

Senate Executive Summary  
April 6, 2005  
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

- A. At 6:03 Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order.
- B. The invocation was led by Brad Tucker.
- C. Roll Call: Rhea Boyd, Steve Cartwright, and Mark Seiler were absent.
- D. Lizzi Shappell asked all members to disregard item D under Opening Business because there are no previous minutes to approve.

**II. PODIUM**

- A. There was no one to speak at the podium. In place of podium, all senators and members of Senate introduced themselves, stating their name, class and dorm.

**III. OFFICER REPORTS**

A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President

- i. Dave first mentioned how excited he is to work with all of the new senators this year. He went on to describe the purpose and nature of officer reports. They are a way for the officers to update you on what they have been and are planning to work on in the future. Dave has done a lot of work over the past year on the BOT (Board of Trustees) report, especially focusing on an Off-Campus Safety Seminar. Dave is hoping to turn it into a fair for next August. It will address not only the security needs of off-campus students, but will also include vendors, restaurants, utility representatives, etc.
- ii. On another note, Dave requested that all senators announce to their dorms that there will be a farewell mass held for Father Malloy on Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 pm in the JACC. After mass, there will be a reception at the fieldhouse areas of the JACC. Dave really wants a high student attendance at the mass—tell your dorms!

B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President

- i. Lizzi has been busy getting ready for this year. The Rukus network project will be continued by Brenden McHugh until a new senator is willing to take up the project. Lizzi will continue to work on the basketball ticketing issue with the former Vice President, Karla Bell. They will be talking with James Leito and Coach Brey soon.

C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Liz outlined her duties as CEA; she will be head of daily operations in the office, so you can direct any questions at her—she will know everything that is going on.
- ii. Liz announced that this year all senators will have their own mailbox in the student government office. This will be convenient and senators can have information for their projects sent there.
- iii. She then passed around a pad/notebook (Dave Baron informed her that it was a tablet) for all senators to put their information on so that there can

- ii. Sarah Liu began by explaining how this year's committee will be slightly different from last year because of the creation of the minority affairs committee. There will be three main focuses: 1) sexual orientation, 2) class diversity and, 3) religion. She plans to expand GLBT week with Solidarity Sunday sometime in November. There will be a Class and Poverty Awareness and an expansion of the World Prayer Series with the CSC and Campus Ministry. Her biggest goal is the creation of a diversity retreat for August 2006. This year will be the planning and training phase of the program. The retreat will cover race, religion, class and GLBT issues. There can only be thirty-five leaders, so all of the "rejects" will be allowed to go on the retreat. The big project for the beginning of next year will be a mural in the stairwell of LaFortune.

C. Committee on Gender Affairs

- i. Lizzi Shappell reported on the successes of the committee this past year. The two biggest events were Sexual Assault Awareness Week which included Sex Signals, and Eating Disorders Awareness Week which was headed by Ali Wishon and included a talk by Jessica Weiner and a showing of Real Women Have Curves. For both of these events, they focused on publishing the statistics across campus. For the future, Lizzi hopes that they can work for a gynecologist on campus and a peer counseling group at the counseling center.
- ii. Ali Wishon described how she plans to focus on the same two awareness weeks, but then also look into some policy changes. She wants to push for a peer intervention group, as well as updating websites for health and counseling centers. She also wants to look into rector and RA training for both sexual assault and eating disorders. The committee needs to put together a comprehensive business plan for a gynecologist on campus. She would also like to get more men involved, possibly creating groups such as Men Can Stop Rape and Men Against Sexism.

D. Campus on Residence Life

- i. Former committee chair Sarah Bates began by congratulating all of the new senators. She ran through the list of accomplishments this year: a 24-hour copy machine in the LaFortune computer cluster, looking into the Flex-10 meal plan, a student discount at the bookstore, addressing some problems with the basketball tickets, a printer pilot program for the dorms and the creation of a Frosh-O inter-gender activity.
- ii. New committee chair Mark Seiler was absent, so Dave Baron filled in for him. They will be focusing on to-go cups in the dining halls, printers in every dorm, wireless internet in 24-hour dorm spaces. There will also be a push to create a comprehensive report about a new student center. They are planning on being pro-active on this so that the student's voices are heard.

E. Campus on University Affairs

- i. Katie Boyle described this committee as one that affects the little things in your daily life. They worked to get Fair Trade coffee in the dining

halls and LaFortune, they have talked to Bill Kirk about ResLife fines, looked into new hours for the counseling center, basketball ticket reconfiguring, looking into a committee on sweatshops and getting a student on the Board of Trustees.

