

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Minutes

November 5, 2008

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) Opening Business

- a. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. Bob led the invocation.
- c. Shawnika G., Ryan C., and Michelle B. were absent.
- d. Grant entertained a motion to approve the October 29, 2008 executive summary. Bob moves to change Leprechuan Leach to Leprechuan Legion in his report. Zach seconded. Katie W. motioned to approve the minutes. Kevin seconded. *The October 29, 2008 executive summary was approved at 6:05 p.m.*

II) Podium

- a. Mr. Bob Reish Re: State of the Student Union
 - i. Grant gives the floor to Bob.
 - ii. Bob says that he speaks to Senate three times a year, and last time he gave a clear presentation of the goals for the year. He says that he and Grant have been talking about the things that they still have planned. He says this time he will not be as formal as the first time.
 - iii. He says that when he spoke to Senate six month ago, He talked about beginning to make student government more approachable/ bridge the gap between students and student government. He says that he challenged everyone to this last time.
 - iv. He goes on to ask how are we measuring up. Joy and the Residence Life Committee have started the DVD club. He adds that there have been 110 students that have joined, which means that more students have come to the student government office. This has given the students the ability to ask questions and get to know student government.
 - v. He says that Gus and the Community Relations committee have put on a fall festival as a way to connect with the community. This was a way to make it a two way street.
 - vi. He says that Grant and Ashlee have raised awareness of the political election, and had a mock election that was nationally mentioned.
 - vii. He says that the system has transferred to Gmail. The original system thought that it was an issue. This has established a relationship with OIT.
 - viii. He adds that there has been a transformation from TCE's to TCF because students know that recommendations matter.
 - ix. He says that Alyssa and her committee have been working on Cultural Competency. Although it has not been passed yet, the committee will continue to work on this initiative.
 - x. Bob says that we has been maintaining status quo. There were two examples, one Sorin College stood up against the pep rally, and two he

- and Grant approached the Board of Trustees and voiced concerns from the student body about student safety. He adds that there have already been changes regarding this.
- xi. He says with five month left in their term, the survey was just passed out with the help of Sarah and her committee, and over 3000 people have taken it. This shows that student government if trying to get out there and be heard.
 - xii. He says that from this survey we have seen that student safety is a problem. Fr. Jenkins has made a committee of which Bob is on. He says that progress is being made on this. He says that they have talked to all sorts of people- the mayor, South Bend Police Department, etc. He says that they are making action for change, and the students will see change soon. He says that he will take information back to this, but he and Grant are working on a student safety committee. He says that Billy will head this committee, and they are working to create long and short term plans. They are now working on an off campus listserv, develop off campus website- including a list of off campus ways in which they can get involved.
 - xiii. He says that they are continually looking for feedback on this and other things.
 - xiv. He says that your job as a Senator is to extend this information and be a bridge to the students.

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Mr. Bob Reish, Student Body President
 - i. Bob and Grant met with a cab driver to talk about problems with the cab companies. He says that they will talk to more cab drivers in the coming week.
 - ii. He says that on Friday he will have a meeting with Bill ~~Kirk~~ and Harold Page.
- b. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Grant talked to Goldie Dome cab, and they talked about placing numbers on the seat in case there is a problem with the cab driver. He says that they talked about having flat rates.
 - ii. He says that there are 8 main cab companies, and they will work with the top cab companies that students use most. They will see the three or four cab companies that students want to use.
 - iii. He says that he will send out a link about next week's discussions on the Fr. Jenkins information.
- c. Ms. Karen Koski, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Programming Board met on Monday and it was a great meeting.
 - ii. She says that she will be meeting with The Tri-campus Commissioners next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. They will proceed with corresponding with government.
 - iii. She had a meeting with someone from St. Mary's to see how to promote the dance.

