

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE
Executive Summary
January 30, 2008
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Maris called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- b. Maris led the invocation.
- c. Brenna, Jim M., Joe, Kelly, Cipriano, and Jim L. were absent.
- d. Maris entertained the motion to approve the January 23, 2008 executive summary. Tara motioned, and Anna seconded. *The January 23, 2008 minutes were approved at 6:07 p.m.*

II) **Podium**

- a. Mr. Parker Ladwig – Head, User Services Division of University Libraries – E-Reserves
 - i. Mr. Ladwig gave a report based on Joe's Resolution from last semester that encouraged faculty to use E-Reserves. He has met with lots of people who provide course packets/copyrights last semester and is continuing with that. The library has set up a series of workshops allowing faculty to come and learn about E-Reserves, and although there has not been a large turnout, those who came appreciated it. 175-180 courses approximately every semester. Last fall, 280 courses, so far in January 280 courses signed up. They are working on other ways to avoid course packets, such as creating webpages to have a list of courses and links, and links that can go on Concourse, making it up to the student whether need to print it out or not and absorb the cost. Mr. Ladwig opened for questions. Carol noted that 280 courses stayed constant and that professors who liked it/good feedback stayed with it. Mr. Ladwig responded that it is just the beginning of the semester and they haven't processed everything so it may go up further, but not a dramatic increase from last semester.

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Ms. Liz Brown, Student Body President
 - i. Liz said she, Maris, and Sheena were hours away from finalizing Trustees report. Next week in COR talking about taxi services. CLC currently researching peer institutions about CLC relations.
- b. Ms. Maris Braun, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Maris said the Green Summit was Monday night and wildly successful. Great initiatives came out of it/great collaboration. CLC taskforce on student development will be focusing on gender relations and freshmen experience and first 6 months of college experience. They are working on changing the freshmen orientation program, working with dorms as well to form small groups. Their end goal is to create a report to send to Father Poorman by April 1st.
- c. Ms. Sheena Plamoottil, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Sheena said she is working on student forum about immigration, but she is looking for help. The CLC taskforce committee sent their agenda for rest of year, including nutrition facts in dining halls (similar to salad dressing) and Chef Miller possibly speaking to dorms/quads. They are trying to come up with a weekly event newsletter to put up in stalls with all that is going on across campus.
- d. Mr. Thomas Noble, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Prof Noble had nothing new to report but provided context about the discussion on Catholic Faculty Recruitment and Tenure. He said he was not sure how much can be said publicly about Catholic character/teaching until after the following Faculty Senate meeting.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Carol met with Colin Jessup about how Faculty Senate has addressed the issue of Catholic Faculty Recruitment/Tenure and how Student Senate should represent the issue and where student input can be used. Potentially have a couple guests next week who are better informed about these issues. Next week there will be a resolution on recommendations for advising for students. Clocks in classroom issue: needs resolution from student and faculty senate to move forward. Majors night is Feb. 7th, and might need more help with set-up and don't forget to put up posters. AP credit for Music Theory – more in future.
- b. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Colin continued to make progress on two events. Met with people from ND downtown to plan community summit. There will be a lunch sometime during week of March 20-24th and they have also made progress on the transition off-campus event.
- c. Committee on Social Concerns
 - i. Karen said her committee is contributing to the Center for Homeless dance-thon. They also have the planning underway for the pre-symposium event, which will be the week leading up to the symposium to encourage student attendance and act as an orientation session. Stand Against Hate week is going to be April 14th-18th and there is discussion that is still going on so there will be an update soon with more details.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Patrick said that only one person responded to Brenna's email about gender relations commissioner of dorm. They want to meet with commissioners about the healthy eating conference.
- e. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Mariana said the committee liked the proposal/presentation about iTunesU and all that is pretty much left are the legal issues, such as intellectual property and making sure professors' lectures are stored safely. She had a meeting with Jenny Phillips from Recsports about the peak hours in the facility to share with student body. Also talked

about the matching program for dorms to apply for old machines. Safe spring break week will be Feb. 24th-28th and in the process of planning events. Jordan computer cluster survey is now not from students but from Jordan. LaundryView will be implemented in Duncan as pilot to see how it goes. Its purpose is students can check online to see what machines are available and it can send text/email when is best time, improving efficiency in laundry rooms. Also, workout facility resolutions passed in CLC so look for changes soon.

