

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE
Executive Summary
April 23, 2008
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:06p.m.
- b. Bob led the invocation.
- c. Andrew Thomas and ~~Robyn Grant~~ were absent.
- d. Grant entertained a motion to approve the April 23, 2008 executive summary. Brian L suggests noting last names in the minutes. *The April 23, 2008 executive summary was approved at 6:10 p.m.*

II) **Podium**

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Mr. Bob Reish, Student Body President
 - i. Bobs apologizes for not being at the meeting last week. He then goes on to say that they are still working on the FLEX program. They are also in the process of acknowledging how to attract freshmen.
- b. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body Vice President
 - i. He and Joy met with director of food services and they talked about domer dollars off campus. The director will see how many students have domer dollars and use them. Grant also says that in order to use domer dollars off campus there would be no cost to the restaurants to install a machine, only a cost to use it. They also talked about the limits on the area in which the domer dollars will be used. He says that they also asked about discounts. The director contacted Seaborn about this and they will be in contact with the restaurants which is more professional. Grant says that he will get back to Senate on this matter next week.
 - ii. They are also looking into the issue of domer dollars for discounts. They are working to get a machine beside the elevators that can be swiped for discounts.
 - iii. Grant says that they also talked about getting mints in the dining hall. They will look into this.
 - iv. Grant then says that a mass was held for Andrew last night. He and Bob will write a letter and send a picture of the mass to his parents.
 - v. He and Bob went to the architect presentation. They have 15 projects underway, such as making changes to the JACC seats and making the students' section closer to the floor and two giant screens on both sides.
 - vi. They plan to have the Eddy Street Commons shops open for football season of 2009. They are also focusing on energy conservation etc. They have a strategy of where to put the different buildings.
- c. Ms. Karen Koski, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. She met with the Executive Programming Board, and the members are very enthusiastic. They went over the purpose and possible events for

- next year. The purpose of the board is to bring together all the representatives, avoid saturation of events on a particular weekend.
- ii. They also discussed a big festival to take place the weekend of the Michigan game. There will be carnival games and a lot of activities and maybe performances. She shows everyone the URL to sign up for TeamND, which is a way to get know each other.
- d. Mr. Thomas Noble, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Mr. Noble was not in attendance.
 - ii. Grant says that he met with Doug Marsh, the university architect. Bob says that the presentation that Doug put on was open to the public and not very many people came. He asks did people just not have time. He says that he would like to have another show, and will try to plan another presentation.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Ryan B. says that their meeting was about online TCE's, and administrative things for next year. They also assigned projects for next year.
- b. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Gus says that they have a meeting tonight. He says that they will be having a meeting to talk about off campus tickets. On April 30, the committee will be hosting Taste of South Bend in Fieldhouse Mall. This event brings local restaurants on campus where they give away free food as a way to advertise themselves. He passes out posters and asks everyone to take 4 posters and put them up in their dorms.
- c. Committee on Social Concerns
 - i. Michelle says that Stand Against Hate Week was successful. The committee talked about the issues that everyone prefers to work on. Tonight they will start putting the top three ideas into action.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. A committee member presents for this committee and says that they discussed how to change freshmen college issues.
- e. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Joy met with a representative from OIT to talk about itubeyou. She also met with Dave and Grant talked about grab and go and a increase in the point system, but Dave says that the point can't be increased but the food options in grab and go can be changed. The also talked about more energy efficient equipment, changing out vending machines that do not take domer dollars, a change in meal plans, and an increase in flex points.
- f. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Grant says that they talked about having a mock election on campus. He asks if this should be done online or at a stand. He says that this would be done in order to get an idea of how students feel on campus. They also talked about ticket sells and different questions for the ticket offices. They want to ask: How the guest exchange works? How high

is the punishment for scalping? Can we change the time frame in which a student finds out if he/she is in the lottery for ticket exchanges? Can the tickets be put on ID?

- g. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Ian had nothing new to report.
- h. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Grant says that a chair has been decided on for this committee. Eh says that he talked to Ninny, the previous chair, to discuss the cultural competency initiative. He says that the committee looked into the diverse faculty initiative and talked about how to go about doing this.
 - ii. They also talked about going to the inner city schools in Chicago and talk to families about looking at coming to Notre Dame.
 - iii. They also talked about how each culture has an advisor and the Native Americans do not have an advisor. The diversity committee is looking into this.
- i. Ad Hoc Committee On Student Outreach
 - i. Sarah says that tomorrow between 3-5 p.m. the committee will be giving a survey about dormer dollars and discounts.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Technology
 - i. Devin reports that on Friday he will be meeting with a representative from OIT. He also says that at their last meeting they talked about the Herman Miller speech. He turns the floor over to Robin.
 - ii. Robin says that their biggest project will be remodeling the computer cluster downstairs. They talked about increasing the amount of computers in the cluster, and creating more room by taking away the desk. She asks which everyone prefers: individual or group space.
 - iii. Ian says that he does not think that individual spaces work.
 - iv. Robin says that the architects are unsatisfied with the work in the library. She says that she suggested to them keeping it an individual space. She then announces that next week the 5 architect students will come to the Senate meeting to present their plans. The remodeling will start next year and will be ready by Fall 2009. When the architects show the plans to Senate, the senators are to take to plan back their dorm and show them the plans.