- ii. She says that eight clubs have committed to the International showcase.
- e. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Ian says that they worked on the amendment to the Constitution on the agenda
- f. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Joy says that DVD rental is going well. She says that they have a problem with the hours. She says that she wants to make sure that everyone in student government knows how to work it.
 - ii. She says that they are working on a survey for Grab n' Go.
- g. Committee on Social Life
 - i. Julie says that they met on Sunday, and they have 10 initiatives.
 - ii. She says that they will be meeting soon to push global issues course. They will be talking to professors.
 - iii. She says that they talked about NBC's Green Week. She encourages everyone to promote Notre Dame on carbonrally.com
 - iv. She also announces a meeting tonight for Notre Dame Project associated with Project Red.
 - v. Grant asks her to explain Green Week. Julie says that it is a way to promote environmental issues. She adds that NBC is partnering with Notre Dame and Syracuse to try and cut back on carbon emissions. The competition is through carbon rally. She says that they are also trying to have recycling bins inside the stadium for this game.
- h. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Ashlee says that they met on Monday, and they are working on putting together a presentation on the economy-what happened and what it means for you.
 - ii. She says that they talked about the economy as the topic for the faculty debate, but professors do not want to make predictor statements.
- i. Ad Hoc Committee On Student Outreach
 - i. Sarah says that they extended the survey and got over 1000 more survey filled out. She asks for suggestions. Ashlee says that people were not excited about the iPod give away. She asks if they can just give away an iTunes gift card for the amount of an iPod since most people already have one.
 - ii. Julie says that she wanted an additional comment box at the bottom.
 - iii. Sarah says that they are starting the 'what's the deal' series, which will be a series of common questions that students want answered. The first one is what is the deal with registration time, and the second is what is the deal with the tunnel system.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Technology
 - i. Devin says that they have had a lot of questions about nd secure.
 - ii. He says that he is helping CLC with printers in the dorm.
 - iii. He says that someone brought it to his attention that one cannot print and go to any printer and OIT will be working on this.

- iv. She also had a meeting with the American Red Cross to discuss the blood drive.
- d. Ms. Kristen Lewis, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. She was not present.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Ryan asks everyone to pass posters out for the Last Lecture Series. It will be held a week from today at 8p.m., and the speech should take about half hour. He says that Chipotle will be provided. The speaker will be Professor McKenna.
 - ii. They are planning on Majors night. They are working to get the Joyce Center.
 - iii. They will be looking into the absentee policy.
 - iv. They are also looking into some way to help students pay for preparation for the MCAT and LSAT. This is a great way to help students post graduate.
 - v. He has a meeting with the Advisory Committee on Student Life to talk about study spaces.
 - vi. Grant asks has everyone heard about the Last Lecture Series. He says that the Last Lecture Series is about what you would say if this could be your last lecture.
- b. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Gus says that they had the Fall Festival last Thursday, and he thanks everyone for their help.
 - ii. They are now moving to a new project, the Winter Sports Clinic, as a new sub-committee.
 - iii. He is working on a off- campus website, as well as the taxis and which are most reliable.
 - iv. He says that they have their first meeting on student safety tonight.
- c. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Pat says that on November 18th and 20th they will be hosting Sexual Assault Week, and they will have a table in LaFortune and South Dining Hall. He adds that NSDP will be there.
 - ii. They are finalizing plans on the t-shirts to be distributed.
 - iii. On October 28th he met with gays and lesbians in the Green Room and had a conversation to get to hear their voices. They said that they do not have a club on campus. They also expressed concerns about how inclusive the community is.
 - iv. He says that on November 15th and 16th they will be distributing Spirit Inclusion Cards.
 - v. He announces that Loyal Daughters and Sons is this week.
 - vi. She says that they have completed the hall council surveys about campus safety.
- d. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Ally says that they are looking into the Cultural Competency initiative.

- ii. She says that eight clubs have committed to the International showcase.
- e. Committee on Oversight
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- iv. He says that the mobile help desk will be in the library and DeBartolo, and can go there is have problems.
- v. Julie asks if the help desk is coming to the dorm. Devin says no, maybe next semester.
- vi. Ryan P. says that he went to help desk and it took them 5 minutes to get the new internet system installed on his computer.
- vii. Kevin says that pharos does not work on ndsecure. He says that you have to reconnect to nomad. Devin says that he will bring it up.
- viii. Maggie says that the signal is not as strong with ndsecure. Devin says that Nomad is on its way out, so he encourages everyone to switch over.

