

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

November 1, 2006

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Bill Andrichik called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. Bill Andrichik led the invocation.

C. Mary Popit and Kevin Gimber were absent.

D. Luke Derheimer moved to approve the minutes. Jim Lockwood seconded.

The minutes from the October 25, 2006 Senate meeting were approved at 6:07 p.m.

II. PODIUM

A. None.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body President

- i. Last Friday, Bill Liz, Sheena and Lizzi met with the Director of Food Services, Dave Prentkowski, to follow up on the resolution for fair trade coffee that was recently passed in senate. Liz also met with the counseling center to discuss sexual assault on campus. Liz Brown and Lizzi will attend the first sexual assault advisory committee meeting soon and they will be bringing previous recommendations made by senate. Lizzi also announced the abrupt decision to include graduate students in the USC ticket lottery. Patrick Vassel and her found out this morning that graduate students will now be included in the lottery every day. This decision was made without the knowledge of Lizzi or Patrick, but now all students will be able to purchase lottery tickets next Wednesday.

B. Mr. Bill Andrichik, Student Body Vice President

- i. Bill said the conduct awareness task force in CLC is continuing to gather student and hall staff information regarding disorientations in order to compile information for a peer led information session to be held each year. Bill may be contacting various senators to discuss disorientations as well. Bill also announced that seniors will now have access to Irish Online. Seniors will have access to the full alumni network including over 100,000 alumni. More information regarding the way in which seniors can do this will be sent out later. Juniors can also go to the career center for information sessions that will be held in the future. Additionally, Lizzi was contacted to choose a student government member to be involved in further discussion regarding Irish Online. Bill will be the contact person for this task based on his previous experiences. Aly will be talking about the last student alumni reception to be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. this Friday in Coleman Morse. Bill said everyone should be at this final reception. Bill mentioned the general demeanor at senate recently and reminded

senators that this is a professional environment. Beginning next week, they will incorporate liaison reports from different senators as well. Bill also reminded senate that there will be an informal talk in the student government office tomorrow.

C. Ms. Liz Brown, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Liz said today she met with Marisha Fortner, the Director of Contemporary Topics. They talked about how to better inform freshman on topics of safety and sexual assault awareness. They decided that sexual assault information will be distributed. Tomorrow, Liz is meeting with SOS along with area hospital and area university representatives to discuss sexual assault.

D. Mr. Philippe Collon/Ms. Linda Sharpe, Faculty Senate Liaison

- i. Philippe said there will be a faculty senate meeting next Tuesday. Philippe said the University Affairs Committee is continuing the discussion on eating disorders week. The faculty senate is also looking at the current honor code and how it is be applicable with changing technology.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Jim announced that the Irish Online system is now open for all seniors and this change will be starting today. Jim's committee will meet next week. They are currently working on sending emails to the Deans regarding major's night.

B. Committee on Community Relations

- i. Josh said his committee met Monday. Maris is working on the legal seminar, which is to be held in mid-November. They will be getting fliers ready to pass out by next week. November 15 is also the meeting of the Northeast Neighborhood Council and they will be attending. Jim and Lizzi have also been talking to individuals at TC to set up a meeting. Josh will be meeting with a captain from the South Bend Police Department to discuss how students can better protect their homes.

C. Committee on Social Concerns

- i. Sheena said she met with Dave Prentkowski last week. They talked about what Food Services is doing right now to implement the fair trade resolution. They are glad to hear that Food Services formed a task force to promote social responsibility. They will keep communication lines open to work on education efforts as discussed in the resolution. Sheena also announced that International Education Week is coming up.

D. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Ashley said they have a location change for the eating disorders seminar. At this time, they have also confirmed four speakers for the seminar. They are working on advertising and budgeting. They will be meeting Friday with Student Affairs.

E. Committee on Residence Life

- i. Pat said he will be meeting with various marketing professors to discuss the surveys they plan to send out. He will also be meeting with OIT. They

are working on new issues and continuing to work on the Seigfried printers.

