

# NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

## Executive Summary

April 16, 2008

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

### I) **Opening Business**

- a. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:02p.m.
- b. Bob led the invocation.
- c. Bob Reish, Katie McCabe, and Robin Link were absent.
- d. Grant entertained a motion to approve the April 9, 2008 executive summary.  
*The April 9, 2008 executive summary was approved at 6:05 p.m.*

### II) **Podium**

#### III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Mr. Bob Reish, Student Body President
  - i. Bob was not in attendance
- b. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body Vice President
  - i. Grant and Bob met with Father Poorman to continue discussion on many previously discussed topics. One thing that they talked about was the way in which Lafortune is different from what functions as other schools' student center. At other schools, the student center functions as a work out facility, student center, etc.
  - ii. Grant then goes on to say that in COR the focus yesterday was on the planning of a Midwest council. This would be a way of gathering of the different universities. He says that representatives may visit other schools and other events such as this one and see their process as a way of getting started. He says that COR also discussed the FLEX program as a way to get freshmen involved in student government. He says that it was suggested to send out information to the freshmen over the summer.
- c. Ms. Karen Koski, Chief Executive Assistant
  - i. Karen says that this past week she has been working with the Committee on Social Concerns on the Stand Against Hate Week.
- d. Mr. Thomas Noble, Faculty Senate Liaison
  - i. Mr. Noble says that the faculty senate met last week and they continued to work on reports sent to faculty and others about catholic faculty initiative. He also reports that next year they hope to make available a series which informs the students as to what different grades mean. He also says that they are working on an initiative to eliminate paper TCE's and pass a TCE system that will be completed online. Next week he hopes to have the complete report of the hiring of catholic faculty. He says that they were waiting on the student prospective on catholic faculty, and now that they have that the report can be completed.

### IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Ryan says that the committee had two meetings, which were both really productive. He says that the committee decided on project preferences and will start working on getting people assigned to these initiatives. He says that as of now they have 12 initiatives to work on for the year.
- b. Committee on Community Relations
  - i. Gus says that they will be meeting tonight at 8 p.m. in the student government office.
- c. Committee on Social Concerns
  - i. Michelle talks about the initiative social service fund. She says that the fund will function to finance community service events that may take place. She says that a representative from the committee met with Kadeja, Student Union Treasurer, to discuss this fund. She goes on to talk about Stand Against Hate this week, and passes out extra flyers to be hung to advertise the remaining events.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues
  - i. Pat says that they had their first meeting of which he is happy to announce. He then asks everyone to write down the list of dorm committee members or put the rector if the committee member is unknown. He also passes out a sheet about 'Take Back the Night,' which gives sexual assault and rape victims the chance to share their experience. He says that the event is open to all Notre Dame students not just rape victims. Lastly, he says that the next meeting will be on Sunday at 4 p.m. in the student government office.
- e. Committee on Residence Life
  - i. Joy says that the committee is making head way on their initiatives. She says that next week she will be meeting with OIT and the head of LaFortune to discuss their initiatives for next year. She also states that she met with the person in charge of making the website. She reminds the committee members that the meetings are held in the student government office as opposed to the Huddle.
- f. Committee on University Affairs
  - i. Grant says that the committee talked more about election awareness. They also talked about the future coordination with ticket office as to how the tickets are distributed.
- g. Committee on Oversight
  - i. Ian says that they did not meet on Sunday, but at the previous meeting the committee approved amendment.
- h. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
  - i. Bob and Grant met with Iris Outlaw and Dr. Moss to discuss the cultural competency initiative. This initiative would require that each student have some type of credit of culture. This initiative is still being looked at. They also talked about making multicultural events well attended and not just make it a race issue, but get the whole university involved. In addition, they talked having a service project which includes all the service clubs on campus. Lastly, they discussed

advertising student government during spring visitation and the summer.