- f. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Callie said debate has moved to Tuesday Feb. 26th which worked better for Dr. Navari and Prof. Bill Evans, and they are working on details for that. Meeting about environmental debate in March (issues to be debated). Get involved and excited about RecycleMania! Emailed OIT about setting default as double-sided for printing and they are open to the idea.
- g. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Ian said approve resolution SS0708-25.
- h. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Ninny said the day of community service was a success. They had about 105 people and they sent over 120 letters. Also, please fill out the survey she sent out!

V) **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Student Senate Resolution SS0708-21 "On the Table"

VI) **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Student Senate Resolution SS0708-25
 - i. Ian proposed the amendment and it came from Kadeja Gaines about the Student Business Board. Student Business Board is the only organization directly receiving funding that isn't on the board and they were concerned that they weren't getting a voice. The resolution adds the Student Business Board to the Financial Management Board. Maris moved to open floor for questions about content and grammar. Maris moved into general debate. Maris moved to voting. Resolution SS0708-25 passed at 6:34 p.m. with a vote of 23-0-0.
- b. Student Senate Resolution SS0708-26
 - i. Karen introduced the resolution, following up with conversations about response to the offensive t-shirts that spun off of the "Gay, fine by me" t-shirts. The focus is on solidarity with GLBTQ community and hope resolution is proactive as well as reactive in that addressing all forms of hate speech. She said it is a statement on behalf of the student body about future occurrences of hate speech. Denise said that it was an important thing to say since there has been no real response from other student organizations and hate speech creates an unwelcoming culture and community.
Maris opened the floor for questions about content and grammar. Maris moved into general debate. Stephan said that while it is well-intended and well-worded, he doesn't understand why it is necessary.

He said it is pretty obvious that the student body supports GLBTQ, this incident occurred 3 months ago, and he is not sure it is really relevant anymore. He proposed the question of what does this resolution really do for the student body? It seems like it is just bringing it up again and it is a large disservice to keep bringing it up and it is giving those who did it attention, which is what they want. Mariana responded that although you might think it is obvious, it needs to be recognized by others. By not responding, senate seems apathetic and support does no harm. This resolution says something to the student body. Ezinne said that in light of the recent hate letters, it comes at a good time. It reinforces the fact that Notre Dame as an administration does stand behind difference and diversity. If don't give it attention, then maybe it is ok to do such things. Ryan responded that although we have no excuse for not responding earlier, we should respond to now and it is better late than never. Also said we should give all who did it attention to show who did it and who they are. We are the voice of student body, if it is something we condemn to friends, should bring it here as well. Ian agrees that senate must take an unequivocal stand and not misrepresents Catholic teaching on the issue. Tara asked if there has been a rise in hate action in recent years and if this is a pattern? Liz responded that she hasn't notice any pattern.

Erdina is on the Social Concerns committee and said it is important not to just look the other way. That nothing has been said by any organization is disturbing and all areas of campus should be taking a look and doing what they are supposed to. Should pass the resolution in order to have something – let student body know that they can't do this. Also, we should perhaps look to move forward as more than just a resolution and work together to go against this. Nick asked if we could move to make it more about the letters so it is more relevant now and gives it a stronger reason. Gus said that he would like to see something more inclusive with shirts and letters and it shouldn't ignore other categories. He said he would like to see it reworked against all types of hate speech. Karen responded that one of opportunities could take. Improved involvement in Stand Against Hate week was originally as a response to t-shirts and it will be integrated into the week. This isn't only thing to address GLBTQ issues. She responded to the timing, stating that they did begin conversations immediately after, but it took time to discern what the next step should to be. In response to wanting something to add, they originally didn't have it so specific, but then they didn't want it to take away from the original sexual orientation issue.

