

# NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

January 17, 2007

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

## I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Bill Andrichik called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- B. Chris Labadie led the invocation.
- C. Ashley Weiss, Ashley Wright, Emily Cooperstein, and Kevin Gimber were absent.
- D. Luke Derheimer moved to approve the minutes. Jim Lockwood seconded.  
*The minutes from the December 6, 2006 Senate meeting were approved at 6:07 p.m.*

## II. PODIUM

- A. Lizzi Shappell Re: State of the Union Address
  - i. Good evening. I am here tonight to fulfill my Constitutional duty to address the Student Senate three times during my term. I thank you in advance for your time and attention and look forward to what I know will be a highly productive spring semester. As a student body, we are currently surrounded by invigorating topics: on the international level, Fr. Jenkins' recent trip to Uganda challenges us to examine the University's investment in the Millennium Village Project. February 8-10, we will host the first-ever, student-organized Eating Disorders Conference sponsored by the Student Senate Gender Issues Committee. Graduate students, professors, and medical experts from around the country will join our campus community in a discussion and analysis of an epidemic that affects many of our peers and family members. Amidst these widely publicized events, I aim in this second review of the state of the student union to review our progress thus far and our plans for the future in two other, important areas: community relations and student-alumni relations. Over the past two years, we have challenged each other to truly engage in the South Bend and Mishawaka communities, to move beyond stereotypes of "townies" and to live as good neighbors. The concept of "community relations" is now common language on our campus and has resulted in incremental improvements. Last spring, members of the Council of Representatives, from across the Student Union appeared at a South Bend Common Council meeting to articulate Notre Dame student concerns with the Disorderly House Ordinance. This was an important first step in establishing a professional, working relationship between Notre Dame students and South Bend community leaders and had never been done before. This past August, student government worked with the South Bend mayor's office to conduct tours of the area for incoming first-year students. Widely regarded as successful, we had HOW MANY freshmen participate and several

order to convey current student issues and comment on the present campus culture. In addition, by invitation from the Alumni Association, I had the privilege of sitting in on the “Classes” committee, discussing young alumni, senior alumni, and reunion issues. Student government will continue to build a relationship with the Alumni Board and Alumni Senate in order to maintain regular communication between current students and alumni of all ages. In addition to this formal interaction, student government sponsored a series of student-alumni receptions on football weekend Fridays. While attendance was inconsistent, the first reception during the weekend of the Alumni Board meeting was highly attended by both Alumni and students. We hope to work with the Student Alumni Relations Group, or SARG, to assure that these events continue under their oversight in the future. Finally, our greatest achievement in this area is the opening of GoIrish alumni contact network to students. Thanks to the hard work of Bill Andrichik, Jim Grace, the Career Center and the Alumni Association, seniors and graduate students are now able to access a network of over 100,000 alumni in every region and professional field. Student-alumni relations will continue to be an issue for this administration, as we continue to promote the use of the GoIrish network. The GoIrish network currently provides contact information and search engines based on regions, year, and profession. The future of this network will allow for resume posting, opportunities for alumni to volunteer to be mentors for undergrad students, and general information sharing. The future network will also include a social exchange between alumni and students in order to facilitate interactions beyond simply career-based exchanges. Bill has been chosen as the sole undergrad representative to serve on two committees for this project based out of the Alumni Association. He is serving on the career networking committee to further incorporate student needs into the GoIrish network and on the social networking committee to continue the work begun by the student-alumni receptions. We are optimistic about the potential of this network and are thrilled with the high level of progress thus far. We have a lot of work to do to fulfill these goals. Yet the progress thus far proves that we can and will follow through. Thank you for your time and I look forward to working with you in the coming months.

### **III. OFFICER REPORTS**

#### **A. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body President**

i. State of the Union Address.