- i. Ad Hoc Committee On Student Outreach
  - i. Sarah says that they met yesterday. She also announces that next week they will be taking a survey on the off campus domer dollar project in Lafortune.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Technology
  - i. Devin says that they met with someone from the OIT staff and she took their suggestions back to her boss. He also mentions that Robin Brown will be traveling with OIT to a conference in order to give feedback on clusters. The committee is also looking to improve Webmail and the calendar system.

V) **GENERAL ORDERS**

- a. Resolution SS0809-06 The Shirt Project
  - i. Ian says that the oversight committee was contacted by the shirt project committee to update their section of the constitution. He says that this amendment recognizes the shirt project president, and eliminates the redundancy of mentioning the committee.
  - ii. Gus thinks that it is a good revamp, but is concerned that the amendment lists the president of the shirt project as an unnecessary enumeration. He thinks that we should only try to enumerate positions as they are needed because one can not hold two enumerated positions. He motions to table the position.
  - iii. Ryan B. clarifies the meaning of tabling, saying that it means that the topic will go away and will not be talked about until spoken of again. There is no motion to table the position.
  - iv. Mike says that the shirt is a big deal and he has no problem with enumerating the position. He also says that if the position is a not big time commitment then he agrees with Gus, but if the position is a big time commitment then he feels that it is ok to enumerate the position.
  - v. Devin says that if this position is enumerated then the person can not have another enumerated position, and he agrees with this.
  - vi. Megan asks was the coordinator of the shirt project an enumerated position. Ian answers that the coordinator had his own position, and this amendment aims for consolidation. He adds that the amendment states that the coordinator would not exist. Megan again asks if the coordinator was an enumerated position. Ian answers that it was not an enumerated position.
  - vii. Grant goes on to clarify, and says that if the amendment is approved this will allow the committee to have its own section, and the president would be an enumerated position which would mean that the president could not hold two enumerated positions.
  - viii. Nika says that making the president position enumerated is fine because the shirt project is time consuming and the president is unlikely to seek another enumerated position.

- ix. Grant proceeds to voting. The vote is 26-0-0. The resolution is approved at 6:30 p.m.
- b. Election of Senate Liaisons
  - i. Grant says that the voting will start with voting for COR liaisons. He says that he will read a list of the Senators that have already been nominated, and anyone can be added or taken away from the list. COR has four available positions and an alternate position. He says that COR serves as the advising committee to the student body president. Past and current issues that they have discussed are catholic faculty, the FLEX program, and the Midwest council. COR meets at 5 p.m. every Tuesday in the Notre Dame room.
  - ii. Grant announces that the nominees are Gus Gari, Mike Sayles, Katie Weber, Patrick Kane, Austin Holler. Gus Gari withdrew himself from the nomination list. Robin Brown nominates herself.
  - iii. Maggie asks if you can only serve on one of these committees. Grant answers that you can serve on the committee and one of these liaison committees. Nika reiterates that this liaison committee is in addition to the committee that one already serves on. Grant gives the nominee the chance to introduce themselves. He says that he nominees will have 30 seconds to introduce themselves.
  - iv. Mike says that he was freshmen class president, and this year he served on senate. He says that has lot of experience with student government.
  - v. Katie Weber says that she served on Student Outreach Committee and can advise Bob and Grant, and be the liaison between then and the other organizations on campus.
  - vi. Patrick says that he is willing to go out and make sure that things operate smoothly.
  - vii. Austin says that he is energetic to get a chance to work on COR. HE says that it is the voters' choice, but he hope that he is chosen.
  - viii. Robin says that she ran for a position in her dorm, but she lost. She also says that she held many positions at her high school and that she has a lot of responsibility. Her biggest passion is the student voice. She says that she can talk to Bob and see how things go and get information from the students to relay back to Bob.
  - ix. Katie W, Austin, Patrick, and Mike will serve as the COR liaisons. Robin was voted as the alternate.
  - x. CLC- Grant says that anything that goes on within this committee is brought forth to Father Poorman who must approve within two weeks. The nominees are Robin Link, Kaitlyn Maloney, and Catherine Flynn. Ryan Brellenthin nominates Gus Gari. Grant allows the nominees to speak for 30 seconds.
  - xi. Robin Link is not present to introduce herself.
  - xii. Kaitlyn says that she likes being around powerful people. She says that she looked up the minutes from a couple of the meetings last year and she was interested. She says that as a freshman she encountered many

