

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

February 14, 2007

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Bill Andrichik called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- B. Chris Labadie led the invocation.
- C. Philippe Collon, Ashley Wright, Jim Lockwood, Mark Healy, and Kevin Gimber were absent.
- D. Luke Derheimer moved to approve the minutes. Kevin Smith seconded.
The minutes from the February 7, 2007 Senate meeting were approved at 6:06 p.m.

II. PODIUM

- A. None

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- A. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body President
 - i. Lizzi said there is a subgroup in CoR that is looking into the possibility of a student union program endowment. Lizzi reminded senators not to produce anything related elections on the second floor.
- B. Mr. Bill Andrichik, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Bill's CLC committee has reviewed the university's report on gambling. They are looking into ways to assist in educational programming for this initiative.
- C. Ms. Liz Brown, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Liz met with Jeff Shoup. They are discussing how to fund the du Lac Pamphlet. She is meeting with OIDE tomorrow to talk about collaborating with the sexual assault advisory committee.
- D. Mr. Philippe Collon/Ms. Linda Sharpe, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. None

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Jim said Majors night is March 1, 7-10 p.m. in the JACC. The tutoring/student connection program to be placed in the classified of Inside ND will go up on Monday, March 15.
- B. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Josh said half of city officials have RSVP regarding the summit. His committee is also sending out surveys to gather opinions. They are looking into a project regarding a student guide to the South Bend community.
- C. Committee on Social Concerns

i. Sheena said they did not meet yesterday. They will be trying to get a resolution put together in these next couple of weeks regarding admission revisions.

D. Committee on Gender Issues

i. Ashley said the eating disorders conference was a huge success. About 200 individuals came to the film screening. They have been receiving many thank you notes from presenters and departments. They will meet next week to compile notes.

E. Committee on Residence Life

i. Pat said Alcohol Awareness week is March 5-9. They are still finalizing plans.

F. Committee on University Affairs

i. Aly met with Peggy regarding Catholic Think Tank. They are looking to put together a three personal panel to discuss lay women in the Church.

G. Committee on Oversight

i. Chris said oversight will meet next week to finalize the two amendments regarding SUB and FMB. They should come up with a solution within the next two weeks.

H. Committee on Multicultural Affairs

i. Destinee said on Monday, Rod Paige came to speak. About 400 students came to the lecture. He talked about No Child Left Behind and other various issues. She received a letter that the cultural competency committee will be formed sometime this month. They have a sub committee working on Asian Heritage Month. They are in the process of exploring minority faculty recruitment and tenure.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Greg apologized to Lizzi for including her signature. Yesterday, John Klinger wrote an article about St. Mary's in the Observer. Responses to the article have not been good. He wants to send a letter to the editor and to the Observer to be sponsored by student government regarding this issue. He wants to create something that works with both universities to better relationships as well as increase the dialogue between the students. He wants to create a commission of three student senators and three non-student government individuals to represent Notre Dame to portray a positive view of better relations between St. Mary's and Notre Dame. Bill said the committee would be a special committee. Only the student body president can appoint ad hoc committees. Lizzi said it is good to try to remedy what John Klinger was saying in the observer. She said they have commissioners from St. Mary's sitting on CoR. Alanna Cheifari sits on CoR and she has extended an invitation for the ND student government to go to St.

