

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

March 27, 2007

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
- B. Chris Labadie led the invocation.
- C. Kushal Parikh, Matt Lodwich, and Bill Andrichik were absent.
- D. Brian moved to approve Lizzi as Chair. Luke seconded. Approved at 6:12 p.m.
- E. Lindsey Meyer moved to invert item 6 to after podium. Brian Lan seconded. Drew moved to vote. Brian seconded. 21 yes. 4 abstentions. *New Business inverted at 6:13.*
- F. Maris moved to approve the minutes. Luke Derheimer seconded. *The minutes were approved at 6:13 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

- A. Lizzi Shappell Re: State of the Student Union Address
 - i. Good evening. I stand before you for the third and final State of the Student Union Address. Let me preface my remarks with an expression of gratitude to you, the Student Senate, for your dedication and hard work over the past year. You have been an integral part of the success of this administration. I have learned a great deal this year and hope you, too, have grown as student leaders. I am confident that I, along with the rest of the senior class, am leaving the University in the able hands of the remaining student body. Looking back over the past year, Bill and I have joked about the "checklist" mentality we have adopted with our campaign platform. Achieving 32 of 35 initiatives, I am extremely pleased with both continued initiatives such as the Off-campus fair, seeing the College Readership Program through its first year, Majors Night, continued dedication to Fair Trade, Alcohol Awareness Week, and the formation of the University Committee on Cultural Competency. I am equally proud of our innovative initiatives: the Freshman Bus Tour, Online book exchange on insideND, the opening of the goIrish network to senior students, the Eating Disorders Conference, Student Alumni reception, and the Community Summit. Everyone involved in this administration has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of these initiatives. It is with great pleasure tonight that I unveil one final act from this administration for your review and approval. Since my time at Notre Dame began nearly four years ago, student government talked about starting a programming endowment. The Board of Trustees report in the spring of 2004 was on this topic, outlining

why this additional funding is needed to improve student life. Unfortunately, this endowment was never realized until now. The endowment is now possible because of the size of the Carry Forward account and the amount of revenue accrued from the royalties earned off The Shirt Project. With the combination of these two funds, we have nearly \$700,000 to invest in an endowment for the benefit of the entire student body, both current and future. Not just a programming endowment, it shall be called the "Student Union Endowment" because its returns will be placed back into the overall Student Union spring budget allocation. It will be managed by the Financial Management Board with the counsel of the Council of Representatives. In the first year, this will mean around \$25-30,000 additional dollars for the Financial Management Board to allocate amongst all Student Union organizations. Future funds over the proposed \$100,000 cap on the Carry Forward account and future royalties earned from the Shirt Project will add to the principle, increasing its earning potential. This is a fiscally responsible decision, as with the establishment of the endowment, we also created FMB bylaws to ensure structure on the budgeting process. The Student Union budget will work off a \$250,000 baseline guarantee from the Shirt project, which is a conservative yet appropriate number based on the past fluctuations on sales of the Shirt. Throughout the process of establishing the endowment, I have had the pleasure of working with Stephen Friend, the former Student Union Treasurer, Patrick Vassel, Student Union Board Manager, Kadeja Gaines, current Student Union Treasurer, Bill Andrichik, and was guided by the Council of Representatives and bylaws approved by FMB. Together we have put together a comprehensive plan for both increased financial resources for Student Union and a structure that ensures fiscal responsibility. Patrick and I met with the Controller's office to finalize the details and will be sending a letter on behalf of the Student Union setting up the endowment later this week. I am extremely proud to present the appropriate Constitutional changes to you tonight that supplement bylaw changes to FMB. This initiative, more than any other, leaves a legacy. By supporting this endowment, you impact future student bodies. Please join me in supporting a final act that will leave a lasting impression upon student life at Notre Dame. Again, let me thank you for your time, dedication, and overall energy for improving student life at Our Lady's university. It has been a pleasure working with each of you.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Topic for the Board of Trustees Report

- i. Lizzi said the topic for the Board of Trustees Report will be on the Student Union Endowment. Lindsey moved to approve the topic. Drew Clary seconded. *The Board of Trustees Report topic was approved at 6:19 p.m.*