V) **GENERAL ORDER**

a. SS0809-15 Student union Ethics Committee Amendment

- i. Ian says that the need for this amendment is very clear. He then turns it over to Ryan H. and Kevin because they worked on this amendment.
- ii. Ryan H. says that the need came about when they begin looking at the committee. He says that as it stands now someone can be tried by the Ethics Committee and still hold their seat. He adds that if this is passed they will need to elect Senator.
- iii. Ian says that as it stands now the election process is unclear. In practice, it never takes shape until mishaps occur.
- iv. Ryan H. says that as of now there is no one to determine who gets the Palumbo Award.
- v. Bob asks who is over it now. Ian says that he will talk to George about this term. Bob asks how it works if a complaint is made against the Judicial President. Ian says that one could raise allegations with their group's representative. This would leave a chair vacant; therefore the committee will have to elect someone to step up.
- vi. Grant asks of there are any corrections. Ryan says that in Section 2, Paragraph c, he moves to amend that the names of all voting member, not the individual be put in a hat. Robin B. seconded.
- vii. Devin motions to forgo hat completely, and just make it random. Kevin said that reason that they said use a hat is because then it would be obvious that it would be random.
- viii. Bob asks who is choosing the member. Ian says that the judicial council would takes over it, but oversight will be involved as well.
- ix. Grant moves to voting. The amendment is approved with a vote of 28-0-0 at 6:50 p.m.

b. Discussion Re: Study Space

- i. Grant says that the Advisory Committee on Student Life has been talking about study spaces, and he just wants feedback on this.
- ii. Austin says that he feels like there are plenty of places on campus to study such as the library and classrooms.
- iii. Ryan B. says that there are a lot of people that sit on this committee, and in the past two meetings this topic has dominated. He wants to open this up to Senate, and he wants people to contribute.

- iv. Julie says that she has an issue with the availability of the CoMo lounge, as it is sometimes closed for meetings. She asks if there is any way to minimize these meetings during finals or announce these meetings earlier.
- v. Kevin says that he has two big concerns. The limited outlets past 2nd floor of the library. And he wants to know if you can use the classrooms when class is not in session.
- vi. Maggie says that she had the same concern with the outlet.
- vii. Sarah suggests having the math library open longer.
- viii. Robin L., says that they girls in Cavanaugh don't have a lot of study space.
- ix. Gus says that in Keenan they do not have a lot of informal study spaces, and they want more of these.
- x. Catherine says that Bond Hall closes early. She asks can they stay open longer. She then goes on to say that in Lyon the some of the triples will be converted into study spaces. She also asks if South Dining Hall can stay open longer during study days.
- xi. Maggie asks can they have popcorn and drinks like CoMo on the other side of campus.
- xii. Robin L. asks if CSC will have a study space. Ryan B. thinks that they are getting a lounge.
- xiii. Lauren says that the library in Mendoza stays open as long as needed, but they sometimes kick people out of DeBartolo early.
- xiv. Devin says that if you use the library in Mendoza and you are in there early then you can stay, but they do not let anyone else in.
- xv. Ryan B. says that the Committee believes that good furniture, access to internet, good temperature are ways to improve a study space.
- xvi. Sarah says that the lighting in basement of LaFortune can be improved upon.
- xvii. Nicole says that they may want to compare study spaces to one of the study spaces at St. Mary's because it is a good place to study.
- xviii. Gus says that the temperature in the basement of the library can be a little cold, and asks that it be looked into.
- xix. Katie W. says that they should replace the benches in DeBartolo because people are using the new chairs.
- xx. Ashlee says that the lighting in the McGlenn Room in LaFortune is bad.
- xxi. Catherine suggests making the tables bigger in CoMo.
- xxii. Ryan B. says that the next meeting for the committee is next semester, and if anyone has any ideas then just bring it up.
- xxiii. Austin asks if this is focused on group studying. Grant says no. Austin asks how many people study outside their room, and a lot of people do.

VI) **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Austin asks if there is any way to get sidewalks on the patches of grass that people walk on.
- b. Grant says that he is finding out about handicap access.

VII) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Devin will email the times that the mobile help desk will be available.
- b. Ally says that next Tuesday there will be a Native American poet on campus.
- c. Laruen says that Baraka Bouts is on Friday. She adds that the fights start at 6, and it will be held in the Fieldhouse of the JACC.
- d. Bob, Liz- get from COR
- e. Nick announces that there will be auditions for ND Gots Talent, which will be held on Tuesday at Washington Hall.

VIII) **ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Grant entertained a motion to adjourn. Gus motioned. Kevin seconded. *The November 5, 2008 Student Senate meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Whitney Toole
Student Body Secretary