F. Committee on University Affairs

- i. Tonight, Aly and her committee are holding a debate between college democrats and republicans. On Friday, they are having the last student alumni reception. This is also the weekend that the Notre Dame Media and Entertainment group will be attending the reception. Aly asked that senators invite friends and take posters to hang up. Aly also announced that her committee is working on a resolution that will be coming up soon.

G. Committee on Oversight

- i. Chris said his committee met Monday. As part of Chris' responsibility to monitor the overall process of the student union, he noticed two things that should be addressed. First, there is the potential for abuse when individuals move to the previous question. Chris said the purpose of PQ is to close debate after all views have been said and heard. With two important issues tonight, it would be great to get all views out in order to arrive at the best decision possible. Additionally, Chris said no one is obligated to ratify decisions brought before senate because they feel loyal to that committee. Chris reminded senators that they are representing their constituents.

H. Committee on Multicultural Affairs

- i. Destinee is currently in the process of putting together a schedule for cultural conferences. She hopes to further investigate cultural controversy. Destinee also announced that November is Native American Heritage month.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. None

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Proposal of SS-0607-10: Resolution in Support of Holy Cross Students Having Access to the Rockne Athletic Facility

- i. Aly introduced the resolution. She said the Student Body President of Holy Cross came to Lizzi to discuss Holy Cross student access to the Rock. Then Lizzi referred this issue to Aly. In the past years, Holy Cross students have been allowed to use all Notre Dame facilities. However, their contract will soon run out and they would like to renew their contract temporarily until their own facilities are constructed. Aly said only about 30 Holy Cross students use the Rock's facilities weekly. Brian Lan asked if this resolution is to show student support. Aly replied yes to Brian. Drew asked if 30 students weekly is an accurate estimate. Lizzi said that they found 30-40 students attended the facilities weekly on average from the research accumulated. Ashley said she supports this resolution and does not see any reasons for concern. Sheena said she also supports the resolution. She said it is important to realize that the resolution includes a clause stating that student access is temporary until the completion of

Holy Cross facilities. Tyler said Holy Cross students have been coming for as long as we have and there would be little change once the resolution is implemented. Danny said this is important to maintain good relations between Holy Cross and Notre Dame. He asked if Holy Cross students have access to Rolfe's. Lizzi said they are allowed as guests. Jim said Holy Cross is small and the estimate per week is relatively accurate based on his experiences. Ashley moved to PQ. Brian seconded. 26 yes. No opposed. No abstentions. Bill moved into voting. 26 yes plus two proxy votes. No opposed. No abstentions. *The Resolution in Support of Holy Cross Students Having Access to the Rockne Athletic Facility passed at 6:29 p.m.*

B. Proposal of SS-0607-11: Resolution for Enhancing Student Life for Native American Students

- i. Destinee introduced the resolution. She received a letter in May from an individual expressing concerns regarding academic and cultural resources for Native American students. The individual cited instances of insensitivity and urged student leaders to recalculate their efforts in this area. This year, Destinee and her committee spoke with Art Taylor, the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs. After reviewing passed courses and conducting research, they found several areas for improvement. Destinee said there are four main objectives to improving the Notre Dame experience for Native American students. Destinee introduced Nikki Williams who is currently a senior and a Native American student from the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe in Nevada. Nikki introduced various Native American students who support this resolution. Chris asked if they have statistics of the Native American population at Notre Dame. Nikki said there is less than one percent. Maris asked if there is a permanent member for different ethnicities. Destinee said no because the Native American experiences have been so different once arriving at Notre Dame that they really need a liaison to help them. Sheena asked the Native American students if they could explain some of their experiences and what makes it difficult to integrate. Nikki said she was raised in a reservation and coming to Notre Dame was exciting but it became lonely. There were no resources for Native American students. She said it was disheartening. She said they are just asking to be acknowledged in that they can offer something to the university. She feels that Notre Dame does acknowledge cultural affairs, but Native Americans make up a very small portion. Chris asked why the fourth whereas clause has been inserted. Destinee said their goal is to recognize history. Tyler said this is very well written but the first therewith clause should not be included. He said it is not fair to open up one class if it is even possible. Tyler moved to strike the first clause. Drew Clary seconded. Jim said there is a big difference between opening up courses to a large group of students versus opening up courses in order to promote ethnic groups and build diversity on campus. Jim said this resolution will enrich cultural diversity on campus. In addition, Jim said it doesn't make a difference if

