

rNOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE
Minutes
September 24, 2008
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- b. Ryan H. led the invocation.
- c. Bob Reish, Anastassia Fagan, Nick Ruof, Jon Vu, Pat Tighe were absent.
- d. Grant entertained a motion to approve the September 17, 2008 executive summary. *The September 17, 2008 executive summary was approved at 6:07 p.m.*

II) **Podium**

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Mr. Bob Reish, Student Body President
 - i. Bob was not present.
- b. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Grant mentions that last Friday there was a block party at the Robinson Center, and they are going to have block parties off campus at locations where students live. He says that at the block party they just walked around. He says that even if you are not an off campus student then you are still welcomed. He says that this is a way to bridge the gap. He says that this is a great opportunity to let the neighbors know that we are regular kids.
 - ii. Political funding after voting was pended by CCC who did give the funds to Libertarians. He says that it is up to the group to utilize the funds.
 - iii. He says that they will be meeting with the Board of Trustees to which he and Bob give a report three times a year. This year they were asked to touch on the concerns of the students such as student safety and political involvement.
- c. Ms. Karen Koski, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. This week they compiled the applications for the senate committees. She worked on distributing the freshmen to the committees. She says that they had Programming Board meeting on Monday, and they talked about calendaring and getting things advertised on campus.
 - ii. She met with Kadeja and Gus to discuss standardizing the post April 1st events.
 - iii. She says that they will be decorating the office.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Ryan says that they met on Sunday, and the two things that they discussed was the Last Lecture series-getting it up and running within the next month- and crafting a resolution for the excused absence. He says that he met with Laura Spalding, the assistant registrar.
- b. Committee on Community Relations

- i. Gus says that they are working with Keenan on the Fall Festival.
 - ii. He says that he had a meeting with Phil Johnson about taxi services. He says that the only time that NDSP can get involved is when the student reports it. He says that the topic of student safety and NDSP's role at tailgates on and off campus was brought up.
 - iii. He says that he met with South Bend chief as to how to ease the tension between them and students.
 - iv. Grant says that they will have a more formal report between them, NDSP and South Bend chief.
- c. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Lauren says that they did not meet on Sunday. She says that they submitted question to SAO. She says that they will be having a few meeting about LBNT.
- d. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Ally says that they did not meet Sunday. They are putting the finishing touches on dorm multicultural training and Hispanic month. They are also working on the cultural competency initiative.
- e. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Ian says that they did not meet Sunday, but they are in the process of reviewing the CCC constitution.
- f. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Joy says that they will be meeting about Rec Sport.
 - ii. She says that they will be meeting about itunes u. Joy then explains itunes u. She says that it is a website on itunes that allows you to put a video on.
 - iii. Austin asks does it have anything to do with music. Joy says that you can put music online.
- g. Committee on Social Life
 - i. Michelle says that CSC has a lot of things going on. She says that CSC is open to helping students with sustainability. She says that they have been talking about domer dollars which they will discuss later.
 - ii. Devin asks what sustainable energy is. Michelle asks if he came to the forum. Devin says that he will watch it tonight. Michelle says ask her after watching the forum.
- h. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Ashlee says that they met this week. She says that they will have their first student faculty debate on October 28th depending on the survey topic.
- i. Ad Hoc Committee On Student Outreach
 - i. Sarah says that they met on Sunday to edit question for the survey.
 - ii. Ryan asks how many questions are on the survey. Sarah answers 3-4 questions per committee. She says that they will have someone to take survey to test the amount of time that it takes to take the survey to ensure that it is not too long.

- iii. Gus asks are the questions just committee question or student government questions. Sarah says that most of the questions are about the committees, but some are about student government.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Technology
 - i. Devin says that they met with a representative from each college at a meeting, and they are interested in hear student initiatives. They are also interested in putting the syllabi online in a central location.
 - ii. He says that they are pushing for the dorm printers as it is one of their highest priorities.
 - iii. He says that the prioritized on Sunday.
 - iv. They are also trying to finish the survey on phone services.
 - v. He says that they met with Katie to talk to talk about Google bus on Wednesday.
 - vi. Catherine asks how many dorms don't have printer. Devin says that he does not know.

V) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion Regarding Mock Elections
 - i. Grant says the date of the mock election will be Tuesday October 7th, one month before the election. Nika adds one day after you have to be registered.
 - ii. Grant says that he will let Ashlee go through the event and he wants feedback.
 - iii. Ashlee says that it will take place on October 7th. She says that there will be laptops at locations around campus. The questions will ask about class, gender, and how closely you have followed the election.
 - iv. Grant says that there will be a station set up outside of Debartolo, LaFortune, and South and North dining Halls during lunch and dinner. He adds that they will need volunteers. He asks are these all good places.
 - v. Austin asks what side of Debartolo the booth will be on. Grant says that it will be on the side that O'Shag is on. Austin asks will it be off to the side, on the grass. Grant says yes.
 - vi. Stephanie says she thinks that the places are good.
 - vii. Grant asks does everyone think that people are going to slow down at these places.
 - viii. Grant says that he talked with Patricia Sperry about using the system that they use for student election, and she said that they are unable to use that system. She says that they can use the poll on the insideND, but with that system you can see that result right away.
 - ix. Zach says that he thinks that seeing the result right away is an issue.
 - x. Julie asks can they do it from their room if it is on insideND. Grant says yes.
 - xi. Nika asks would each person have to log in order to vote. Grant says yes.

- xii. Devin asks why people are against voting from your dorm. Grant says that he wants it to be active. Devin asks if off campus students only get 3 hours to vote. Ashlee says that they have a lot of times set aside.
- xiii. Grant says that if everyone wants it online then let him know.
- xiv. Ryan asks can they use the card swipe in order to vote.
- xv. Grant suggests using card monkey and the card swipe. Ryan asks can they do them both. Grant says that it will work if you swipe the card and use card monkey.
- xvi. Ashlee asks how many card swipes are available. Brian says two.
- xvii. Zach asks can someone vote twice if they vote the online. Grant say that if you so it online then you could only vote once like student elections.
- xviii. Mike says he doesn't think that they should be concerned with people voting twice. He doesn't think they will get half of the student body to turn out. He thinks that they will have a better turnout if vote online.
- xix. Grant asks how they can get people to vote.
- xx. Mike says that he is convinced that voting online will be more appealing then to wait in line to vote. Because it is a mock election people may not stop of it gets too crowded. He asks what is more important making it as real as possible or get people to vote. HE asks will there be a place to type. Grant says that they will get two of the top points of the candidates from each college group. Mike asks will one be able to see the results. Grant says yes.
- xxi. Robin G. says that this is not a publicity stunt. It is going to be really interesting to see the results. She adds that it doesn't seem important to vote online.
- xxii. Katie says that she agrees with Robin G. They will be several locations so one will have time during the day to vote. It can be scheduled in your day if it is important to you.
- xxiii. Pat K asks they can they have hall identification. Grant say that he doesn't want to do that.
- xxiv. Nika says that another point of this is to create dialog and doing it online will not do that.
- xxv. Gus says that he disagrees. If you want dialog then this should include everyone. We should be targeting all the audiences, and the off campus students will respond better to online voting.
- xxvi. Ryan agrees with Nika. He says that they are more likely to talk if they have to go out and vote. He says that he is against the dorm being one of the questions because there is no significant importance.
- xxvii. Robyn says that they can use a Google component that will lock the vote after someone votes. Grant asks will you be able to do it by email. Robyn says yes.
- xxviii. Mike says that he agrees with Gus. He asks which is more important- more participation or trying to replicate something to make it as real as possible. It is a mock election so people will not take it serious.

- xxix. Catherine says that she thinks that they should have the booth. She asks would it be possible to include whole Notre Dame community, including faculty. She thinks that it would be cool to see what the teachers think. Ashlee says that they tried to stay away from that because what if they have a lot of teachers to vote and not a lot of students then it will not be representative of what students think. Include faculty.
- xxx. Devin says that he agrees with Gus. He asks what is the purpose of student government- are we getting everyone involved if not open to vote on the computer. He adds that off campus students don't come on campus if don't have class so they will not get to vote.
- xxxvi. Kaitlyn disagrees with them. When seeing the result, one may want to see how many students come out.
- xxxvii. Kevin says that the dorm thing is harmless and interesting. It is a mock election, so we want to replicate it as much as possible. He adds that research shows that if take online then you probably really don't care. He says that he wants to see the turnout. He suggests advertising to get a good turnout.
- xxxviii. Sarah says that by adding the dorm question this may make people not want to vote because of the number of questions. By adding question, voting takes longer. She says that we should give the campus more credit because people are becoming more politically aware.
- xxxix. Austin says that it is a mock election and not a survey. He says that they want to mimic the positive parts.
- xl. Ryan H. says that if you want a true mock election then set up the polls and have people come and vote. He says that he thinks that the dorms should be included because what better way to foster dialog then within the dorm.
- xli. Ashlee says that she is in favor of having on site voting. She says that she will look into having the faculty vote.
- xlii. Maggie thinks that should have the voting booth, and later have a survey online that asks those that didn't vote why they didn't vote. If they didn't vote maybe ask them who they would have voted for.
- xliiii. David says that he agrees with Gus. He thinks that online voting will foster discussion.
- xliiiii. Gus says that if you want to have a low voter turnout then have booth. He thinks that it should be done online. He says that he wants to target people that are not politically aware.
- xlv. Lauren says that if people are apathetic then they will come out anyway. We should not cater to one group.
- xlv. Karen asks Ashlee can they email her if they have concerns or other comments. Ashlee says yes.
- xlv. Grant gets a vote of if people want the voting to take place online or in person. More voted to have the booth. Grant says that Ashlee's committee will figure out the best solution to get people out to vote.