V) **GENERAL ORDERS**

- a. Report on On-line Teacher and Course Evaluation System
 - i. Ryan presents the idea of the online teacher and course evaluation. He says he has been working with OIT, a Provost advisory committee, and Institutional Research to input a new program to implement a switch from the TCE's being administered in the classroom to being administered online.
 - ii. The advantage of the old TCE's that it is administered in the classroom and every student has something in front of them. The down side is that many students do not take the TCE serious, and the data from the TCE's are not accurate. An email will be sent out to the students including the amount of time to fill out the CFI.

- iii. The down side to the CFI is that everyone does not have something in front of them. The advantage is that students do not feel like they have to hurry through the evaluation. Students have the opportunity to fill the evaluation out at their own time, and it insures privacy. The university will take the results from the CFI and put them on the lass search program.
- iv. The CFI will include a section that will be filled out by the instructor. This section will include a list of the materials used in the class, the type of class (discussion, theory etc.), description of the course, and the number of students from each class (freshmen, sophomore etc.) I the class.
- v. Ryan B. then goes on to navigate through the system and demonstrate how the system works.
- vi. After the presentation, Ryan B. opens the floor to comments and questions.
- vii. Patrick asks will the students be able to go back after the CFI's have been administered to write comments. Ryan B. answers that this is not the idea that they were going for. He says that the idea is that you do not base the evaluation on how well one did on the final but to base the evaluation on the course.
- viii. Nika asks will comment boxes be available. Ryan B. answers no, but says that there will be a free response section.
- ix. Katie W. asks will the results be ready for class picks or will the results be a semester off. Ryan says that he is not sure, but his thoughts are that they would be available only a semester off.
- x. Kevin says that the CFI will not be as anonymous as the TCE's are. He asks will it be easy to switch back to paper TCE's. Lastly he adds that students may not want to spend time on this.
- xi. Ryan says that security is huge concern to OIT, and they will have outside vendors to provide support therefore when one logs in they will be taken to an outside source. Five minutes after you log out your actual comment will not be able to be tracked back to you, only that you filled out the CFI. OIT want to make sure that security is taken care of.
- xii. Greg Salter asks will the CFI offer the average GPA for each class
- xiii. Bob says that he feel that the students will use the CFI as a way to judge the level of difficulty of a class.
- xiv. Ryan says that if a student does not fill out the CFI then he/she will not have access to CFI response. They really want students to take the CFI seriously.
- xv. Pat says that his biggest concern is that it will still be used to determine if the class is hard or easy. He asks why can't the professor just put up a copy of the syllabus for the class. Lastly he says that the committee is being naïve to think that students will fill out the CFI in their free time.

- xvi. Ryan B. says that there will be a free response section on the CFI. He also says that he thinks that Notre Dame students will receive the CFI positively because ND students want to give feedback. He also says that the CFI will take far less time than the TCE's.
- xvii. Grant informs the Senators that this plan is going to go into effect, but Senate is discussing how to help.
- xviii. Greg says that not allowing one to see the CFI results will not really be effective because he/she can log in on a friend's account. He then adds that at Boston College, who has a similar program, does not release grades until the student has filled out the evaluation.
- xix. Ryan says that they have talked about that, but they want this to start off as more of an incentive. If this does not work then they will go back and evaluate this process. This is something that OIT, ORI, and the Provost advisory committee will continue to talk about this next year. Ryan says that he will take all of the concerns and comments from this meeting back to this group.
- xx. Julie asks will one have to fill out the CFI for all of his/her courses to be able to go on and see the results of the CFI. Ryan says yes all the course evaluations would have to be filled out. He adds that the students are only responsible for classes taught by Notre Dame professors. This applies to abroad students as well. Julie then asks do all of the evaluations have to be done at the same time or can you come back and finish them at a later time. Ryan says that you can come back and finish.
- xxi. Devin says that he encourages this idea although it may not be successful the first couple of years.
- xxii. Mike says he has a hard time seeing students participating in this because NDtoday will still be available for them to look at if they don't fill out the CFI. He also asks how many questions will be on the CFI. Ryan says that the CFI will have about as many questions as the TCE.
- xxiii. Mike states that the students that really like or dislike a professor will go online to fill out the evaluation, but someone that is indifferent about the teacher will not go online to fill out the evaluation. Ryan says that this is a similar thing that happens with the TCE's, but he adds that if the CFI can convince one of the indifferent people to fill it out then we are improving the system.
- xxiv. Mike says that they should think about how to make the results of the CFI more convenient and better than NDtoday.
- xxv. Pat says if the professor has tenure then the results from the TCE's aren't as effective, which makes the TCE pretty much pointless. Another thing is that he feels that they should be encouraging the students to go and talk to the professor, dean, or advisor. Students should not have to decide on a course based on numbers.
- xxvi. Ryan says that with the CFI system the student can see the teaching styles of the professor. The university can not fire the professor, but

