

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

February 13, 2008

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Maris called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
- b. Erdina led the invocation.
- c. Patrick, Scott, Rachel, Victoria, Ezinne, Maria, Matthew, and Cipriano were absent.
- d. Maris entertained the motion to approve the February 6, 2008 executive summary. Kelly motioned, and Tom seconded. *The February 6, 2008 minutes were approved at 6:12 p.m.*

II) **Podium**

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Ms. Liz Brown, Student Body President
 - i. Liz said last Thursday they had a great presentation to the Board of Trustees. On Friday, the committee on sexual assault prevention met for first time this semester. She just received the first hard copy draft of the Good Neighbor guide and is meeting on Friday with Fr. Poorman and Gus. CCAC meeting is on Thursday and she will have a report next week on how it went.
- b. Ms. Maris Braun, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Maris said her taskforce is working on organizing small dorm discussion groups after freshmen orientation program College Has Issues and is working on getting Pillars' involvement. Also, Sheena and Maris met with Stuart Greene on Friday to talk about grade inflation to get student input on issue.
- c. Ms. Sheena Plamoottil, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Sheena said her taskforce is working on getting nutritional info in the dining halls. In a meeting talking about that, there has been concern about people recovering from eating disorders having a problem with the info. She is still working on the student forum, getting names from professors for possible panelists. She said hopefully the senator from the fall forum will be the moderator.
- d. Mr. Thomas Noble, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Prof. Noble said that the Faculty Senate meets next Wednesday, so nothing to new to report this week.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Carol said they had a very successful majors night, with between 450-500 students attending. She said the faculty seemed very happy about the event this year. Carol asked that if anyone knows about 6 missing tablecloths, let her know because they are getting fined. She is sending around posters for town hall meeting, so please take some and hang them up. She met with OIT yesterday about implementation of

- print quota, and they already have the interface set up for interim for rest of semester. Charging negatives to student account is a glitch and is getting corrected. They talked about what they want to see on the webpage for system, and she will keep updated on implementation. Also, the status of suggestion boxes is that they should hopefully have them out next week. Carol said they also talked about grade inflation in committee and they decided it was not something the committee wants to get involved with. Carol will talk about town hall meeting later on.
- b. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Colin said this week they are making follow-up calls from the letters to restaurants for Taste of South Bend. For the Community Summit, they are sending out invitations this week. They met with the Asst. Dean from FYS and are also working on off-campus initiatives.
 - c. Committee on Social Concerns
 - i. Karen said they have a committee member on the Center for Homeless dance-thon. They are also putting together details for the pre-symposium event (human development symposium). It will be the Tuesday before, so February 19th from 8-10pm in the Dooley room. They are working with the Ford family program, CSC, and Kellogg Institute on the pre-symposium event to increase attendance at the symposium next weekend, so that students feel compelled and informed enough to attend the symposium. FCC is taking care of posters, but please promote in dorm. Tom talked to Chef Miller to get a number for the resolution on locally grown foods, so look for it next week hopefully. They are meeting with CoR coalition to cosponsor Stand Against Hate week and student government is taking charge of posters and t-shirts as well as helping out with movie screening and discussion. Other events include Ally Pledge Campaign, academic panel discussion, t-shirt campaign, movie screening, and a Holocaust memorial/prayer service. It is the week of April 14-18th. Notre Dame Framing Realities charity photo show, the goal of which is to address world issues through photography. Please take posters and put up in dorm. Senate is not cosponsoring but supporting.
 - d. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Brenna said they've had good meetings this week to prepare for conference. Next week they will be asking for help to put up posters, also getting people to sign up for spots at conference between the 20-27th. She said to look for a lot that they will be asking of you next week, so please help out/sign up.
 - e. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Mariana said she had a bunch of updates. First, Safe Spring Break week (tentative). Monday will be mocktails. Tuesday, drunk goggles in dining halls during lunch. Wednesday, free laundry in dorms 4pm-midnight, where it will be your responsibility to put up sign-up sheets in dorms, but Rectors will be aware and send out emails. Only allowed

to do 1 load (wash and dry) and must sign up for timeslots. Mariana encouraged to please emphasize fairness. Thursday: Safe Spring Break t-shirt giveaway on Fieldhouse mall. Mariana said again that this is a tentative schedule, but will have posters next week, and they just need to confirm with sponsors. She might need help filling spots. They are working on campaign with RecSports called "Work in your Workout". Gus is working on "WEEM" coming next week.