B. SS-0607-24 Amendment (Right to Abstain)

- i. Chris Hollon presented the amendment. Chris discussed survey results from last week 15-9 to leave abstain on the ballot. 17-5 voted to have abstain on the ballot but not to count it. 18-5 voted to have some sort of senate action in the case of a tie. 21-2 voted not to have senators vote freely. The oversight committee passed again what they presented two weeks ago. This amendment allows the choice to abstain, but it will never influence the election results. Liz asked if we just pass amendment 24, what happens with line D. Chris said this would work if both amendments pass. If only one passes, then they can change the wording. Lauren asked if they're taking the majority regardless of abstain. Chris said yes, whoever has the most votes will win.
- ii. Chris Beesley said he is still against the option to abstain if it has no effect on the election. Pat Knapp asked what majority is needed to pass. Lizzi said 2/3. Jim said he supports this amendment. He said he doesn't like the fact that abstain is on there, and he doesn't see why abstain is not counting towards the election. Drew said he also doesn't like the option to abstain if it doesn't count. Maris said we need to consider that what we're passing now is to ensure what happened this year does not happen again. Jim said abstain is not a valid vote. It shouldn't be counted. Chris said he agrees with Jim completely and the wording is misleading. Brian Corrigan pointed out that a change is necessary, the debate now is philosophical. Greg moved to insert "there shall not be an option for the voter to abstain". Chris seconded. Drew moved into voting. Danny seconded. 9 yes. 16 no. Amendment is defeated. Drew moved into voting. Luke seconded. Chris Beesley said we shouldn't vote right away in case we do want to clear up the language. Chris Hollon said he agrees with Chris Beesley. Danny moved to move into voting. Callie seconded. Moving into voting failed. Chris moved to strike "but the candidate/ticket with the most votes shall win the run-off election" and replace it with "but a vote to abstain will not count as a valid vote." Drew seconded. Drew moved into voting. Danny seconded. 26 yes. 0 no. 0 abstentions. The amendment passed at 6:39. Drew moved into voting. Brian seconded. 21 yes. 4 no. 0 abstentions.
Constitutional amendment SS-0607-24 passed at 6:40 p.m.

C. SS-0607-25 Amendment (Senate Procedure)

- i. Chris made a friendly change to label section c to d in light of the amendment just passed. Chris presented the amendment. Brian asked what is a special meeting. Chris said the meeting is not

closed, but a special meeting that senate convenes separate from the regular meetings. They felt there was no reason for it to be closed. Chris Beesley moved to insert the C we just passed. Chris Hollon said ok. Drew moved to move into voting. Brian seconded. Greg objected. Danny asked if the student constitution has priority over dorm constitutions. Lizzi said she interpreted as such but is not sure if it is explicitly stated. Lizzi yielded the floor to Liz Kozlow. Liz Kozlow said the problem is that hall elections differ from the election procedures provided by the constitution. She said if senators do want to talk about hall issues, they should, but it should be discussed aside from the student union constitution. Brian moved to go into voting on voting. Luke seconded. 15 yes. 10 no. 0 abstentions. *Senate move into voting at 6:47 p.m.* 23 yes. 2 opposed. 0 abstentions. *Constitutional Amendment SS-0607-25 passes at 6:48 p.m.* Greg moved to reconsider the resolution. Chris Beesley seconded. Chris said it is important that everyone should be heard. Luke said we have discussed this. Maris said we had an overwhelming majority. Maris said look at the schedule. Chris said that is a bad reason to pass something. Oscar hopes that everyone would want to reconsider. Jim said if someone wants to say something, they should. Chris said this did pass overwhelmingly and we shouldn't fear having one more view. Oscar moved to PQ. Luke seconded. 23 yes. 2 opposed. *Constitutional Amendment SS-0607-25 was reconsidered at 6:52 p.m.* Karen said she said that this special meeting isn't closed. Her concern regards that the one senator whose dorm tied will have to announce their vote publicly in an open meeting. Since they may have to decide the election, it's unfair that they would have to publicly announce which way they voted. Sheena said you can move to close the meeting. Lizzi said yes. Sheena said then that could happen. Mariana said there was an observer article that stated the students wanted to have an open meeting. Therefore, we should. Lindsay Meyer said she was a senator with a tied dorm and echoes the sentiment that closing the meeting is a good idea. Danny pointed out that the Observer did know in the end and found out which dorms tied and how they voted. Chris Hollon said with the passage of Constitutional Amendment SS-0607-24, this situation is very unlikely to occur. He believes the meeting should be open because the student body deserves to be present. Luke echoed Chris and said sometimes you have to make tough choices. Luke moved to go into voting. Emily Cooperstein seconded. 26 yes. 0 no. *Constitutional Amendment SS-0607-25 passes at 6:58 p.m.*

