

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

March 4, 2009

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
- b. Austin led the invocation.
- c. Jon V., Patrick T., Professor Lewis, and Anastassia F. were absent.
- d. Grant entertained a motion to approve the February 25, 2009 executive summary. *The February 25, 2009 executive summary was approved at 6:11 p.m.*

II) **Podium**

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Mr. Bob Reish, Student Body President
 - i. Bob said he has been working with the CLC on a task force to clarify the University's relationship with off-campus students. He met with Jeff Schoup of ORLH to discuss services they currently provide for off-campus students. The University had a website that was taken down a couple years ago aimed at providing information about relocating off campus for grad students. It is going to be put back up due to the condition of the economy. Bob also said his task force is benchmarking services offered by other universities.
 - ii. Bob gave an update on plans for the collegiate symposium on March 27-28. Colleges attending are Northwestern, Wash U, Vanderbilt, and Purdue, each with 3-6 reps. He listed some of 6 break-out session topics to be discussed: student apathy in student government, how leaders can best communicate with the student body, and off campus relations. Bob asked Senators to think about would be appropriate to talk about and direct suggestions to him.
- b. Mr. Grant Schmidt, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Grant said that \$5 foot longs at the LaFortune Subway is not going to happen. He met with Mr. Prentkowski and presented to Senate some reasons: the discount is meant to bring in a new crowd and we have a finite pool of students, all of the Huddle is under same single budget, the same money that helps pay for LaFortune maintenance as well as general food services budget.
 - ii. Grant reported that the contract with Sbarro expires in 2012 and with Burger King in 2013. Grant spoke with NDFS about working with Student Government next year on a replacement for Sbarro.
 - iii. Greg asked about the conversion between the flex14 meal plan and the 21-meal plan and how they are not equivalent in dollar amount. Grant responded that there are a lot of other factors involved.
- c. Ms. Karen Koski, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Karen explained the dance marathon flyers picked up by the Senators and requested that the info be passed on to hall councils and service commissioners.
 - ii. Karen gave an update on her CLC task force on Medical Amnesty Policy Review, saying they have had several productive conversations and this week brought in the director of OADE, Chris Nowak, and 4 RAs for their fresh opinions.
 - iii. Programming Board is not meeting this week but will meet on Thursday, March 19, the week we get back from break.

- d. Ms. Kristen Lewis, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Ryan B. reported on behalf of Professor Lewis, reading the draft of the resolution that Faculty Senate is reviewing regarding student absences due to interviews.
 - ii. The resolution encourages faculty to put an absence policy into their syllabus. It applies to interviews for post-graduate employment as well as internships and entrance to graduate and professional schools.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Ryan reported that Professor Ackermann's Last lecture went well and the link to view the lecture is posted on the Student Government website.
 - ii. He has formed an online syllabus database subcommittee.
 - iii. Ryan is also looking into posting class lectures on itunesU.
 - iv. His committee is also crafting a report on AP credit policies at peer institutions.
 - v. Grant added that Professor McKenna's Last Lecture as well will be posted on the website in coming week.
- b. Committee on Campus Technology
 - i. Devin said that wireless internet improvements have been negotiated for the dining halls with the help of NDFS and OIT. We should see some improvement by the end of the school year.
 - ii. Meeting 8am tomorrow with Paul Turner for itunesU and
- c. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Tuesday, March 24 is the Off-Campus Transition Fair, cosponsored with the Off-Campus Council.
 - ii. Gus also reported that he has been in contact with Mr. Bill Kirk and Ms. Jenny Monahan and finalized off campus website content should be uploaded by end of spring break and he'll have an update on the launch date at the next Senate meeting.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Lauren said the Dove campaign went well with about 175 people there. She thanked the cosponsors and the Student Government members in attendance and said that they received positive feedback.
 - ii. Sexual assault awareness week wrapped up this past week with resource tables Tues/Wed/Thurs, Prayer Cards at mass on Sunday and dinner on Friday night.
 - iii. Patrick and Lauren and committee members are continuing to work with CSAP to produce the recommendations by April 1 for sexual assault resources, services, etc.
 - iv. Stand Against Hate Week will be April 13-17, and the Gender Issues Committee is cosponsoring with the Core Council.
- e. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Ally reported that she'll be meeting with Dr. Moss the Monday after break to talk about the effectiveness of the contemporary topics diversity workshop.
 - ii. The committee is finishing their contact network with clubs to be involved with the multicultural showcase, and the next international showcase meeting for the organizations is March 22.
 - iii. Ally also said there's a multicultural speaker of interest on Monday, March 16 at 7pm in McKenna hall auditorium.
- f. Committee on Oversight