- ii. Matt Walsh is flattered to be this committee chair. This is traditionally the largest committee because it pulls from a lot of different areas and addresses university policy that affects students and their lives. He wants to focus on the policy and attitude towards the student body. Be ready to talk about the Dome scaffolding issue at next week's meeting. Matt plans to work on the programming endowment fund, the bookstore discount, just compensation for labor at Notre Dame and looking into making the football and basketball ticket distribution more fair and organized. If you have any more ideas, Matt welcomes them.

#### F. Committee on Oversight

- i. Liz Kozlow started out by remarking that this is traditionally the smallest committee in Senate. Their job is to look at the constitution and see if there needs to be any changes or if there are any inconsistencies. They started the transition binders for committees which will speed up the efficiency of the turnover. They are also in charge of amendments to the constitution and tried changing the turnover date for student government, but it did not pass. If you are interested in any of these things, sign up for this committee. Liz also mentioned that this committee only meets every other week—in case this is of any interest to your scheduling needs.
- ii. Sujal Pandya introduced himself as the new chair. He outlined the two main priorities of the committees as, 1) amending the constitution and 2) monitoring the Student Union. He really wants to look at the constitution and to make small changes that will increase the efficiency of student government. He also plans to create a master calendar that outlines major turnover, changes and report due dates. This committee is also responsible for monitoring the other members of the student union.

#### G. Ad hoc Committees

- i. Lizzi Shappell announced that they will be forming a Minority Affairs Committee and a Community Relations Committee later on in the term.
- ii. Lizzi then asked for all Senators to write their top four committee choices on a blank piece of paper and to submit them back to her at the end of the meeting.

### V. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. There was no old business

### VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. SS0506-01 Resolution Bestowing Emeritus Status on Mr. Adam Istvan

- i. Dave Baron introduced this resolution by saying how it is tradition at the beginning of every new Senate to bestow emeritus status on the previous

be a comprehensive list. The list will be handed out later to all member of Senate to facilitate project coordination.

- iv. Lastly, Liz emphasized her desire for people to hang out in the student government office. This will make student government more accessible and welcoming, also, Liz is there all the time and she gets lonely. (She will have candy)
- v. Arts and Letters students were asked to see Liz after the meeting to discuss next week's conflict.

**D. Mr. Philippe Colon, Faculty Representative**

- i. There was a meeting last night with the outgoing Faculty Senate. There will be some continuity, but there will also be some new members.
- ii. They have begun to set up a committee to examine the Teacher-Course Evaluation process. It will consist of three faculty members, three members from campus and has a name that is too long to remember.
- iii. Professor Colon outlined some of the topics that they will be focusing on including: the student honor code, the bookstore, and off campus housing. He requested that any senators that have suggestions or issues that they think should be addressed to come and speak with him about it. Dave Baron asked what exactly the discussion about the bookstore would be about and Professor Colon said it would center on the logistics of creating a student discount which most of the faculty is supporting.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Committee on Academic Affairs**

- i. Vijay Ramanan began by outlining the accomplishments of last year's committee. They focused on course registration and DARTing, TCE reporting and reforming the advising system of Notre Dame. There was a big push for the newspaper readership program and needs to continue during the turnover. Vijay concluded by saying that everyone in the room is a bright and engaged student and that each one has the power to make positive changes to the school.
- ii. Chris Harris introduced himself as the new chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. He has a vision for the committee which has about 10-12 goals for next year and he wants to get them all done. He would like all members of his committee to develop a passion for academic affairs and work together to achieve their successes. Chris's number one priority is the Readership Program, especially raising funds in order to implement it next fall. He is also open to any other ideas anybody has on improving academics on campus.

**B. Committee on Diversity Affairs**

- i. Nick Coleman explained last year's goal to make Notre Dame a more diverse place, not just on paper. This included creating experiences that explored different religions, genders, sexuality, etc. Their big programs were Diversity Awareness Week and GLBT Week. The committee also had a big role in writing part of the Board of Trustees report.