D. SS-0607-26 Amendment (Endowment Language)

- i. Lizzi presented the amendment. She said it cleans up the confusing language of the carry forward account guidelines. Chris asked

why number 3 was in there in the first place. Lizzi said the intention was to ensure that people do not overspend knowing that the money is there. Drew suggested friendly correction to strike 3 so it changes to items 1-9. Oscar Garcia asked if someone who did get office and ran a joke campaign, would they just be able to spend. Lizzi said it would take many levels before that happened. There would be checks and balances. Maris moved to move into voting. Drew Clary seconded. 26 yes. 0 no. *Amendment SS-0607-26 passes at 7:02 p.m.*

E. Faculty Letter (From Multicultural Affairs Committee)

- i. Destinee said MAC has been researching faculty recruitment levels for awhile. There is a 5 page document attached to this letter with references. Drew asked why the 5 page report wasn't attached and senate out to senate. Destinee said there may have been a problem as to how her computer sent it. Brian Corrigan said there was a section in the report that discusses taking recruitment out of department hands and standardizing it. He said he was troubled by this. Destinee said that training should be centralized by departments. Faculty recruitment will never be brought out of the departments. Karen asked for clarification about a specialist. Destinee said they are not just asking for faculty but faculty who are specialized in several fields. Maris said senate should congratulate Destinee and her committee. Chris asked about the wording in the last paragraph. He suggested changing the term "color" to "minority". Lindsey moved to move into voting. Mark Healy seconded. 25 yes. 0 opposed. 1 abstention. *The Faculty Letter regarding minority faculty recruitment passes at 7:07 p.m.*

F. SS-0607-27 Zahm House Resolution

- i. Senator Derheimer said it is the same amendment from the previous Zahm amendment. Karen asked what inconsistency are they referring to in the amendment. Luke said the inconsistencies refer to Morrissey Manor and Sorin College. Liz Brown said she has seen this 8 times. She thinks this does reflect what the student body thinks of Zahm. Regardless of your dorms, the majority students do recognize this amendment. Chris highly disagreed with Liz. He completely agrees about Morrissey and Sorin. He does not believe that Zahm Hall is commonly recognized as Zahm House. Oscar said in terms of the wording, it doesn't say by whom it is commonly referred to. The majority of people that he knows say Zahm Hall or Zahm. Pat disagrees that Keenan exists. Drew said Luke deserves congratulations in his hard work in representing Zahm. He said he doesn't know why we shouldn't pass this. Danny said he thinks they do deserve this title. No one says I'm going to Sorin College now. Jim said he doesn't know anyone in his dorm that calls Zahm "Zahm House". Luke pointed out that he bought merchandise that says House on it. Luke moved

to PQ. Kevin Smith seconded. Chris opposed. Chris said we shouldn't move into voting because not everyone's opinions have been heard. This is important and we shouldn't be hasty. Brian said what everyone says is reflective of what their dorms say. Emily moved into voting on voting. Drew seconded. 18 yes. 6 no. 1 abstention. *Senate moved into voting at 7:18. 20 yes 6 no. SS-0607-27 Zahm House Resolution passes at 7:19 p.m.*