- i. Ian reported that he and the committee are looking into election bylaws with Marcelo of Judicial Council.
- g. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Joy reported that Safe Spring Break Week event was a big success this afternoon and people took tshirts got free food and signed a pledge to be responsible.
 - ii. Joy will be meeting with OIT tomorrow about itunesU. She also said the committee has been in contact with the FTT department.
- h. Committee on Social Concerns
 - i. Michelle talked about the upcoming awareness "post-secret"-like campaign for disabled students. She asked Senators to encourage people to participate.
 - ii. Michelle also reported that the Catholic Worker fundraiser will be the Wednesday we get back from break and she might put out posters for the Senators to pick up at the beginning of the week prior to Senate.
 - iii. She is working with GreeND, GSU and Rec Sports for the Bike Clinic and Festival.
- i. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Ashlee reported that the lecture "A Look at the Bush Legacy" is planned for Monday, March 23, in Como.
 - ii. Next week the committee is making another push with a poster advertising campaign for the off-campus discount booklet sales after spring break.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee On Student Outreach
 - i. The "What's the Deal" about the commencement speaker went out today.
 - ii. Sarah also reported that the survey went out today and we already have 1800 responses. The survey will be open until the Sunday after spring break and Student Government will send out e-mail reminders.
 - iii. Grant added to encourage people to take the survey. Bob cited all of the benefits of the power of numbers from our fall survey: printers in every dorm, sexual assault policy reevaluation, and others.

V) General Orders

- a. Discussion Re: Library Renovations
 - i. Cynthia Weber spoke about her discussions on the committee currently looking into how to best renovate the Hesburgh library. She was looking for student feedback to bring back to the committee. The renovation should be next year and done by 2011.
 - ii. Represented on the committee are the GSU, the Provost's Office, faculty – generally a good mix of all the people who have interest in and use the library. Recently they discussed mapping program concepts to physical space.
 - iii. Major problems with the library that the committee is looking to address include a lack of central orientation. They want to make the layout and location of things more intuitive. Moreover, they hope to address a concern of lack of academic dialogue on campus outside of the classroom. The committee wants to make the library the hub of academic life, where students go to talk, like LaFortune. To do this, they're looking into a library café and using the first floor concourse area to inspire academic pursuits. The large first floor area is an opportunity to affect a lot of people and the perfect area for a traveling exhibit or something analogous.

- iv. Branding the café is discussed as a means to create mental connection between a concept and the space, in effort to provide incentive to go there and to view the library as destination to have academic dialogue.
- v. Cynthia asked about things that will pull students to the library.
- vi. Austin said aesthetics and accessibility of electrical outlets are both very important.
- vii. Ryan asked about the structures of the lobby space and
- viii. Ryan Hawley asked about the multiple sets of doors. Cynthia answered that they haven't seen the floor plan and the committee isn't restricted.
- ix. Lauren suggested that the committee discuss the size of the audio visual center. Cynthia added that they are looking into new media resources.
- x. Kevin suggested that the library isn't very appealing and there's no incentive to go there from across campus. He cites no windows and no natural light as one issue.
- xi. Bob likes the group-oriented computer cluster/work space but suggested adding another computer cluster with more computers and for individual work. He also asked about clarifying which are quiet areas and which are for individual study.
- xii. Ryan B. asked about new entry from the back of the library and Cynthia said she would double check but thought the committee had talked about it before. Ryan added the suggestion of some outdoor seating or patio
- xiii. Kaitie said that she likes the BIC computer cluster and maybe the committee could use it as a model. Along the same vein, Cath said she likes the booths and tables in the basement of the library currently and reiterated the importance of lighting.
- xiv. Jennifer said that they should consider that most students are there late at night.
- xv. Austin suggested individual lamps on tables since the ceiling is so high. Michelle added that she felt the law school has some nice lighting with lamps.
- xvi. Grant said that the vending machine rooms are not very hospitable.
- xvii. We discussed the possibility of moving vending machines up to higher floors and concerns about having food in the tower because the emphasis of libraries is shifting toward special collections now since many texts are available online.
- xviii. Cynthia said that the Carey auditorium must stay in the current location.
- xix. Rachel asked about the food rules and the cafe. Cynthia says she is not sure but that the café will be more prepared and packaged foods anyway.
- xx. Robin B. added that the 3 sets of doors help with the noise. Cynthia says her impression is that things are going to be completely changed and the acoustic environment will be softer. Julie also added that second floor is the same way with the echoes. She suggested partitioning the 2nd floor as well as the first floor.
- xxi. Ryan Brellenthin suggested making sure there are 24 hour space. Also, he asked that the nighttime warning bell be made less shrill.
- xxii. Cynthia said that a 24 hours space would need to not have niches and would need to be staffed but is possible.

VI) **New Business** (At this juncture of the meeting, the Senate failed to meet quorum.)

VII) **Announcements**

VIII) **Adjournment**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen S. Koski
Student Body Chief Executive Assistant