#### **B. Mr. Bill Andrichik, Student Body Vice President**

i. Bill said the second Board of Trustees report will be out February 1. It will be a more in depth version of Lizzi’s speech. The report will cover upcoming and accomplished initiatives. There are four main areas including the eating disorders seminar, the college readership program, the community summit, and student-alumni relations. This

Friday, there will be a meeting with Northwestern student government representatives. Bill said Northwestern representatives also plan to interact with various on-campus organizations. Bill asked for input regarding career and social networking with alumni. He is a member of the career networking committee and will continue to take suggestions and ideas on alumni-student relations.

C. Ms. Liz Brown, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Liz said her CLC task force is still waiting for the website to go up to insert the application link. She is continuing her work with the sexual assault committee.

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

- i. Philippe said there was a faculty meeting on December 6. They discussed the financial goals of the university within the next few years. They are still working on a statement to support health insurance for graduate students. They are also supporting the eating disorders conference. Philippe said to contact Kelly Jordan for suggestions.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Jim said majors night will be held in early March. His committee is meeting next Tuesday as well.

B. Committee on Community Relations

- i. Josh said his committee will be contacting leaders of IUSB, Bethel, St. Mary's and Holy Cross to meet for the summit. He also will be meeting with the Mayor's office to discuss tours.

C. Committee on Social Concerns

- i. Sheena said they met last night. They decided further projects for this semester. She plans to work with CSC to look at participation rates. She talked with Steve Cartwright about Voice. They would also like to meet with Jay Brandenberger. She plans on discussing the role of ombudspersons. She will continue to work on the fair trade resolution. They plan on arranging a Darfur week. Her committee is working on incorporating various geography facts in the stall notes to better educate students. This initiative was inspired by Carl Lindberg, Sweden's Deputy Vice Minister for Education. They are also planning on making stand against hate shirts. They are working on creating a standardized program for the class council to follow in regards to the global village project. Mark Healy said they are putting plans together to have each class council adopt an area of the global village project. They will try to put this together for the incoming council members.

D. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Lizzi said the eating disorders conference is Feb 8-10. Registration is available on online. There will be an email going out soon. The schedule is finalized. Sheena asked if it is mandatory to register.

Lizzi said no but it helps to have a head count. Lizzi said it has been marketed to graduate students across the country and there will be a list serve sent out to students on campus.

E. Committee on Residence Life

- i. Pat said they are planning for alcohol awareness week. They will also bring forward a resolution concerning the dormer dollar system on campus. Mariana said she has a meeting with a university committee to discuss technology. She is also setting up meetings with professors in the music department.

F. Committee on University Affairs

- i. Aly said their main project is Catholic Think Tank. It will include three topics: politics, women, and the Church in Africa. She met with Peggy to discuss this project further.

G. Committee on Oversight

- i. Chris said they will meet soon to discuss the previous amendment brought forth last semester and they will begin to look at the application process for end of the year awards.

H. Committee on Multicultural Affairs

- i. Destinee said their ongoing initiative has been the cultural competency initiative, which they are continuing. She said a committee should be formed by the end of the month consisting mostly of faculty members. Her second initiative is to explain how students can facilitate minority recruitment better. They plan to work with professors. They will also evaluate services for minority students and attempt to reduce the amount of programming MAC does for future years. They plan to talk to multicultural clubs on campus. Destinee said her committee will also be doing a minor program for Black History Month.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. None.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Jim became aware of a group called Men Against Violence. He contacted student activities office and they said that the group does not exist. He said there should be something done to fix these miscommunications. Jim Grace said this group is not an official group yet. They are planning to apply for this next year and form a constitution on their goals. It is currently just students against violence. They meet every other Wednesday.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Bill said Tyler was on Campus Life Counsel so there will be a new election for this position since he left. Bill said students who run for this position cannot have class on Mondays between 3 and 4 p.m. This position will be filled next Wednesday in addition to the new Dillon Hall senator.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A. Danny Smith moved to adjourn. Mark Healy seconded. *The January 17, 2007 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Martinez  
Student Body Secretary