He adds that anyone that would like more insight should talk to Ashlee or come to her committee meeting.

xliii. Nika asks if volunteers are still needed. Grant says yes.

VI) GENERAL ORDER

a. Discussion Regarding Domer Dollar Donations

- i. Grant says that they want to briefly talk about Domer dollars used as donations.
- ii. Michelle says that the idea is to have the ability to swipe and use Domer dollars to donate. She then lets Kelsey explain.
- iii. Kelsey says that this was brought up last year. She adds that it is doable. She says that no one really carries money on campus so this will give them a way to donate. She adds that it is within the University mission statement. Grant asks that both sides be explained- pros and cons.
- iv. Michelle says that the cons are that it people question if it is a way to give a true gift and questions what service mean. Another con is that parents put Domer dollars on card so it is not your money. Lastly this will cause more peer pressure to give. The pros are that donations would go up, the Catholic Church calls for one to give time, talent, and treasure. Lastly, peer pressure is real and will happen in real life. She adds that as for the parent thing as an issue of transparency, they will let parents know that this is an option on the website to add Domer dollars. Ultimately students will still decide because it is their money.
- v. Karen asks can they make more explicit what they want from this.
- vi. Zach says that he likes it, but could clubs use it too. Grant says that it would start with donations.
- vii. Robin L. says that she likes this idea of putting money to a good source.
- viii. Ryan H likes it, but asks can one determine how much they want to donate. Kelsey says that you would decide.
- ix. Kevin says that a good idea, but peer pressure is still an issue and some people don't use Domer dollars.
- x. Gus asks how it would work. Kelsey says that it would take place in Lafortune in the elevator lobby where one could swipe their card to donate money from their Domer dollars.
- xi. Stephanie says that she agrees with it.
- xii. Ian says that the Millennium Development used this area, and he asks would one be able to use Domer dollars to buy a t-shirt.
- xiii. Karen says that they will make guidelines as to what would be concerned donation and what would be for a club.
- xiv. Michelle adds that the technology to do this would cost. She suggests student government buying the equipment and lending it out to other clubs when they need to use it.
- xv. Devin says that it is managed by student activity so shouldn't SAO fund this.

- xvi. Ryan asks if they know how much the card swipe would cost. Brian says that one would cost 3500 dollar. Ryan suggests maybe renting it out for like ten dollars to the clubs.
- xvii. Grant says that this is a good way to give back to community. He asks does the majority agree with this. Majority agrees with this.
- xviii. Grant says that they will revisit this.
- xix. Karen says that if there are further concern then please direct emails to Michelle. Kelsey says that people can email her also and that she thinks that it is a really good idea. She adds that most CSC groups are in favor of this.

VII) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Kaitlyn asks if it is possible to get new food choices in Grab 'n Go, and if it could be put in a central location. Joy says that it is a Res Life initiative, and that the food option is feasible but the location is not.
- b. Robyn B. announces the Lewis Chicken run on Sunday.
- c. Ben says that he stills need to be sworn in.
- d. Nika says that a Pangborn girl expressed concern about Styrofoam use in the dining hall.
- e. Catherine announces that Lyons is doing Cirque Du Lac again on Friday. Grant says that student government has a stand and if anyone can help then please come out.

VIII) ANNOUNCEMENTS

IX) ADJOURNMENT

- a. Grant entertained a motion to adjourn. Gus motioned. Ryan B. seconded.
The September 24, 2008 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:13p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Whitney Toole
Student Body Secretary

