

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

April 4, 2007

Notre Dame Room, La Fortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Maris called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
- b. Chris Labadie led the invocation.
- c. No one was absent.

II) **Podium**

- a. Megan Cox—USA Today College Readership Program began in 1997 at Pen State University. Now the collegiate readership program had been developed in over 450 university campuses around the United States. Her goal was to review how the program has worked in other schools and at ours. Dates polled from 8/27 to 4/8. From this poll it was observed that *USA Today* and the *Chicago Tribune* are the most popular among readers. The average daily consumption was measured by location, the highest consumption being At South Dining Hall. Recently Hesburgh became the newest distribution location.. The program investment is about 60,000 dollars. There have been many questions about how under budget the program has been. With additional locations around campus it is insured that there are enough locations for maximum student consumption. The two new locations, she is convinced will result in an increase in paper consumption. In reference to consumption information, the calculation is that about 11% of students are picking up the newspaper on campus. Student are sharing these papers in dorms, classrooms, and dining halls, as each of the papers gets three sets of eyes. Summarizes the distribution policy and the importance of strong distribution locations. Parents and students can quickly see availability of program upon moving in. Highlighted the importance of academic integration with utilizing the available papers and sparking dialogue in classrooms. Another source of academic integration, she asserted, are the discussions between deans, faculty and students. The importance of student/hall events that correlate with newspapers, such as bulletin board discussion and newspaper article posts. She thanked the senate for support of the college readership program. Introduces colleague Amy, who works with circulation. James asks about the optional integration about the program. She states that every program is different in reference to the papers selected based on student interests and the surveys distributed about 2 years ago. Said that our news papers are selected by the students and as such *USA Today* is dedicated to bring the papers that will satisfy student needs. Maris responds to a question about the amount of money that each student pays in reference to the readership program. Theoretically the increase is \$10 in the student activities fees allocated through tuition. Carol responds to a question about the monetary allocation of the college readership program, specifically in reference to FMB. The budget was discussed for about a

year, and alternative sources of funding were in fact looked into, but there is currently research as to a greater allocation and spreading of the student activities fees. A question posed was based on location decisions concerned with the distribution sites, which are in fact based on survey as well. In reference to DeBartalo, there is a refusal to have, a stand in the building. National and regional newspapers must be allocated in this program, such as *USA Today* and the *Chicago Tribune* as previously mentioned. A question was brought to Megan as to who exactly the surveys are posed to. The survey is in fact an intercept model, and the demographics are not taken into account for the survey. Questions asked, include where a person would want to access their news or what newspapers they would like to read. Mariana asked if the general figures waver significantly. Amy responded by saying that the numbers do in fact stay very constant, only wavering around the period of immediate initiation.

III) **New Business**

- a. Resolution Adding the Hesburgh Library Location to the CRP.
 - i. Carol presented the resolution, and introduced Caitlin Rodel, who is a member of Academic Affairs. Based on the popularity and numbers, it is feasible to add more locations for a new distribution site. The most popular location due to pilot data being the Hesburgh Library. There has been much benefit that has arisen due to the convenience of the Library location. Carol asserts that this resolution must have formal senate approval, the following one being more geared toward student support. Maris entertains a motion to approve. Jim moved to approve. Ryan seconded.
Resolution Approved at 6:29 pm.
- b. Resolution for Prioritizing Minority Faculty Recruitment
 - i. Mimi discusses that this is to push that requires that Notre Dame maintain minority faculty. Nick expresses a comment about wording of the resolution, and wants to make sure that the resolution get the a significant amount of discussion. There is a change in the 5th line down in response to a grammatical error in the resolution. Guss asks about the number of minority faculty we have on campus based on college. Mimi responded that she couldn't give such a figure off the top of her head. Nick asks about wording and a concern about wanting the best person for the job regardless of the minority of the person. Uses an example of one of his best Arabic professors being Chinese. Mariana responded by presenting that in her opinion that the university knows that they want to get the best faculty possible and will not lower the standard in order to fill a quota. Uses the example of preference of a Spanish teacher that is a native speaker over one that is not. Steven had a few questions about the Native American and academic option clause. Mimi answers that after speaking to the Native American student population, because they feel that they are not culturally enhanced at Notre Dame which lacks in Native American advisors and