- f. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Callie said her committee is working on the 2 debates coming up. They are talking about the March one with more details. Thursday Feb 21st at 7pm (to 8) in Debartolo102 they will be working with environmental groups on campus and having a meeting with all these groups. She welcomed all to come. Also, Callie noted that professors can add on to print quotas through OIT.
- g. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Ian said that his committee didn't meet this week, so nothing new.
- h. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Ninny said that they are working on putting together MLK day planning committee, so if anyone is interested in helping to plan next year's events, please email Ninny. She met with University's diversity committee (FYS Dr. Greene), so if any ideas let Ninny know because she is meeting with them on Feb. 24th. The cultural competency committee is coming along, which wants a requirement added to the curriculum that every student has to take a cultural class, with choices from Irish lit to Japanese film. They originally wanted it to be a separate requirement, but now maybe considering it to double count, e.g. as a lit req. and cultural competency req. or something like that. The big debate is from departments with lots of requirements already, such as engineering and architecture. They are trying to work with these departments. They are putting together report and sending it out hopefully at the end of April. If anyone has any input/ideas/feelings, please let Ninny know. There will be a Native American presentation next week and they are planning to finish the survey on Friday, so please take it if you get it!

V) **OLD BUSINESS**

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

VI) **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Student Senate Resolution SS0708-29
 - i. Carol said that this is the clocks in classroom resolution and the reason they are bringing it to senate again right now is because Megan heard that if we pass this resolution and Faculty Senate does as well, the university will do this. Megan said that it is pretty self-explanatory: they want a clock in every academic classroom. She met with Jim Schlenger who said it would be very feasible through satellite clock system, so issues of theft wouldn't be as big of a problem since the clocks would be useless by themselves. If we and faculty find support,

they have resources to do this. Megan noted that in the second resolved it says that the Faculty Senate will decide the best locations for the clocks to avoid the most distractions in classes. Maris opened the floor up to any questions of content and grammar. Maris opened the floor to general debate. Resolution SS0708-29 passed at 6:34 p.m. with a vote of 21-1-0.

- b. Continued Discussion on Catholic Faculty Recruitment and Tenure
 - i. Carol wanted to give an update on the town hall meeting. They were able to find 3 students for presentations on the issue. Again, it is Monday, Feb. 18th at 7:00p.m. in 102 DeBartolo. Please let people know about it! Overview: over the next 2 weeks, she would like to hear what people are talking about in the dorms. Perhaps by next week everyone can have a paragraph write-up of what different dorms are doing/saying. She would like to compile a report consisting of dorm by dorm breakdown as well as the town hall meeting as a summary of the student body opinion. Then they will be deciding whether we want to make a statement. She is hoping to they spend the next 2 weeks getting consensus and compiling the report.
 - ii. Erdina said that in her hall council, she tried to get outside people to come, but she did get a good response from hall council. There was pretty much unanimous agreement that faith is exercised a lot outside of classroom, so why is it so important to have a number. Just to have it on paper is not a good reason. They said it was important for student body to have an opinion, but had concerns of whether anyone will listen to their opinions. They suggested maybe a compromise, since a push to hire more Catholic faculty may hinder efforts to hire ethnic groups, a lot of which aren't Catholic. Perhaps Senate should push the university to put more money into East Asian languages/African Studies programs to supplement at the same time.
 - iii. Tom from Morrissey said he went 2 different ways. He spoke at hall council and had a few conversations on the side with other people. There were 2 differing opinions. The university's Catholic character was important to people and the uniqueness of being this campus is important. But they also said that diversity is important. Some questions he heard were: are they defining Catholic character by religion, or by personality/way of life. Also, if they are saying they need a majority of Catholic faculty, if faculty check the box, is it just a label or are they practicing Catholics and will that change the way they hold the class. They wanted everyone to be aware of just using the label.
 - iv. Anna from Walsh had a lot of people, having served Chipotle, and they talked for about an hour. She said the majority didn't seem concerned about losing Catholic faculty percentages. They felt the Catholic character was felt mostly outside the classroom, but they would be concerned if numbers got really low. They thought that we are fairly self-regulating and often attract the top Catholic professors.