- the student can search the comments on the professor and not take that particular professor. Ryan adds that he was not suggesting that the students not talk with the professor, deans, or advisors, just that they can use this when deciding on classes as well.
- xxvii. Brian says that maybe they can implement a yearly thing. He asks is there a way to make a comparison from year to year to see if the professor is improving. Ryan says that this may be encompassed in the section of the system that entails all of the courses that the professor has taught.
 - xxviii. Maggie says that they should ask the professors to be specific about the papers and work for the class. She asks will this program be more accurate than NDtoday.
 - xxix. Michelle says that when filling out at TCE she usually takes into consideration the professor's investment on the TCE's. She encourages them to maybe ask the professors to email class and ask them to fill out the CFI. Ryan says that they have discussed keeping the TCE talk in class although the CFI will be online.
 - xxx. Ryan makes everyone aware that Notre Dame is not the only university to do this.
 - xxxi. Catherine asks what do the professors think about the online evaluation. Ryan says that they have all debated and they voted affirmatively.
- b. Resolution SS0809-07 Supporting the Implementation of an On-line Teacher and Course Evaluation System
- i. Grant directs everyone attention to the resolution.
 - ii. Ryan says that it provides background. He says that the most important pieces to the resolution are the result clauses. He reviews the clauses and tells what each does and says.
 - iii. Gus congratulates Ryan B. and his committee. Gus motions to change the resolution to SS0809-07 instead of SS0809-###. Megan seconded.
 - iv. Bob says that the online CFI is going to happen regardless of the voting here in Senate. He thinks that it is a big step in the right direction.
 - v. Karen tells the senators that they should not just vote for it because it is going to happen anyway. She also thinks that it is a step in the right direction. She says that the clauses will have continued dialogue on them, and changes can be made to the resolution if approved. She says that this is giving people a chance to fill it out alone, and she is wondering if people are alone will they put more time into it.
 - vi. Brian says change the date on the resolution.
 - vii. Proceeds with voting. Vote 25-1-0. The resolution is approved.

VI) **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Father Ted's Run**

- i. Kristina talks about Father Ted Fun Run. She asks how many people know about Upward Bound, Trio, etc. She says that it is a college prep program for first generation college students. This program is funded

by the US dept. of education. The one at Notre Dame helps the students in South Bend community and teaches them how to be successful. The office is located in the old Security building.

- ii. An interesting fact about the program is that 100% of the student that go through the program graduate from high school and 90% of those students go to college.
- iii. The purpose of the walk is to raise money for this program because funds have become low and as a backup if the US dept. of education decides to stop funding.
- iv. The event will be held this Sunday. Registration is between 2 p.m. and 3p.m, and the race will begin at 3:30 p.m. The race will start and finish at Rockne Memorial.
- v. There is a website for registration and if you register online you will receive a t-shirt and snack.
- vi. She wants to see if student government could get involved. She wants to know if everyone could encourage people in their dorms to come out and participate. She also says that in future years she would like for student government to work with this program more. She asks are there any questions.
- vii. Brian asks how many students usually participate in this program. Kristina answers that it depends on the funds for that year, but right now there are 40-50 students.
- viii. Karen asks when the registration deadline is. Kristina says people can register at the event, but the online registration closes at 4p.m. on Friday.
- ix. Brian asks if attendance can be done by dorm names. Grant says that we will talk about it.

VII) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Michelle announces that the Office of Sustainability has been established in the dome. The director is an alumni of Notre Dame. She also wants to promote the forum for next year which will be held on September 24, and will be on the topic of energy conservation.
- b. Bob says that he will be giving his State of Senate address next week. He also encourages talk of the Taste of South Bend as he says that this is a good way to reach out to the community. Gus says that you can sign up with him for shifts.
- c. Zach thanks everyone for coming to the Alumni and Hannah and Friends event.
- d. Grant reminds everyone to sign up for TeamND

VIII) ADJOURNMENT

- a. Grant entertained a motion to adjourn. Megan motioned. Katie seconded.
The April 23, 2008 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:31p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Whitney Toole