classes. Ryan, want to acknowledge the letter that came up in the last meeting that enhances this resolution. Robin expressed support for Marianna's opinion, and that the university is dedicated to choosing the best faculty as opposed to filling a quota. Jim addressed student concerns as to wanting to see the university going up in the rankings. Referencing a cross comparison of campuses, there has been an assertion that the biggest problem of Notre Dame students in that they can't relate to people that are different that them. All the upper division schools outdo Notre Dame in the number of Minority faculty. Jim discussed if the number of minority faculty will have a strong impact on the amount of minority students. Maris said that this is merely a recommendation addressing that there is a problem in the amount of minority faculty on campus. The resolution is simply addressing a void. Anna states that the university does recruit minority student, and that by having more minority faculty it does encourage more student to come to this campus,. Mimi clarifies that this resolution is based on addressing an issue and asking them to look for minority faculty. She also expanded on the idea that the university specifically tried to recruit catholic faculty that seem to be mostly Caucasian. Nick motions to move to vote. George seconded. Based on a vote of 26 to 0 to 0, the *Resolution passed at 7:30 pm.*

c. Resolution for the Removal of Defunct

- i. Ian discusses that this is a straightforward amendment. Has deleted university affairs and split into the two new committees that replace it. What the senators voted from diversity to social concerns and multi cultural affairs. Maris entertains a motion to table the resolution until next week due to incorrect wording and the addition of a new resolution issue. Ian motioned. Guss seconded. *Tabled at 7:33pm.*

d. Latter to Virginia tech students and faculty

- i. Liz discusses what has happened and the desire to do something for the Virginia Tech population. In addition to the letter written by Liz, in the main lounge of La Fortune 11-8 and Friday 11-6 and Field House Mall both Thursday and Friday 11-2 they will be collecting signatures on posters that were produced on class of '07, that says 27 homes under one dome. This is designed to show that the Virginia Tech community is part of our community. Friday the Virginia Tech students are calling for a nation maroon and orange day as demonstration of solidarity and remembrance. Friday evening at 6pm at the grotto, a short rosary service, in addition to 32 designated candles for the Virginia tech students. Asked for volunteers in cutting ribbons. A senator reminded Liz that the shirt unveiling is about 6pm. Discussion sparked by Tom about uncertainty of 32 victims, in addition to the shooter. Nick said that

as a catholic university we stand for forgiveness, but Guss contested saying that that in making this public statement it might not be appropriate to include him as the students might find it offensive. Mimi emphasizes checking of sources. Liz says that Brian brought up a good point that it would be best to look at the Virginia tech website and see how they are responding to the events. Guss said that the letter was a very well written regardless of the number of contested victims and highlighted the fact that it is important for us to send a unified message. George moves to vote, and Guss seconded. *Letter passes with a vote of 26 to 0 to 0 at 7:45 p.m.*

e. Committee elections

- i. Nick, in reference to FMB,. As an econ major he would really like to be on this committee, as he really likes money and is very good at organizing budget. He expresses his interest of the whole micro economic aspect of things.
- ii. Steven, is an accountancy major who is very interested in the financial aspects of things. Has limited qualifications, but was actively involved as a treasurer in many committees in high school.
- iii. Jim says that he stay on this committee last year and was able to learn what to do eventually. He would like to work with whoever gets it in order to better understand that the purpose of FMB is oversight and that they must ensure that money is just not superfluously given out.
- iv. Rachel, in reference to Judicial council. Expresses her experience as the treasurer of the freshman class and as a student representative for Breen-Phillips. Would really like to be on J council.
- v. Tom, in reference to J council, expresses his goals to cut the BS out of senate, and as such would like to work through Judicial council to ensure that.
- vi. George, in reference to J council discusses his experience on Hall government, his best qualification being misunderstanding of peer advocacy. Is a good friend of Ashley Weis and is very approachable.
- vii. For campus life council, there must be 4 representatives, that is the advisory committee for father Mark Poorman. Others on CLC are Rectors, faculty, Maris and Liz. It is very flexible council but a great experience.
- viii. Guss discusses in reference to CLC. He discusses his desire to be responsible for certain actions that will benefit the student body.
- ix. Scott discusses that he would like to be on CLC because he would like to be more involved in student government, is prepared for this additional responsibility, and looks forward to the chance to communicate with rectors and faculty through this venue.