Mary's next Tuesday. Within Aly's committee, there is a designated individual to work through some of these issues. Gary said yesterday John was trying to outline that it was hypocritical for St. Mary's students to not want a relationship with Notre Dame but then participate in Notre Dame events. Many individuals read his article and misinterpreted his message. He just wanted to respond to this article. Chris said a special committee may not seem necessary. He said tonight, they should focus on drafting a letter if they would like to respond to the article. Maris asked if Lizzi would sign the letter too or senate only. Pat said in the past, it was only signed by the student senate. Lizzi said it would be the chair who would sign. Greg is proposing to send this letter to be printed tomorrow in the Observer as an immediate reaction from student government which does not believe in promoting a negative relationship between the two colleges. He is also proposing a special committee to deal with longstanding issues arising between the two colleges. Chris suggested discussing the special committee first since the letter addresses this issue. Brian suggested amending the letter to take out specifics. Drew said he agrees with Brian. The letter can't wait too long. Maris said the idea of a summit is a great idea, but CoR is a great way to discuss John's underlying issues. Bill advised senators to turn to page 22 of the Constitution. It says no committee can be created whose purpose is congruent with another existing committee. Sheena said there may not be need to form another committee when one already exists. Drew asked if the tricampus commissioners meet regularly. Lizzi said there are tricampus commissioners that attend the CoR meetings. They can not vote though. Lizzi said last year the university committee did have interaction between other colleges. Chris said the university affairs committee should take up this issue. Greg said this issue is unique. He wants to create something that solely focuses on this issue between Notre Dame and St. Mary's. Lizzi said she sees the pressing issue in this letter, but in the past, pressing issues have been handled by the committee responsible. Drew said he agrees with Lizzi, but if forming the committee itself is that pressing, then we should discuss it. This issue will always be there. Brian agreed with Greg and said that we should separate the letter and the special committee. He said sending the letter could be good but just taking out the information regarding a special committee may be necessary. Chris said they need to decide what should be put in the letter. Bill declared a 5 minute recess. Bill resumed the meeting at 6:39. Drew said the consensus is that John brought up a strong issue. Senate should just send a letter that is generic and simple to show that we are giving this issue a serious look. Greg said making the letter simple and generic may be misconstrued as taking this issue lightly. Luke said he likes Drew's idea. Luke moved to limit discussion to 5 minutes. Mark Healy seconded. 21 yes. 3 opposed. No abstentions. Brian said making the letter simple

is good and we will explore the issue further to discuss if a special committee or summit should be formed. Liz said Drew and Greg have good points. She said the fact that they are having this conversation sends a good message. Sending the letter to the observer will send the message that Drew and Greg are proposing. She said we should take a step back to carefully think about forming a committee. Maris said we should think about what we want to convey in writing an editorial. Chris said it is deleterious to end discussion when this issue deserves attention. He said it would make a bigger impact to develop something concrete today. Mariana said that creating a committee is not giving the university affairs committee precedent. Since senate will be new in a few months, we should give the university affairs committee precedent rather than forming a sub committee. Luke said he wanted to limit discussion to have more time to carefully think about this issue. Greg said this is not perfect but it is a first step. He doesn't think it should be under the university affairs committee's jurisdiction. Chris said a sustained dialogue among the three colleges is very important. He said it is not critical for senate to respond in this way but there does need to be discussion. He said greater discussion among senate would send a bigger message than a letter in the Observer. Callie said she sees the hostility between the professors and Notre Dame students when she is at St. Mary's. She said she doesn't know if it is necessary to send a letter. The letter may not have a lot of impact. Bill said he will not be entertaining this letter to be voted on. Bill said this discussion and the letter itself will be covered in the Observer. He said we can not be sure this letter would even be published in the Observer. He would like to send this issue to the university affairs committee. Bill said this issue will be sent to the university affairs committee.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Lizzi announced that the run off debates are tonight at 7:30 and elections are tomorrow. She asked if anyone is interested in joining the Council of Representatives to meet with St. Mary's next week, and if so, let her know. The meeting will be next Tuesday night at 6 p.m.
- B. Drew asked if the Judicial Council will be setting up computers in the same locations to vote. Brian said they are not going to have designated voting areas. J
- C. Josh said he appreciates what Greg did in bringing this issue to the senate. This is an opportunity for senate to take initiative on a pressing issue.
- D. Oscar said tomorrow night in Legends is the Mike Peterson show at 10 p.m. It is free.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Chris Beesley moved to adjourn. Kevin Smith seconded. *The February 14, 2007 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Martinez
Student Body Secretary

