

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Minutes

October 1, 2008

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. Grant led the invocation.
- c. Ryan P, Michelle B, Ashlee W and Alyssa Z were absent.
- d. Grant entertained a motion to approve the September 24, 2008 executive summary. *The September 24, 2008 executive summary was approved at 6:08 p.m.*

II) **Podium**

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Mr. Bob Reish, Student Body President
 - i. Bob arrived later.
- b. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body Vice President
 - i. He says that they will be using a Google form in taking votes for the Mock Election. He says that the Google form compiles the information into an Excel sheet.
 - ii. He then passes out poster about the Mock Election to be posted. He adds that NDVotes also has posters and asks that everyone come by the office to pick them up.
 - iii. He says that he will send an email that has that link to sign up for a 30 minute time slot to help with the Mock Election.
- c. Ms. Karen Koski, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Karen says that she has been preparing the report for the Board of Trustees.
 - ii. She says that she met with Programming Board on Sunday. She says that she also met with Brian to discuss calendaring that will compile the activities of all the events on campus. She adds that there will be an agenda on nd.ede.
 - iii. She say that she has also been working on the agenda for the visit of the University of Portland Executive Board.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Ryan says that they have been working on the excused absence resolution.
 - ii. He says that they have also been working on Majors' Night.
 - iii. He adds that they are still working on the Last Lecture Series.
 - iv. Catherine asks if he knows the date of Majors' Night.
 - v. Ryan says that they have not decided on an exact date, but it will be in the first couple of weeks of February.
- b. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Gus says that the have been working on University Day that will happen in the spring.

- ii. They are also working on an off campus day of service that will also take place in the spring. They are doing the initial contacting of people that will want to be involved. He says send an email if anyone knows any groups that would want to get involved.
- iii. He says that they are also working on improving the taxi services as well as the Fall Festival.
- iv. They have also done a quick review of St. Mary's alcohol policy in order to see if we want to change ours.
- c. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Lauren says ND AID wants to join forces with them to have event for human trafficking.
 - ii. Sexual Assault Awareness is coming up and they are trying to see how to put it into action.
 - iii. They will be having a gender update meeting.
- d. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Grant says that they have been working on commissioner training to Sunday. He adds that they had Iris Outlaw and Peggy to talk about programming.
- e. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Ian says that they have been working on upcoming resolutions, as well as a general review of the Constitution.
- f. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Joy says that she has a meeting with Rec Sport to talk about registering for them online.
 - ii. She adds that she will be meeting with SAO to talk about iTunes U.
 - iii. She mentions that they will be having a survey on Grab n' Go.
- g. Committee on Social Life
 - i. Julie says that they are delegating large items to small groups to get things going.
 - ii. Karen adds that they are doing an AIDS Awareness event maybe sometime next week. She also says that they are making progress on other initiatives.
- h. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Ashlee was not present.
- i. Ad Hoc Committee On Student Outreach
 - i. Sarah says that she presented the survey to CoR yesterday, and they now have 27 questions.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Technology
 - i. Devin says Jay, assistant to CIO, that OIT is requesting that whoever picks up proposal will work on getting dorm printers.
 - ii. OIT will be working on a new and improved wireless system in the dorms.
 - iii. They are also working on the dorm calendars.

V) **GENERAL ORDER**

- a. Resolution SS0809-10 Resolution Proposing Additional Excused Absences for Interviews

- i. Ryan says that after a couple of talks with administration they think that it is in their best interest if they move this resolution to next week. Ryan motioned. Gus seconded.
 - ii. Ian asks if he wants send it back to committee. Ryan withdraws the motion. He then motions to send back to committee. Gus seconded. The vote to send back to committee was 27-0-0 at 6:20 p.m.
- b. Resolution SSS0809-11 Amendment to Article II of the Student Union Constitution
 - i. Ian says that this is something that has been on the agenda for a while. He says that section 2.3 -2.6 actually comes from 1.5 general of position. He says that they want to move that in to article 2. He says that they moved them right after section 1 and 2. He says that they also changed the article title. He says that they also changed Student Union Website Administrator to Student Union Webmaster.
 - ii. He also says that what was Policy Branch Controller is now Executive Controller. He thinks that is better nomenclature for the position.
 - iii. Grant opens the floor for debate.
 - iv. There was no objection. He proceeds to voting. The resolution was approved with a vote of 27-0-0 at 6:24 p.m.