President. Adam is a senior aerospace engineer and his many contributions to the University are listed in the resolution. Rob Lindley motioned to approve the resolution, Ben Gunty seconded. *Resolution SS0506-01 was passed at 6:41 p.m.*

B. SS0506-02 Resolution Bestowing Emeritus Status on Ms. Karla Bell

- i. Dave Baron introduced this resolution by going over the accomplishments of the former Student Body Vice President Karla Bell which were outlined in the resolution. Katie McHugh motioned to approve the resolution, Chris Garibaldi seconded. *Resolution SS0506-02 was passed at 6:43 p.m.*
- ii. Following the passage of resolution SS0506-02 David Thaxton made a point of order, questioning whether or not we had suspended the rules in order to pass the resolutions. He then made a motion to suspend the rules, Libby Hopp seconded. *Retroactive suspension of the rules was passed at 6:44 p.m.*

C. SS0506-03 Resolution Bestowing Emeritus Status on Mr. David Baron

- i. Liz Kozlow introduced this resolution which ironically honors the person sitting next to her. Dave did a lot of the dirty work as Chief Executive Assistant and his many accomplishments are outlined in the resolution. Christina Calfee moved to pass the resolution, Brian Klein seconded. *Resolution SS0506-03 was passed at 6:34 p.m.*

D. Introduction of Senate Liaison Positions

- i. Committee assignments will be assigned at the next meeting. There will also be elections for Senate liaisons of which there are judicial council, four on Council of Representative, two on the Financial Management Board, four on the Campus Life Committee and one Faculty Liaison.
- ii. Liz Kozlow was the judicial council representative last year, but it never met while she was in office, so she turned it over to Brian Coughlin to describe the role. This member is only active during January and February during student election time. They are in charge of looking over violations of election laws. They are non-voting members of the board, but voice their opinions.
- iii. Professor Colon outlined the role of the faculty liaison. They meet once a month and the senator would sit on the Student Affairs sub-committee in order to give students a voice. He was asked how many members the Faculty Senate has, and Professor Colon responded that it varied between 25-30 members.
- iv. Sujal Pandya outlined the purpose of the Council of Representatives (CoR). It is an advisory board to Dave Baron and is composed of the top student body leaders including: SUB manager, Class Presidents, the executive board and four senators. Senators will be there for support and to weigh in on issues. Meetings are on Monday nights every week.
- v. Dave Baron described the Campus Life Council (CLC). It is an advisory board to Father Poorman consisting of four senators, the judicial president, the off-campus senator, six rectors, two faculty members and

the executive board. Any resolutions that pass in Senate go before CLC before making it to Fr. Poorman's office for approval.

- vi. Brian Coughlin outlined the Financial Management Board which is composed of the controllers of all major student government bodies (SUB, classes, Senate, etc.) It meets once a week and is in charge of maintaining the financial well being of the student body. They make the budgets for next year which are then approved by CoR. Any expenditure over \$5000 must be approved by this board. It is chaired by the Student Union Treasurer.
- vii. Lizzi Shappell asked that all of the Senators consider the different positions and then run for them at the next meeting. It will be very casual and only involve the Senator introducing themselves and stating why they want the position. If you serve as one of these members you only *have* to serve on one other Senate committee. However, at Notre Dame we support overachievers, so you are encouraged to be on another committee anyways. Lizzi will be sending out an email with full descriptions of the committees.

## VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Lizzi asked the Senators to leave their committee preferences on the podium on the way out. She also asked that they hold on to their outlines and resolutions from today because there will be binders given to them next week which will include a copy of the constitution.
- B. Brian Coughlin briefly talked about his role in Senate. He is our advisor and does not participate in debates unless asked his opinion. This is our Senate and he is not going to interfere. He mentioned that he is happy to talk about policy. He hopes that all Senators will be passionate, ask questions and get excited about student government. Brian stressed the importance of not worrying too much about Robert's Rules. Any Senators can make an appointment or stop by his office anytime—Senators have an open pass to him whenever he is free. Carol Taylor is his assistant and will help you get a hold of him.
- C. Liz Kozlow reminded any Freshmen Senators in the Arts and Letters College to see her after the meeting.
- D. Dave Baron announced that he will be giving the State of the Union at the Podium portion of Senate.
- E. Steve Miller introduced himself as the new Director of Communications, a role that has traditionally been part of the CEA's job. His job is to mobilize 8,000 people in creative ways. He plans on creating campus-wide stall notes and a "What Have You Done For Me Lately?" website for all student government bodies. His main mission is to get people excited about student government.
- F. Matt Walsh announced that he would be sending an email out about the Diversity Meeting that is on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Jacques Nguyen motioned to adjourn; Rob Lindley seconded. *The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.* The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place Wednesday April 13, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aly Baumgartner  
Student Body Secretary