- x. Ian would like to get involved because as a chair he doesn't have to serve on another committee in senate.
- xi. Victoria said that she understands being completely in the dark and as such would be very inclined to inform the senate and keep everyone very well informed.
- xii. Jim said in reference to CLC that he would like to have the chance that what we do here as student representatives is translate exactly into initiative.
- xiii. Denise asserts that CLC is an important position as it will go into a greater pool and translate the importance of taking student views into a bigger place.
- xiv. Anna in reference to CoR says that she is looking to get a little more involved. She is on social concerns committee and is really looking forward serving.
- xv. Robin feels that CoR is important because it is a way to foster a connection between senate and other student representatives.
- xvi. Ryan, says that the CoR appeals to him because he would like to get more involved with things and gives him a big picture. He would like to see how we [senate] falls in the grand scheme.
- xvii. Katie, knows much about CoR, and thinks that is an important council to foster student connections.

f. Resolution Adding Mendoza Location to the CRP

- i. Looking at numbers from a pilot survey done two years ago Mendoza was a major success in terms of student desire and approval. The new location has been agreed to be in the basement of Mendoza. Carol explains the exact location of the distribution center, highlighting that it will be in a major hallway in which there is constant traffic. Maris opens the floor to discussion. Jim asks about why La Fortune has been overlooked. Maris responded by saying that there is in fact a location in La Fortune. Other locations being considered, is possibly O-Shag, in addition to the afore mentioned two. Tom asked about the pilot program, and the fact that due to the pilot being distributed two years ago, the that Jordan Hall of Science was in fact not a choice, and would be important to relook into it. There was a question concerned with advertisement of news papers and the cost to the university. The question is answered by asserting that the university only pays for newspapers consumed, and that the newspapers pay for the signs and advertisement. Carol highlights the importance of new locations instead of just adding more papers to already present locations, because they are looking to increase the maximum amount of traffic. George asks about the effects of passing the resolution and how it will impact the future locations of future locations. Carol answers saying that they will in fact be able to add a new location without removing a previous one. Meghan asks about the figure as to the percentage of the amount of papers that

are actually picked up on campus. About 86% of overall papers are picked up by students. Liz answered a question as to where the extra money not used from the CRP goes to. The money goes to the Carrie Ford account that accumulates interest. For every major student organization on campus, the left over money goes to this common pool. Based on a vote of 26-0-0 the senate chooses to end debate and move into voting. *Resolution passed with a vote of 26 to 0 to 0 at 6:42pm.*

IV) **Officer Reports**

- a. Liz discusses meeting with Father Poorman and Father Jenkins last week. Today Maris and she went to a meeting for the CSC. Have many details to await, in reference to the Virginia Tech tragedy.
- b. Maris discussed the forum on immigration, and the events that will increase discussion after the forum takes place. Discusses point of meeting as to the debates that will occur. about 2 to 3 weeks after the forum.
- c. Sheena distributes binders that were missing from last weeks as well as last weeks minutes. Asks that preferences for committees by each senator. Will be taking pictures after the meeting of each senator for identification purposes.
- d. Philip had nothing to report.

V) **Committee Reports**

- a. Carol talked about projects for last year that her committee discusses specifically in reference to the immigration forum,
- b. Maris discusses community relations, specifically the off campus fair.
- c. Karen, the social chair, discussed her first meeting, as well as the brain storming that took place. One big idea was that the university education week for last year; wanted to make sure that students are ware of events. Wanted to work with high school ambassadors to increase diversity on campus. Stand Against Hate Week is this week. Emphasizes the importance of picking up posters, in order to advertise events. The 22nd to the 27th [next week], will be dedicated to Millennium development goals. Everyday will focus on a different aspect of the millennium development goals.
- d. Liz brown talks about Gender issues. Committee started talking about eating disorders conference on Sunday.
- e. Mariana Montes talks about Reslife. Meeting about feasibly of rollover meal exchange program. This is a very reachable goal, and so a survey is being constructed with food services as what the students would like to see.
- f. Kalie with University affairs has continued work with student faculty debates. Is beginning to draft letters to send out to faculty.

VI) **Old Business**

- a. Maris entertains a motion to approval to approve executive summery. Ian motioned. Matt seconded. *Minutes approves at 7:13pm.*

VII) **Adjournment**

- a. Maris entertains a motion to adjourn. Ian motioned. Guss seconded. *April 4, 2007 Senate meeting adjourned at 7pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Zaldana

