three sources of people to go to
 - ii. Vice President of Judicial Council, President of Judicial Council, and Ethics Commission
 - b. Rules are not cut/dry
 - i. Not everything is cut and dry in Constitution
 - c. Issue of "being biased"
 - i. Judicial Council is appointed, not elected
 - d. Should just give this to ethics commission
 - i. Ethics Commission shouldn't have to deal with issues like this
4. General Questions
 - a. Austin asked why it is 36 hours
 - i. Kevin said that is what it has always been
 - b. Kolin asked why didn't we put something in there about the different avenues we have
 - i. Kevin said that this should be relayed to candidates; communicating through bylaws
 - ii. Anybody can appeal to Judicial Council President
5. Grammatical
6. Debate/Discussion
 - a. Grant said that his one concern is if there is a family emergency that is an example where the candidate could talk to the judicial council president
 - b. Charlie said that he thought when Cameron came was cool; we do represent a lot of the student body, we all got together and had our say, he doesn't see a problem with an unapproved campaign ticket talking to senate
 - c. Erika said one of the main sentiments is that they didn't deserve to be approved,
 - i. If somebody uses a listserv, judicial council as a whole makes a decision, but if they want to appeal something more substantial then they should come to Senate
 - d. Maria asked if the ethics board has a good understanding of the constitution
 - i. Kevin said that is usually ends up meeting only once a year, chaired by the judicial council president
 - e. Jeff said that the constitution specifically prohibits the appeal coming here .He said to keep in mind all the different aspect of the future
 - f. Gus said that sometimes there could be a bias with the judicial council president, so this would be making sure they have a checks and balances
 - i. Every organization is supposed to be unbiased, but people do have these opinions

- g. Susan said she thinks Senate is full of people who are bias; have whoever is appealing go through judicial council
 - i. Jeff said he thinks it is unlikely that someone would go against a friend,
 - ii. Kevin said that the judicial council president would have to excuse himself/herself if it was a friend
 - iii. Susan said there were people from Andrew's campaign in the room
- h. Gus asked why Senate is doing this and not Council of Representatives
 - i. Walker said the fact that Andrew had to step out; Judicial Council is who we trust for the election bias
 - j. Cynthia clarified it is in the constitution that someone has to excuse himself/herself
 - k. Maria said she thinks we can trust the Notre Dame student to excuse
 - l. Elise asked how the Ethics Committee is selected
 - a. Kevin said done randomly
 - b. Elise said people are going to be biased no matter what
 - m. Claire said that since Senate is bigger than Council of Representatives, isn't it more likely that the biases would be evened out
 - n. Brad said not to look at it as biases, but rather as chances, he thinks they are perfectly fine to have three options;
 - o. Grant said that this is the rule is a rule, anybody that wants to run should have the chance. 10 min is completely different than 4 days.
 - p. Martha said their whole purpose is to be unbiased, where that is not necessarily true about Senate

7. Pro/Con Debate

- i. Charlie- con. If we pass this, it is forever. What is the harm in giving a person one more outlet or allowing another group to hear it. It excludes all possible situations, setting something in stone that shouldn't necessarily be set in stone.
- ii. Brad – pro
- iii. Jeff- con. If they care enough to go to this fourth round, then they deserve the chance to speak
- iv. Nick – pro. If you are so relentless to be student body president, then you should turn in the paper on time. we aren't trusting the own organization we are in

8. Voting

- i. With a vote of 14-9-2, the resolution has failed

9. Kevin said that by failing that amendment, you kept the status quo. Clarity is missing

C. Resolution Proposing to have two students on the interview committee for rector applicants

- 1. Untabled, with a unanimous vote, approved

4. Denise said sometimes leaders like Grant don't get recognized because they are doing so much.
5. Jeff said we have all had a great year, everything can be attributed to him. Grant is the obvious choice.
6. Brad motioned, Elise seconded
7. With a unanimous vote, Grant is approved!

C. Irish Clover

1. The Irish Clover Award is voted on by Policy Board and approved by Senate.
2. The two recipients are Rachel Roseberry and Cynthia Weber.
3. Jeff mentions in regards to Cynthia that she has been a passionate and well-informed member of the Student Union and other issues who has been extremely passionate.
4. Martha follows up on Jeff's comments that she should be honored for honorably withdrawing.
5. Walker mentions the hard work that Rachel has poured into her job as chairman and has done an exceptional job in all that she does.
6. Austin reiterates that Rachel may be the smallest person in the room but the one with the biggest heart.
7. Andrew mentions that in transitioning with both Rachel and Cynthia he has been able to see how they have really planted the seeds for great things to come from the great things already there.
8. Voting occurs on the resolution and both Rachel and Cynthia will receive the Irish Clover Award with no objection.

IV. Announcements

1. Grant mentions that Cynthia has done a great job chairing Senate this year and deserves a round of applause. (Applause)
2. Grant proceeds to play "Graduation (Friends Forever)" by Vitamin C.

V. Aadjournment

1. Senate then adjourns.
2. 7:45 PM

