

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

September 26, 2007

Notre Dame Room, La Fortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Maris called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
- b. Liz led the invocation.
- c. No one was absent.
- d. Matt motioned, Guss seconded. *Minutes approved at 6:10pm.*

II) **Podium**

a. Liz Brown—State of The Student Union

- i. I come before you today to give my second State of the Student Union address. A lot of positive developments have occurred since I first addressed you in April, and I look forward to many more in the six months we have left in office. We have made substantial progress on many initiatives, but our work is far from over. I will start by addressing the issue on everyone's mind given the events of the last two months: community relations. As you all know, on Monday night the South Bend Common Council passed an ordinance that is drastically different from the version first introduced in July. First, the ordinance stipulates that a party registration process will not be enacted at this time. Second, the bill establishes the Community/Campus Advisory Coalition, or the CCAC. Each of these developments is significant in its own way. The Common Council's decision to table the party registration process in order to pursue alternative initiatives is a result of many meetings and unprecedented communication between city officials, University representatives, and student representatives. However, as I've stated previously, much of the progress was a result of demonstrated improvements in student behavior in the past month. The student body deserves credit for their efforts to behave as responsible members of the South Bend community which is essential to creating a stronger relationship between Notre Dame students and the City of South Bend. The establishment of the CCAC is truly significant for its potential to dramatically impact the state of community relations. For the first time, college students, University officials, elected city officials, and community members will meet on a regular basis as a body dedicated to the sustained dialogue necessary for improved community relations. I look forward to our first meeting as the CCAC, and am confident that the coalition will produce tangible, positive results for both the City of South Bend and Notre Dame students. While the ordinance developments mark a major achievement for student government, I will reemphasize that our work is far from over. Maris and I ran on a platform of "Raising the Bar and Redefining the Standards,"

and we intend to fulfill that promise by continuing to address the range of issues that affect students most. This includes not only the fun, student life improvements, but also the tough, challenging issues that force us to “step up our game” and produce real, concrete results for the Student Body. This mentality is evident in Student Government’s other recent accomplishments, including the introduction of Domer Dollars in the Football Stadium and the JACC, creation of the Resident Student Visitor Pass meal program, and the launch of a new, interactive Student Government website. These early achievements, in conjunction with the coalition, certainly set the bar high for the coming year. However, my friends will tell you that I never back down from a challenge, and I am confident that Student Government will rise to the expectations created for us. We will continue to redefine the standards for academic and student life at Notre Dame while always keeping the student interest at heart. In the coming months, we will push students to expand their academic horizons by engaging in contemporary issues that affect us not only locally, but also globally. On Monday, October 8th, Notre Dame will host the Forum on Immigration and challenge students to engage in an issue that is of increasing importance in our globalized world. The Forum will bring together prominent speakers to debate Immigration, including Ray Suarez from The Newshour with Jim Lehrer, Senator Mel Martinez from the State of Florida, Cardinal Roger Michael Mahony, the Archbishop of Los Angeles, Governor Janet Napolitano from the State of Arizona, and Mayor Louis J. Barletta of Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Each of these speakers come from different perspectives and ideological positions regarding the topic of Immigration, and I look forward to a heated and enlightening discussion. While the Forum itself is a highlight of our academic year, I encourage students to continue to discuss the issue of Immigration long after the Forum is over. Student Government will be holding its first debate of the Faculty-Student Contemporary Student Debate Series on the topic of Immigration on Thursday, October 11. The debate is deliberately scheduled three days following the forum to encourage students to continue to engage in the topic, and I strongly urge students to attend this event and the many others that will follow the Forum. I am proud to attend a University that struggles to address the issues challenging our society, and I hope that Student Government’s attempt to actively engage in social issues will encourage others to do the same. While the Immigration debate is somewhat removed from the daily events of student life at Notre Dame, we are also addressing social issues that affect our lives everyday. The prevalence of sexual assault and eating disorders on campus has been a concern for a long time, and we will again host the Sexual

Assault Awareness Week and the Health and Body Image Conference to aggressively address these issues. We are conducting comprehensive research on minority faculty recruitment and retention, Native American studies, and the establishment of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as an official university holiday in an effort to create a more diverse student experience. Finally, will continue to educate students on issues of social justice and equality through our support of the Millennium Development Project and additional social action campaigns. There is no denying that we have our work cut out for us in the coming year. While I have already elaborated on a number of our current initiatives, the list continues. Look forward to progress on a Global Studies minor, Domer Dollars at Off-campus locations, community-based curriculum and locally grown food in the dining halls, just to name a few. While our progress thus far demonstrates our ability to effectively respond to student concerns, I challenge you to work hard to raise that bar even higher. In my address to you last April, I emphasized the importance of moving past the dialogue traditionally associated with Student Government to produce positive changes for the Student Body. I am encouraged by our progress thus far, and look forward to the challenge we've set for ourselves in the coming year.