- people critical of this committee and she want to change this. Looked up last years meting and was interested.
- xiii. Catherine recalls growing up in South Bend, and the tradition that her family had with the ND football games, and she says that she hopes to promote family and tradition at ND. She wants everyone to experience what she has experienced.
  - xiv. Gus says that this is his second year in Senate. He also says that he served on CLC last year, and he feels that he represented Senate well last year. He goes on to talk about the project that CLC took on last year such as the freshmen booklet and the Good Neighbor Guide. Eh says that he would really like the vote.
  - xv. As voting proceeds, Brian reminds everyone to not double up on names. Grant also says that typically the student government does some type of brain-stormer to get to know each other, but he does not want to cram it in, therefore if it is not done before summer break then it will take place after summer break.
  - xvi. Grant says that Judicial council deals with elections and election issues as well as the constitution. The nominees for Judicial Council are Stephanie Mulhern, Zach Reuvers, and Robin Brown.
  - xvii. Stephanie served on judicial council last year and therefore she knows how it runs. She says that they have lot more to deal with this year, all of which she is familiar with.
  - xviii. Zach says that being that he was the focus of some of the violation that occurred this year if he serves on the council he will get a better insight as to how it works.
  - xix. Robin says the she served on a similar council in high school. She also says that she is a quick learner and she wants to learn the system.
  - xx. Stephanie will serve as the Judicial liaison.
  - xxi. Grant says that the financial management board works with the funding of different groups and allocation of funds to these groups. Nominees are Megan Sennet and Greg Salter.
  - xxii. Greg says that he thinks that there function is important, and he is looking at a long life of numbers.
  - xxiii. Megan is a second year Senator, and says that she is a number oriented person as well. She states that she is interested in getting involved. Grant asks are there any objections to not voting for these two.
  - xxiv. Megan and Greg will serve as the FMB liasions.
  - xxv. The other elected liaisons are: Patrick Kane, Katie Weber, Austin Holler, and Michael Sayles were elected to Council of Representatives. The alternate for CoR is Robin Brown. Kaitlyn Maloney, David Wilbur, Catherine Flynn, and Gus Gari will serve as liaisons for Campus Life Council, with Robin Link as the alternate. Stephanie Mulhern will be the Judicial Council Liaison.
- c. Discussion regarding Domer Dollars Off Campus
- i. Grant says that the off-campus domer dollar initiative is something that he and Gus have been looking into it. Grant starts off by asking if

it is necessary. He says that the program will be limited within proximity of campus and will be limited by restaurants that do not sell alcohol. Advantages to the program would be that the students will be more immersed in the community, and the student would not have to worry about cash. This program would also increase food option; the students will have choices beyond Burger King, Subway, and Sbarros. He also says that hours of operations will not be a factor that students have to worry about as it is now. Another advantage is that off-campus students can use this as opposed to coming on campus to use domer dollars. The disadvantages are that the parents are concerned with the fact that the program will promote students going off campus. He says that the parents asked why use the domer dollars off-campus, and they want their student to stay on-campus to use domer dollars.