Tom said that it is important to show solidarity with GLBTQ community, but they should broaden the scope, asking how will students know about the passage? They won't know w/o next step to get word out that this incident doesn't belong at this school and should

take a stand. Matt said important to pass as is, pointing to the last resolved in the resolution to make it all hate speech and it is important to address this issue. He recommended passing a separate resolution in response to the letter issue, citing differences in the response to letters and shirts. Nothing really happened in response to the shirts, but the university responded with an email about the letters. He said that Senate needs to stand up and address it, encouraging everyone to pass it as is and look at future resolutions. Liz said it is still important and appropriate, even 3 months later, to address incident. She stated her support of the specific resolution and agreed it was appropriate to address letters separately once had more information. Stephan responded that it will accomplish nothing, but hopes that isn't the case. Maris moved to voting. Resolution SS0708-26 passed at 6:57 p.m. with a vote of 21-1-2.

c. Discussion on Catholic Faculty Recruitment and Tenure

- i. Carol wanted to present information about the topic, stating it is something everyone needs to look at objectively and listen to speakers and what she is going to say with a fresh perspective. She has been meeting with various people to see how to approach this issue, and is trying to have a structured discussion to become informed before debating. Carol sent an email about the summary of issue. Father Jenkins proposed 51% hiring rate as goal and the Faculty senate and alumni and administration have been actively involved, but what has been missing is student involvement. She proposed the question, Why senate? Because it is the ethical thing to do, citing that the students are the heart of university, the missing voice, and why faculty are here. Senate is not just an organization with bias in it, but representatives of student body and have a duty to do this. Colin Jessup said Senate respond would probably be something that they would find interesting but would not be taking as seriously as faculty since students. There needs to be structure and need to be informed over period of time before debate.

Next week in Senate there will be Q&A session with expert, so bring questions from yourself and rest of student body. By Feb 13th bring up with dorm, sharing the issue and their responses. Carol addressed several questions about significance of Catholic character, and its future at Notre Dame. Matt spoke about it in hall government this week and had a good, constructive conversation. He was asked if people were informed and Matt responded that they didn't feel it was as big of an issue as it seems to be with faculty. Tom said that maybe could stress it is students' concern and they should think about it. Erdina said that maybe to get people to think about it, even though she also had a negative response in her hall council, getting the ideas/issues on table tents/flyers, posing these questions to student body to get a more general understanding. Carol responded that is why she posed the question.

Ryan asked if the university has had any sort of awareness campaign, which it has not, thus he suggested that senate pushes the administration to move to address to student body. Carol responded that talk about it with Provost Burish/Father Sullivan etc. Has been in media on campus. Ezinne sent an email to dorm, getting 20 responses with paragraph responses, but she felt the people who did response did have stronger opinion. She felt it was important to inform and then ask for opinion. Erdina asked if relevant of our opinion since already on agenda of administration, and they wouldn't have a statement until end of year. Carol responded although administration not asking for input, we should still respond. Carol had received a resolution on it, so thought it would be a bigger conversation, since they are missing student input.

Carol asked about holding dorm info. sessions. Liz wants to get feedback about holding a town hall meeting of sorts to have presentations to share facts and possibly Q&A and debate and food, but she also supports dorm presentations. Ryan suggested focus groups in dorms after town hall meeting with academic commissioners of dorms. Stephan brought up example of the discussions and presentations in dorms from last year about millennium project and should do something similar. Maris said maybe senators could do it once getting more informed. Debate over town hall meeting then dorm session or opposite. Opinions were dorm sessions to get educated and then town hall; table tents, then town hall, then dorm session to get those who are passionate about it; and maybe an info. session before then town hall then response session. After a vote that was very close, Maris decided that she, Liz, and Carol will meet and find out best way and let everyone know.

VII) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Tara announced Welsh Family dance show this weekend, so come.
- b. Gus announced the Keenan Revue Thursday, Friday, Saturday.
- c. Megan announced that PW is hosting carnation sale next week in dining halls and LaFortune.

VIII) ADJOURNMENT

- a. Maris entertained a motion to adjourn. Ian motioned. Tom seconded. *The January 30, 2008 Senate meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Caitlin Flynn
Student Body Secretary