it is easy to do or not. It is more of an issue if the student body will stand behind this resolution to promote diversity. Mark said he agrees with Jim and this can be used as a tool to foster other goals. He said taking these courses would help individuals understand the Notre Dame community better. He also said it is ironic debating the fairness behind this resolution when the resolution has been formed to promote fairness. Jim said last year, the cultural competency resolution was a big goal and this resolution is further continuing that goal. Chris asked what resources are there currently. Sheena said this semester there were four classes dedicated solely to Native American culture and only one had seats for non majors. In semesters past, there have been 5-6 but that has been the maximum. Danny asked about class sizes. Destinee said there are around 20 students per class. Tyler said if we do this, then we should open up classes to any disadvantaged group. Destinee said an unspoken goal is to establish a Native American Studies Department since there is a Latino Studies and African American Department. Destinee said this is difficult to achieve because there are so few classes and any Native American student can only choose among five classes. She said it is not unfair to ask for a few seats to be opened. Mariana said this resolution is another step towards goals from last year. Tyler said he agrees with this resolution. Chris moved to vote. Bryan seconded. 26 yes. No opposed. No abstentions. Bill moved into voting on striking the clause. No votes to strike clause. Pat asked about the fifth whereas containing UNDERC. Nikki said this program allows majors to work with Native American students in Montana such as conducting independent research projects. It allows Notre Dame students to interact with tribes and reservations. It is a collaboration between the tribe in Montana and Notre Dame. Brian asked what happened to the cultural competency resolution from last year. Destinee said she has talked to the previous committee leader and continues to promote that resolution. Drew questioned parts in the resolution citing Catholic Social Teaching. Mariana said we go to a Catholic University and should therefore incorporate this in our every day lives. Lizzi echoed Mariana. She said countering racism is an integral part of the encyclical documents and this resolution lives up to Catholic social teaching. Danny said he also feels like this is a part of being Catholic and attending this school. Therefore, we should include this part. He said this is a signature of our school and not including it would be going against what our university is a part of. Maris asked about the third therefore clause and why we aren't doing this for other disadvantaged or minority groups. She said she supports the resolution but feels we should address other ethnicities. Mark said this is important for other ethnicities as well but there are more resources for other ethnicities. Tyler echoed Maris and said resolutions for other groups can come about in the future. Destinee said this is something critical that students have been consistently asking to be implemented. She said they haven't been receiving feedback from any other groups. Sheena said there is a need for this specific group

just because of the small number. She said more students are aware of other groups' needs than the Native American students' needs. Danny said he also feels like including other groups, but we should do this now and work on other groups in the future if they choose to come forward. He said supporting this resolution does not necessarily mean that other groups can't do the same thing. Oscar asked if MSPS provides any services. Destinee said they do but nothing targeted to specific groups and it is only a student club. Mariana moved to vote. Brian Lan seconded. 25 yes. No opposed. No abstentions. Bill moved into voting. 25 yes plus 3 proxy votes. No opposed. No abstentions. *The Resolution for Enhancing Student Life for Native American Students passed at 6:57 p.m.*

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Liz reminded Senators to put up signs and stall notes. Next Tuesday is also the multicultural affairs meeting that will be on location at 9 pm in Coleman Morse. Liz has also been hearing that not all senators are attending their committee meetings and asked that senators make a strong effort to attend these.
- B. Kushal announced the Sorin College talent show.
- C. Lizzi asked if any students were available to give suggestions on the student government website. She also announced the Black Images event to be held on Saturday night which raises money for the American Sickle Cell Anemia Association.
- D. Chris announced that the college democrat-republican debate will be held at 7 tonight.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Lindsay Meyer moved to adjourn. Mark Healy seconded. *The November 1, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Martinez
Student Body Secretary