

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

March 19, 2008

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Maris called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
- b. Maris led the invocation.
- c. Rachel, Robin, Victoria, Ezinne, Kelly D., Cipriano, and Jim L. were absent.
- d. Maris entertained a motion to approve the March 12, 2008 executive summary. *The March 12, 2008 minutes were approved at 6:12 p.m.*
- e. Ryan motioned to move SS0708-39 before Officer Reports

II) **Podium**

III) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. SS0708-39:

- i. Karen: explained the resolution with one change
 1. Georgetown replaces Holy Cross: research done with Holy Cross as a result of the debate at last week's senate meeting and the results were inconclusive
- ii. Friendly: "Congregation of the Holy Cross" – strike "the"
- iii. Steven: shared his opinion about the resolutions history and its effect on the university. Cites research of comparable universities to support his oppositions
- iv. Gus: Counterargument, suggests that we should not give up on the resolution just because it hasn't been acted on in the past
- v. Matt: originally passed in 1998, shared sentiment that Matt and Denise will continue to
- vi. Kelly: suggested that all movements (civil rights, women's rights) face opposition and the resolution should be supported regardless
- vii. Karen: suggests follow up that will happen if this resolution passes. Karen cites her research of Boson College and indicates a compromise that took place between the administration and students. Encourages senators to vote as a voice of the students at the university
- viii. Sheena: suggests that last year's administration did not take all of the appropriate steps to carry the resolution through
- ix. Erdina: visual representations of discrimination on campus are not visible on campus but we should not wait until it becomes so to act on this resolution. Suggests the symbolic nature of pushing this resolution off until next year and that we need to pass it every year to show our continued support. Take this resolution passing
- x. Steven: responded to several people's comments about the resolution. Suggested that many of his words were taken out of context. Said that on this specific issue that the administration should be ignored.
- xi. Liz: encourages senators to keep the debate impersonal. Shared personal support of the resolution and suggests that senators should vote on the issue because it is personally important to them and then

decide how to act on the resolution through their various programming activities, committees

- xii. Steven: shared his concerns about the liability of this resolution
- xiii. Gus: suggests leaving issues of liability to the general council. As student leaders, everyone should be exercising their own personal judgment
- xiv. Sheena: encouraged senators to think of this resolution in terms of tolerance – tolerance outweighs concerns of liability
- xv. Ninny: commended those individuals who have attended the meetings and shown support for the resolution. Suggested that the “spirit of inclusion” is not enough to include GLBTQ populations on campus
- xvi. Matt: Point of Information, the Spirit of Inclusion does include GLBTQ individuals but does not serve as a legally binding statement. Points out Fr. Hesburgh’s quote on the front of the senate binders – encourages senators to vote on the issues
- xvii. Ryan: encourages senators to worry not about the means but the ends of passing this resolution – assure the Notre Dame community that the student body is behind the inclusion of all individuals even if discriminating acts have not been taken against them
- xviii. Tara: questioned the location of the Spirit of Inclusion and the difference between that and the Non-discrimination clause
- xix. Sheena: commends senate for a great debate and encourages the senators to take the debate back to their dorms to continue the dialog and represent their dorm community’s opinions.
- xx. Maris: echoes what Sheena has said

- b. Maris ends the meeting and tells the senators to be prepared for a long meeting next week to cover all of the information not covered tonight.

IV) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Liz announces the award nominations that are available through Sheena and Ashley Weis
- b. Carol mentioned that her committee will bring 4 resolutions to the table next week and asks senators to read the report ahead of time
- c. Colin asks senators to hang up their posters before the weekend
- d. Karen asked senators to survey four individuals in their dorm about Global Studies and return the survey back to her

V) ADJOURNMENT

- a. *The March 19, 2008 Senate meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenna Doyle

Not even close to the Student Body Secretary but gave it a valiant effort