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Ms. Liz Brown
 - i. Will be meeting with the ticket office very soon to discuss the ticket exchange policy. In CoR discussed the reallocation into the Rector fund and a possible increase through "the shirt" fund.
- b. Ms. Maris Braun
 - i. Earlier this week she and Liz had a meeting to discuss the resolution passed in senate last week regarding green house gas emission. She had a meeting on Monday in which she presented the resolution to the environmental affairs committee, and further discussed how we can improve our efforts. Will be meeting soon to discuss the problem of cheating in the university.
- c. Ms. Sheen Plamootil
 - i. Earlier today had a meeting with the archivist. Also met in reference to a leader summit for those involved in environmental issues.
- d. Mr. Thomas Noble
 - i. The executive committee of the faculty senate met Monday , and he succeeded in bringing forward the possible creation of a mechanism that students can bring forward points to be added to the agenda and as such action would half to occur and discussion take place.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Carol discussed progress that happened in reference to course packets. Her committee has created a survey to the student body in reference to this issue and will be distributed via email. In a couple of weeks she has promised a resolution for this issue. Is hoping to see results from the senate body by mid October. In other news, her committee has already started working on Majors Night in February.
- b. Committee on Community Relations
- c. Colin met today with individuals in the CSC in efforts to increase community based learning in the curriculum. The Off-campus legal aid seminar will happen on October 7th.
- d. Karen has been in contact with campus ministry in reference to the advertising and awareness of events held for non Christian students. Her committee is continuing to plan for International Education week. Brenna and her committee are coordinating with loyal daughters for a candlelight vigil. In addition are looking to make a sexual assault awareness luncheon.
- e. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Marianna and her committee are working with NDSP to getting a blur light installed in the parking lots. There will be a resolution on Keenan and Stanford.
- f. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Callie was absent due to a fever so Maris discussed that October 11th is the faculty debate series at 7pm. A nominee for Noble Peace Prize candidate.
- g. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Ian asserted that by the next senate meeting his committee will be publishing the new constitution.
- h. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
- i. Ninny, said that the multicultural awareness meeting will be this Sunday at noon in CoMo.

V) **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. SS0708-10 Keenan-Stanford Resolution
 - I. Keenen and Stanford are celebrating their hundredth anniversary and as such this amendment is only in place so that the senate can formally recognize this momentous *Resolution SS0708-10 passed with a vote of 26-0-0.*
- B. SS0708-11 Sudan Divestment
 - I. Karen briefly introduced this issue as a means to express encouragement towards the university's actions in reference to Darfur. A presentation outlining the issue and history of genocide was given via PowerPoint. The resolution encourages the investment office to remain divested in Sudan and to encourage awareness among the Notre dame Students and community. *Resolution SS0708-11 passed with a vote of 26-0-0 at 6:39pm.*
- C. SS0708-12 Constitutional Amendment

- I. Ian explained that the amendment allows the renumbering the constitution and making all the citations correct. *Resolution SS0708-12 passed with a vote of 26-0-0 at 6:41pm.*
- D. SS0708-13 Constitutional Amendment
 - I. Ian explained that this resolution removes mention of “executive cabinet” which is an entity that no longer exists. Most of the duties of this office has fallen to CoR. *Resolution SS0708-13 passed with a vote of 26-0-0 at 6:44pm.*
- E. SS0708-14 Constitutional Amendment concerning the Preamble
 - I. Ian explained that this amendment resolves a grammatical error in the opening of the constitution. *Resolution SS0708-14 passed with a vote of 26-0-0 at 6:46pm.*

VI) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. There is discussion about the role of faculty of senate. Maris entertains a motion to send the issues to academic affairs. Motion sent at 6:55pm to academic affairs committee.
- b. Father Jenkins will be doing 4 dorm visits this year, and she is doing a drawing.
 - i. Mod Quad—Siegfried
 - ii. West Quad—McGlenn
 - iii. North Quad—Lewis
 - iv. South Quad—Sorin

VII) **ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Maris entertains a motion to adjourn. George motioned. Ian seconded. *September 12, 2007 Senate meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Zaldana

