

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

March 12, 2008

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Maris called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.
- b. Bob led the invocation.
- c. Mariana, Patrick, Brenna, Rachel, Cipriano, and Jim L. were absent.
- d. Maris entertained a motion to approve the February 27, 2008 executive summary. Jim motioned, and Tom seconded. *The February 27, 2008 minutes were approved at 6:08 p.m.*

II) **Podium**

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Ms. Liz Brown, Student Body President
  - i. Liz said that the Good Neighbor Guide is at the printers and will be ready Monday March 24<sup>th</sup>. She has a few meetings to wrap-up the year. Tomorrow will be the second meeting of CCAC. On a more serious note, she sent letters of condolences to North Carolina and Auburn as well as plaques to the McGrath and Aher families.
- b. Ms. Maris Braun, Student Body Vice President
  - i. Maris met with three members from the Registrar's office to talk about the ND listserv and how we can communicate events/programs to student body more efficiency. They are back to the drawing board, but left the meeting with good ideas. She will keep everyone updated. This Friday, meeting with Brian and Dave to talk about Domer Dollars to continue with Domer Dollars off-campus with perhaps some trial programs starting next year. The deadline for CLC task force reports is next week. Her task force is working on their report on small dorm discussion follow-ups to College Has Issues in order to break down the topics on a more intimate level.
- c. Ms. Sheena Plamoottil, Chief Executive Assistant
  - i. Sheena's task force is looking at putting together reports and still working on nutritional labels in dining halls. They decided that the nutrition facts themselves are not what they want. They are looking to imprint the information on the trays and she has a meeting with marketing managers and will possibly color-coded dining halls. Also, the forum is still going well. She is looking at contacting a Chicago news anchor to moderate. She has a few students she is contacting with position statements so they will most likely be on the panel. Sheena needs nominations for the Irish Clover and O'Malley awards, which are under the get involved tab on student government website.
- d. Mr. Thomas Noble, Faculty Senate Liaison
  - i. Prof. Noble said that in the meeting right before break, Faculty Senate passed the resolution for clocks in the classroom. They will be meeting later this month and in April and will primarily be preparing a

report on the faculty hiring issue. Also, they are working with student affairs committee and looking into financial aid, in response to what has occurred at MIT and Stanford. He will have someone come and talk about student financial aid issues soon and would like to know if anyone has any questions/issues to ask or be raised in that type of setting. Sheena said that last year's Social Concerns committee looked into it and created a report, so it might be a good idea to check it out.

#### IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
  - i. Carol thanked those who brought back their comment card boxes. Please send her your dorm sessions reports if discussions were held this week. This week they sent a survey to the student body on the Catholic faculty hiring issue. They will have a report and resolution next meeting. Most members met with OIT for a two hour meeting, discussing the many technology issues over the semester. They would be interested in creating a committee on campus technology. They have a bookstore meeting next week. They met today to talk about the new online "TCE". Also met with USA Today, and said that the number of papers on campus is going down and they had to cut back due to a limited budget. They had a request from Purdue to work on a project with taking off sales tax for textbooks.
- b. Committee on Community Relations
  - i. Colin said they have three events after Easter. March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm there will be the off-campus transition seminar.
- c. Committee on Social Concerns
  - i. Karen said that planning is continuing for Stand Against Hate Week, April 14-18<sup>th</sup>. They are working on a prayer service at the Grotto at the end of the week. Also, work is continuing for student social action and service fund. Developing plan and something that will be passed onto next committee as it is a long-term process. Start small and see how it works. They will also be possibly co-sponsoring an event for the genocide conference. Also, look for the reappearance of the non-discrimination clause resolution next week.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues
  - i. Brenna and Patrick are at the Health and Body Image Conference.
- e. Committee on Residence Life
  - i. They are continuing work on WEEM and the "Work in your Workout" campaign. They are working with RecSports to help smooth out peak hours. Rectors feel they don't have enough days for applying for matching funds, so they are looking into adding another day for that.
- f. Committee on University Affairs
  - i. Callie said the last debate went really well and almost 70 people came. The next debate is next Tuesday on global warming, 7p.m. in the Dooley Room. One side is more volunteer position versus more of a government role. They have a resolution tonight to introduce later.
- g. Committee on Oversight



- i. Ian said that the deadline for transition materials is Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> to him or Nancy.
- h. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
  - i. Ninny said they are really busy since the Native American resolution passed. They will have met with 16 professors by end of this week about structural issues. MAC will be holding an open meeting Tuesday at 4pm. Ninny is going to a tribal council meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> if anyone would like to go.

V) **OLD BUSINESS**

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

VI) **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Student Senate Resolution SS0708-36
  - i. Stephen said there was a lot of hoopla when university got a D- on the first Sustainability Report Card. The response was pretty large. This resolution commends the university for doing a better job. There has been an extreme increase in what the university is doing to improve. Maris opened the floor for content and grammar. Megan proposed a friendly to changing the it's in first paragraph and the seventh to its. Tara seconded. Stephen and Callie accepted the friendly. Maris opened the floor up to general debate. Resolution 220708-36 passed at 6:32 p.m. with a vote of 25-0-0.
- b. Student Senate Resolution SS0708-37
  - i. Gus said that the resolution speaks for itself. His task force for CLC, community relations, is putting out a report about off-campus transition. This is how to improve it in student government. An increase in off-campus membership is a step in the right direction. It is very important to increase communication between off-campus residents and student government. This is only a recommendation, not an official change to constitution. Maris opened the floor to questions on content or grammar. Maris opened the floor up to general debate. Tom asked why two off-campus senators. Gus said that proportional representation might be a good idea. Since off-campus is only co-ed constituency, they decided one from each gender. Some issues may be more relevant to one gender in comparison to the other. Tom is questioning whether two will do that much more than one. Gus agrees that it is not proportionate, and it should be over four. A lot of people may be opposed to proportionality due to a larger number of Senators. But, this is a step in the right direction. Andrew said as the off-campus senator, he said it doesn't seem to be important. Most of what is done in Senate is for on-campus students. Robin asked how many people ran for the position in the past. Last year there were five. Jim is worried about what foreseeable change it will produce. Also, there is no hall council at off-campus residents. Ian had a point of information, asking how big Dillon is. Karen said about 375 people. Sheena added it may be less with the addition of Duncan.