VI) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Grant says that they had a meeting with director of NDSP, Phil Johnson, and talked about questions regarding cabs. He then gives the floor to Gus.
- b. Gus says that they will be communicating the issue with cabs to NDSP. He asks for everyone's input.
- c. They saw that there has been complaint because Thursday through Sunday when students are going off campus, they are being overcharged.
- d. He says that he relayed to NDSP that the taxi drivers have been rude and that there has been previous accusation of sexual assault.
- e. He says that some of the cabs are not registered in South Bend.
- f. Other complaints include the driver not have change for big bills.
- g. Phil Johnson says that they can't regulate that customer service aspect, but they can get a contract with the cab companies to get a flat rate. He adds that the cab vehicles can have a shield on them to confirm with security that they are approved.
- h. He says that they will have cab stands so that whoever has gone into contract with the school can go to these stands to pick up students.
- i. Grant says he is not saying that the problem always lies with the driver because sometimes it may be the student. He wants comment on where they should go with this.
- j. Ryan H. says that it can be better regulated. He asks can they get the limo drivers that are not technically cab companies. Gus says that they are not registered.
- k. Ryan B. asks can they do a student rating system on NDtoday so that students can rate the drivers and cab companies.

- l. Catherine says that several of her friends have numbers of cab drivers. She asks will they regulate this process if people already have numbers of drivers.
- m. Grant says that regulation will be similar to a thing where they have a gold medallion, which they can use to get access on campus. He adds that at Main Circle they can't regulate, but NDSP will be monitoring there.
- n. Mike S. says that he like the medallion idea. He says that they can get a list of cabs together and can hand out sheets of paper that will have the list of cabs with the medallion. He says that they should have a system where students know that the prices are reliable, and make sure that they are not overcharged.
- o. Zach likes the flat fee rate, as long as it doesn't cause service to drop.
- p. Kevin asks can the work out a system to get them back on campus. Gus says that it is kind of why they are doing it because they do not want students to walk back to campus late at night. He says that they will have posters and cards to hand out.
- q. Pat says keep in mind the taxi cab drivers and companies. He says that they should not cut out so much that we eliminate jobs
- r. Robin L. suggests putting posters with phone number on the door of the dorm so that can call as they are walking out.
- s. Ryan B. asks would it be possible to buy a pass, and the cab company accept the pass. He says that the students would be able to buy a cab ride in advance. The cab company would get the money at a certain point.
- t. Gus another thing that they looking at is where students can swipe ID and charge the ride to Domer dollar or student account.
- u. Ryan B. suggests putting the two ideas together.
- v. Mike says that he likes Ryan idea. He says that he likes that fact that you would be able to buy a ride at any time. He adds that we should make sure as to not cut cost too much that we drive the companies out of business.
- w. Robin L asks who will handle Ryan's idea.
- x. Gus says that they are just brainstorming right now.
- y. Karen adds that if that is the best idea then they will try to make happen at that time.
- z. Sarah why were the cab companies on card that are out now chosen. Gus says that they consented to be advertised on the card. It was not endorsed by the University.
- aa. Grant says that it was just brainstorming. He encourages everyone to talk to friends at other universities.
- bb. Grant says that Ben has not been sworn in. Ben stands and repeats after Grant. He is sworn in.
- cc. Nick R. asks how they can get lights at McGlinn field. Grant says that they will look into it.

VII) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Grant says that he and Bob will be presenting to the Board of Trustees. They will be talking about the things that they have done and the things that they have planned.

- b. Karen says that with all changes to student constitution she wants everyone to know that Ian uploads them to the website. Everyone can print off a revised copy offline.
- c. Bob says that he apologizes for missing the last meeting. He knows that it is very important to attend.
- d. Lauren announces that Women's Boxing will be having Power Hour, where people can donate to an organization. It will be held from 4-5 on Friday on South Quad.

VIII) **ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Grant entertained a motion to adjourn. Austin motioned. Robin L. seconded.
The October 1, 2008 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Whitney Toole
Student Body Secretary