G. SS-0607-28 Stanford 50th Anniversary/SS-0607-29 Keenan 50th Anniversary

- i. Oscar said this is a resolution to recognize Stanford's anniversary. Luke asked if every resolution has to go through a committee. Chris said it does, but at the discretion of the chair, you can pass a measure. Matt Barloh said it must be an extraordinary circumstance. Lizzi said this is due to the amendment passed on February 7 regarding article 6 of this student union constitution senate section 4. They took away the option of a simple majority vote. Now the only circumstance is if the chair decides that this is an extraordinary circumstance. Lizzi said she does not believe this circumstance is an extraordinary circumstance and does not want to set bad precedent by allowing this to be voted on. *Greg appealed Lizzi's decision.* Chris Beesley seconded. Emily firmly disagreed in considering these amendments because it is setting terrible precedent for the future. Danny agreed with Emily but does like their amendments. Kevin said he disagrees with the appeal. In the case of Carroll Hall, there was a week left in the anniversary. Ashley said she feels the same way as Emily. Jim said he thinks that this will set bad precedent and addresses the concerns that were stated when the amendment for the chair to decide an extraordinary circumstance was discussed. Chris Beesley said they didn't realize that this would have to go through a committee. They just wanted to get this through before they were voted out of office. Chris Hollon said in response to the Carroll issue, they passed the constitutional amendment after that as a response to the Carroll issue so it could be brought forward. He said this is an extraordinary circumstance because it is the last meeting of the term. Drew disagrees because it may be urgent with the senators present, but a new senate will meet next week. Drew said if the 50th anniversary isn't until next year. Luke moved into voting on appeal. Emily seconded. 3 yes. 20 no. 0 abstentions. *The chair's decision was upheld and the appeal fails at 7:33 p.m.*

H. SS-0607-30 (Swearing in of Alex French)

- i. Lizzi says this is not considered an extraordinary circumstance. Mark Healy moved to appeal. Drew Clary seconded. Chris said we shouldn't appeal her decision. Keenan and Stanford presented their resolutions three days early and this one was not. Maris said

it is unfortunate that a Dillon Hall senator has not been here in about two months. She said it would be symbolic to represent Dillon Hall. 16 yes. 6 no. 1 abstention. *Chair's decision overturned at 7:36 p.m.* Chris asked Alex if he ever lived in Dillon. Lizzi said no. Chris asked if the constitution states that a senator must live in that Hall. Chris said they are not saying that Alex is not the Dillon Hall senator but would be acting within the office of the Dillon Hall senator. Chris asked would this office continue in the future. Chris said yes but no one would be upset if it is vacant. Karen Koski asked what normally happens with excessive absences. Lizzi said in the past, the senator was removed from office, or "thaxtoned". Karen asked if there was a resolution to nominate another person. Lizzi said Chris Hollon was just voted in. Greg moved to strike resolve in the last two clauses and insert order. Chris seconded. Chris moved to vote. Luke seconded. 23 yes. 1 opposed. 0 abstentions. Mark moved to PQ. Mariana seconded. 22 yes. 1 no. 1 abstention. *Resolution SS-0607-30 to swear in Alex French passes at 7:42 p.m.*

ii. Lizzi sworn in Alex French as the acting senator of Dillon Hall.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

- A. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body President
 - i. Lizzi said she will be finalizing the endowment and thanked everyone for a wonderful year.
- B. Mr. Bill Andrichik, Student Body Vice President
 - i. No report.
- C. Ms. Liz Brown, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Liz said she will be helping Lizzi with the Board of Trustees Report
- D. Mr. Philippe Collon/Ms. Linda Sharpe, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. No Report.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Jim said they are finishing up transition work.
- B. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Maris said Josh is working on his transition binder and has a meeting with the current and transition presidents at Holy Cross.
- C. Committee on Social Concerns
 - i. Sheena said she has posters for senators to hang up. Sheena said Stand against Hate week is April 15. Tomorrow, there will be a prayer serviced to conclude Darfur Week. This is also Fair Trade week.
- D. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Lizzi said they are working on their transition binders for the eating disorders conference.
- E. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. No report.

- F. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Aly said they are working on transitioning.
- G. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Chris reminded chairs to get in their transition binders. He thanked everyone.
- H. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Destinee said they are bringing a Japanese American detained during World War II to speak for CelebrAsian.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Liz announced that the Frank O' Malley award is being given to Father Wilson Miscamble.
- B. Lizzi Shappell and Brian Coughlin are being given the Irish Clover Award.
- C. Destinee gave out posters.
- D. Badin breakdown is April 26.
- E. April 14 is the rescheduled Chariot race.
- F. Fisher Regatta is on April 28.
- G. Chris said the hottest new dorm event is Keenan Hall's money Sunday.
- H. Lizzi thanked everyone.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Luke moved to adjourn. Drew seconded. *The March 27, 2007 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Martinez
Student Body Secretary