One girl said that she works with alumni and constantly gets people from class of 1958-59 who are really concerned about the issue that percentage is going down. They felt that as get older, now more liberal classes, so this probably won't be as much of a pressing issue in the coming years.

- v. Robin said that she brought it up in hall council and gave info to RAs who spoke to each section. She said most people were against it, and they want the best professors period. Most said they don't know if their professors are Catholic or not. They generally thought that maybe in Arts & Letters, especially for theology it might be important. They were against having a number percentage. One student said that her grandfather thought it would be important, but she feels that the new generation feels more open.
- vi. Jim L. from Siegfried said that he tried to interview a few people, who said pretty much what we have already been hearing. Several pointed out that top ten institution don't have these "quotas," and they don't see a point in having a mandatory quota.
- vii. Kelly from Lyons said she briefly spoke at hall council and they are having a discussion after town hall meeting, but most were against it, saying that it was irrelevant on how a professor teaches an equation etc. She will follow up with what happens at the discussion on Monday next meeting.
- viii. Carol said that it is interesting having a discussion with those who go to town hall meeting because one of the students who is presenting for hiring Catholic faculty will be very persuasive.
- ix. Ninny said that one girl said that we already are a Catholic institution and don't need to be define by Catholic faculty.
- x. Karen asked to what extent alumni have been involved. Carol responded that there is a pretty organized organization on the topic called Project Sycamore. An alum is organizing it and informing alumni. They have been getting the word out to absolutely everyone they can. They presented all the statistical data to the university with lots of the research. They've had a significant influence on the issue.
- xi. Tom said that when he brought it up, most didn't know about issue and it seemed new to them. Someone brought up that they believed the board said that 80% of the student body had to be Catholic. He felt that if they are already doing it with students, it follows that do this with faculty. Liz issued a cautionary statement that that might not be the absolute truth.
- xii. Kelly said that if you look back on history of ND and any college, the alumni have gone up in arms when going co-ed, accepting minorities, etc. with any major change. She said that the alumni's views are irrelevant and shouldn't deter us (the student body) one way or another. Maris responded that the alumni have certain nostalgia about the university and the issue and this is not necessarily in our charge.

- xiii. Carol said our purpose is to represent the students and to look at it from our perspective and we are giving our student voice. She wanted to get a sense and feel of what is going on. Let her know if having any problems. Please emphasize the town hall meeting to dorm.
- xiv. Robin said her dorm was very receptive to town hall idea. Kelly asked for an ending time of the meeting. Carol responded not past 9, with about 5 minutes per presenter (3 of them), then about 6 questions, so the initial information should be 30 minutes. Then they will open up to discussion among all who attend. She said the goal is that it shouldn't be too much later than 8:30.

VII) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Mariana forget to mention that Kelly has been working on getting a crashed car in front of O'Shag for Safe Spring Break week and if that happens, they want to get that sponsor on the t-shirt, which is why the schedule is not official yet.
- b. Maris reminded everyone that the town hall meeting on is mandatory!

VIII) ADJOURNMENT

- a. Maris entertained a motion to adjourn. Denise motioned. Ryan seconded.
The February 13, 2008 Senate meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caitlin Flynn
Student Body Secretary