- ii. Erdina applauds the efforts to increase awareness but feels like Senate should try to address where off-campus students can meet and bring up their issues. Ryan agreed with Erdina to go back with maybe the populations of major complexes. Gus said in the past they possibly tried to have areas but some just have streets, not complexes. Denise said that the best part of the resolution is the sensitivity it pays to gender inequality in Senate. Megan asked why this is coming out now since it would not be able to be in effect for next year's Senate. Gus said that he was trying to do it on a timeline, but unsure of off-campus elections. Liz said an election can happen later if the position is put into constitution. Nick said he isn't sure if adding another Senator will improve communication, but they should maybe have a hall council type thing for off-campus members. Those who will still want to be connecting will continue to be involved. Some sort of meeting maybe once a month might help. Adding another person might not help a whole lot. Scott said he doesn't agree or feel comfortable increasing membership just based on having one of each gender.
- iii. Liz said that moving off-campus isn't to get disconnected. There is a disconnect in communication however. We hardly deal with off-campus issues as a Senate. A better idea would be to ensure the Community Relations committee, who does deal with many of these issues, has members from the off-campus community. Robin said that it wouldn't hurt, especially if there is interest. Gus said that he believes that this will help improve communication. Also, one of each gender should stay in there. Different areas were stressed between women he was talking to and men who currently live off-campus. It is the only co-ed constituency off campus, and because women off-campus didn't have a female representative this year, they didn't really have a voice. Stephen said there isn't a precedent due to fraternities and sororities at other universities. Matt said that although we may not deal with many off-campus issues, they are still involved and affected by the things we do pass. One of each gender is important since the other senators represent one gender constituencies. Jim is concerned with having a female or a male appointed just because they need one of each, since it is an elected official. Ian asked if there is an off-campus council website. There is not. He suggested that one should be created. Also, it would be publicized by J-Council that there is a male and a female seat. Andrew said that when he ran it was him against four other males. Denise said that sort-of already happens with people having elections or no competition for dorm Senators.
- iv. George motioned to amend the resolution by removing the last four words. The last resolved will say "Resolved, That the Student Senate respectfully increase its membership from one off-campus senators to two senators." Tom seconded. Maris moved into general discussion. Erdina said that since we do have single-sex dorms it is very gender-based. Tara said there are qualified people all around and not sure that



one of each gender will have the effect of appointing someone. Liz emphasized that any sort of election procedure can be ironed out later and what we will be voting on is whether there should be one of each gender. Megan asked if don't vote to amend, will go back to how it was originally. Maris replied yes. Denise brought up the point that whether or not we personally view or experience it, our university is extremely engendered. Keeping it in there is addressing our very gender-specific university as it is a very unique situation. Victoria said that in duLac it says when moving off-campus, you must live with members of the same sex. Maris moved into voting. Amendment failed with a vote of 4-19-1 at 7:03 p.m.

- v. Tom opened the floor to Rob Lindley, a former Senator from Keough. Rob is concerned with the number of Senators chosen. Senate is supposed to be an equal representation of its population, but this resolution is giving two votes for off-campus, with one vote from all other dorms. Proportionality is a better consideration than just two. Also, it should be equal opportunity for running. Off-campus is the biggest population but it should be fair and proportional. Ian had a friendly with the last Resolved clause which should say "one off-campus senator" instead of "one off-campus senators." Ryan seconded. Ian and Gus approved the friendly. Andrew said that adding one person isn't going to help since we already have many off-campus members' opinions anyway. Tara had a friendly to change increase to increases in the last Resolved. Erdina seconded. Ian and Gus rejected the friendly. Andrew moved to vote on the resolution as it stands. Jim seconded. Maris moved into voting. Resolution SS0708-37 failed at 7:12 p.m. with a vote of 13-10-2.
- c. Student Senate Resolution SS0708-38
  - i. Ian said this resolution addresses the issue of confirming the election of Senate Committee chairs. Right now, only need a 1/3 vote for confirmation. It infringes on the right to majority. Even simple resolutions require a 2/3 vote. This resolution changes it to 2/3. Maris opened the floor to questions on content. Maris opened the floor to general debate. Maris moved into voting. Resolution SS0708-38 passed at 7:14 p.m. with a vote of 25-0-0.

## VII) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Liz reminded everyone about the student awards from Student Activities. Ten students receive the awards every year, no matter what class level. Also, dorms should be holding Senate elections soon so please reach out to those who are elected. Please bring the newly elected Senators to the last meeting.
- b. Tara thanked those who sent out email to dorms about the Welsh Fam Family Feud.
- c. Denise announced that this Friday is Project Pink, a Pangborn event. 40 Pangborn residents will cut their hair for Pantene-Pro V.
- d. Maris said that the last two Senate meetings are very long so please hang in.

## VIII) ADJOURNMENT

- a. Maris entertained a motion to adjourn. Ryan motioned. Tom seconded. *The March 12, 2008 Senate meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Caitlin Flynn  
Student Body Secretary