- ii. Grant goes on the state that this initiative can go in different direction such as the pursuing of domer dollars off campus and they can talk to restaurants to convince them to have an incentive for using the domer dollars at the restaurants or domer dollars can be used for delivery services, or the student s can receive discounts from the restaurant if use domer dollars at the restaurants. He goes on to ask for everyone's thought on this.
- iii. Brian says that he works at the student desk and says that they do not accept domer dollars due to the fact that the student desk has to pay in order to accept domer dollar. He asks will the restaurants have to pay to use domer dollars as well. Grant answers yes they will have to pay.
- iv. Patrick asks do student really use domer dollars. Grant says that research is being done to determine how often students use domer dollars.
- v. Devin says that his only concerns are that in order to build this program up in order to take it off campus a lot of money will be needed. Another concern is that this program will be limited to places that don't sell alcohol and tobacco, but many places that students like to go will be eliminated. Lastly he says that this will raise security issues due to the fact that more students will be off campus without the security of NDSP. He then goes on to say if discount route is taken then there will be no infrastructure costs. He also says that we want to be sure that we don't make Notre Dame Federal Credit Union feel like we are taking business away from them.
- vi. Kevin mentions that the idea of off campus domer dollars was brought up in his hall council and everyone liked the discount idea.
- vii. Nick suggests using domer dollars for taxi purposes, although he knows that this will be expensive and cause a liability.
- viii. Ryan suggests using domer dollars for deliveries on campus because he knows that it will be expensive to take domer dollars off campus.
- ix. David asks will flex point work in addition to domer dollars. Grant answers no flex points will used.

- x. Maggie asks will the businesses be willing to give a discount in addition to accepting domer dollars.
- xi. Devin says that in the case of using the domer dollars for taxis may not necessarily work out because on many occasions ND students go out and party and become inebriated and in this case unable to sign the receipt when charged for services.
- xii. Andrew says that he is unable to see how the efforts that it will take to get this program off the ground will be worth it.
- xiii. Nika thinks that the discount is worth the efforts, but she says that we should give them an incentive to do this such as tell them that a list will be made available to the students of all the restaurants that will participate in this initiative.
- xiv. Ryan comments that one does not have to sign a receipt after a purchase with a card unless it amount is over 25 dollars. He then goes on to ask have there been any contact with the businesses thus far. Grant tells him that there has not been any contact thus far because they are still in the planning stages.
- xv. Robin says that in order to put the machine needed use the domer dollars in the taxis will cost a lot of money. She also comments that all taxis may not be willing to do this, and for those that are willing they will have a monopoly over the other taxi companies because more ND students will use there services. She goes on to say that these companies may then begin to charge more thereby ripping the ND students off.
- xvi. Brian asks what would hinder someone from going into a place like Meijer's and buying alcohol. Brian says that we would have to rely on not allowing the students use self-check out counters and would also have to rely on the cashiers.
- xvii. Mike thinks that we should see what will make it convenient for students. He says that either way the students will be spending money either from a debit card or domer dollars therefore he thinks that it is more cost efficient to have the discount.
- xviii. Pat does not know exactly how much it will cost to get this off the ground, but he like the idea of using domer dollars for dine-in delivery. He says that we should also give the restaurant an incentive to give the discount. He then says that in the case of the taxis we should get an upfront cost so that they are unable to take the price up.
- xix. Grant says that there is tons of more research to go with this.
- xx. Katie W says that the discount is a good way to start instead of the domer dollars off campus.
- xxi. Catherine suggests starting with the business of Eddy Street Commons.
- xxii. Nika is not sure if the taxis will commit to one flat rate because they are a business as well and they must make a profit.
- xxiii. Grant ends that conversation by saying that more research will go into this and they will look further into it.

VI) **NEW BUSINESS**

VII) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Grant reminds everyone to sign up for Team ND taking place Aug. 20-Aug. 22. Brian asks will there be time to drop you stuff off in your room. Brian says yes you can drop it off, but you can't set it up until you come back. Grant says that everyone has to go. Devin asks if any charges are associated with this. Grant says no one has to pay for anything.
- b. Gus announces that today is the last day to register for Muddy Sunday taking place this Sunday. The proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity.
- c. Zach announced Fish on the 50 which is an event hosted by Alumni and the Hannah and Friends foundation. He says that it starts at the stadium.
- d. Gus announces that the Committee on Community Relations will has a meeting tonight.
- e. Catherine announces a dating game that is to take place in Lyons on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

VIII) **ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Grant entertained a motion to adjourn. Brian motioned. Katie seconded. *The April 16, 2008 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Whitney Toole  
Student Body Secretary