

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

March 21, 2007

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Bill Andrichik called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
- B. Chris Labadie led the invocation.
- C. Destinee Delemos, Matt Lodwich and Kevin Gimber were absent.
- D. The approval of the minutes was inverted at 6:08 to be placed before adjournment.

II. PODIUM

A. Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., University President

- i. Father Jenkins thanked senators for their service to student government.

He said he is happy to answer any questions or hear suggestions. Greg Dworjan said he's talked to Professor Kaplan. He said there is concern that the political science department has too much emphasis on theory versus application/practical usage. Greg asked Father Jenkins where he sees the department's future direction headed. Father Jenkins said he thinks Notre Dame is a place that should excel in thinking about deeper issues such as value, meaning and purpose. Therefore, we do have a theoretical department and he defends this side. He said you do have to have those quantity skills for political science as well. He says they are trying to build up their American Political science department. He said students should press it to the people in the political science department. Maris Braun said she read his op-ed piece regarding Harvard in the Washington Post. She asked about the religion requirement for Harvard and if the requirement was minimal. Father Jenkins said that the requirement was proposed but was shot down. It was the most minimal requirement and was heavily opposed. He thinks the academy is heavily secularized. From an academic point of view, religion is a powerful force in people's lives. Notre Dame is the one place that is not afraid to talk about religion and faith. We have to be good at everything. Liz Kozlow said it seems as the campus is expanding, what is the new purpose for the new residence halls. Father Jenkins said it is not to grow the student body, but some of the dorms are crowded. The new dorms will provide more space for studying and socializing. Chris Beesley asked about the new position to further research. Father Jenkins said they decided to split off graduate students so someone is in charge of that area. It is a slightly readjusted position. The research is for all different fields. Analise Lipari asked if they plan on addressing conservation concerns. Father Jenkins said they are

concerned with that. It is one thing they need to reflect on. Brian Corrigan asked how is the focus on research balanced among undergraduate and graduate students in regards to research. Father Jenkins said some universities do not balance between the two. He said we haven't lost it and we shouldn't lose it. There are tensions in big institutions. He thinks that we're good with teaching in both areas. They look at teachers who have proven to be good teachers. Brian Lan said is proud of Mendoza's work and asked is there anything being done to heighten the awareness for international business. Father Jenkins said he is proud of Mendoza too. He doesn't know what is being done right now but there are efforts to improve and expand in these areas. Father Jenkin's encouraged students to take international courses that interest them regardless of the requirements. Mariana said recently the university has been aggressively pursuing Catholic faculty but how much have they been pursuing minority faculty. Father Jenkins said it is something that we pursue. Mary Popit said senate passed a resolution suggestion to change the non-discrimination clause and asked what factors they will take into account in receiving these recommendations. He said everybody should be treated with respect and deserves support. Drew Clary asked about tuition. Father Jenkins said tuition ranks roughly where we are and he continues to think the key question is access. They have to make education accessible to people. In the end, it is not a bad investment. Greg Dworjan asked about having debt when you have a service job. Father Jenkins said it is a concern of ours. Jim Lockwood asked about graduate students who work as TAs and asked about the health benefits for graduate students employed on campus. Father Jenkins said we need to improve in that regard. They did increase the graduate student stipends. The argument was that some people already have health care. It is something they need to work on.

B. Liz Kozlow, Judicial Council President Re: Michael J. Palumbo Award

- i. Liz Kozlow presented the recommendation for the Michael J. Palumbo award. This year Patrick Vassel was nominated. He is currently a senior and has been involved in theatre, the Show and currently works as SUB manager. 26 yes. 0 opposed. 0 abstentions.
Patrick Vassel was approved as the recipient of the Michael J. Palumbo Award at 6:39 p.m.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body President

- i. Lizzi said last night, Patrick Vassel went to FMB to approve the contact and language regarding the student union endowment. They will meet Friday to discuss numbers. The changes will go to oversight. The bulk of the changes regard the fiscal policy. Changes are to the

FMB bylaws regarding cleaning up the language of the carry forward account. Next week will be her final address to the Student Union.

- B. Mr. Bill Andrichik, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Bill said the conduct awareness task force is setting up a meeting with the Gender Relations Center regarding offensive images such as pornography in public spaces.
- C. Ms. Liz Brown, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Liz said she met with members from the GRC yesterday to continue to plan for sexual assault awareness week. They laminated posters from the sexual assault committee. Liz reminded senators to tell their dorms that applications to serve on student government next year are available on the student government website. The deadline for applications for the Clover Irish Award and the Frank O'Malley award is extended until Friday.
- D. Mr. Philippe Collon/Ms. Linda Sharpe, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Faculty senate is looking at the honesty tutorial that freshman have to take. They've decided to recommend that the senate next year take this up. They are also discussing the overhauling of the content and delivery in TCE's. No decisions have been made, it is exploratory right now. They have two more meetings.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. No report
- B. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Josh said they are transitioning.
- C. Committee on Social Concerns
 - i. Sheena said this week is Darfur week. She has posters for senators to hang up. She asked that senators go to as many events as possible. It's also fair trade week. She has posters that highlight events for this week. The Millennium Village packets for class councils are about done. They are looking at putting ideas together for a minor.
- D. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Ashley said they are working with the GRC on the Thin rescreening.
- E. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Pat said thanks to everybody who helped during alcohol awareness week.
- F. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Aly asked senators to pick up posters. Next Tuesday there will be a discussion on Notre Dame's role in Africa and plans for the future. It is part of Darfur week. Lizzi said one employee of UNDP and the Earth Institute from Uganda will be here for the talk as well.
- G. Committee on Oversight

- i. Chris said the oversight committee met on Monday night. They approved the proposed constitutional language regarding the carry forward account. They are also passing around a four question survey.
- H. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Liz said MAC is working on their speaker for CelebrAsian next month. They are also working on faculty tenure and recruitment for minority faculty.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Drew Clary said he was looking at posters in the first floor of O'Shag. He saw many posters about speakers who had come but he hadn't been notified. He asked if one of the Comcast stations could serve as a CSPAN by notifying students about events on campus. Liz said there were ideas thrown about having a station to play events. She said it is a good idea. Ashley Wright asked if NDTV ever tapes them. Oscar Garcia said they haven't taped any but they hadn't thought of that idea. He will bring it up with the board.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Mariana will be playing the Role of Paula Abdul for Irish Idol. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. at Legends tonight.
- B. Liz reminded that senators to contact their incoming senator.
- C. Mary Popit suggested attending a Family Feud event Saturday at 1 p.m.
- D. Chris Beesley said the EU Ambassador to the US is speaking tomorrow at the Jordan Auditorium in Mendoza.
- E. Chris asked that senators put surveys on top of the trash can.
- F. Drew Clary said the Fisher Regatta is April 28.
- G. Bill Andrichik asked that senators make sure posters get up. He said he will not be here next week, but he thanks everyone for a great job on senate.
- H. Maris Braun moved to approve the minutes. Danny Smith seconded. *The minutes from the March 7, 2007 Senate meeting were approved at 6:57 p.m.*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Luke Derheimer moved to adjourn. Brian Lan seconded. *The March 21, 2007 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Martinez
Student Body Secretary