

Senate Executive Summary
August 31, 2005
Montgomery Theater, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- B. Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- C. Brian Klein was absent.
- D. Mark Seiler adjusted "tried to" to "did" Chris Garibaldi moved to approve the minutes; Brenna Doyle seconded. *The minutes for the April 27, 2005 meeting of the Student Senate were approved at 6:05 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

- A. Fr. Mark Poorman, Vice President for Student Affairs
 - i. This is the first time that he has spoken to the Student Senate. He was joined by some of his Student Activities staff including; Jenny Monahan, Bill Kirk, Sr. Jean, Sr. Mary Louise, Dr. David Moss, Ann Firth. Father Poorman began by saying that it has been a wonderful summer working with student government. They have collaborated on a number of things together with great effect. No other student government administration has hit the ground running like Dave and Lizzi. This Senate has a lot to look forward to. One of the most exciting things of the year will be the inauguration of Father Jenkins and Dave has been a big help in planning it. It will be a celebration of the whole University, not just a "Jenkins-fest". The events will be geared towards students and student participation. Another major initiative has been getting cable TV in the residence halls beginning of next academic year. They have made tremendous progress, but it is not definite yet. Cable TV is one of three major technological improvements that they are hoping to make this year. Another one is improving the cell phone reception in dorms. A survey shows that only 20-25% of students actually use their dorm phones and about 93% have cell phones. They also plan to expand the use of wireless internet in the dorms in March or April. This will create a minor inconvenience for students, but will be worth it in the long run. Fr. Poorman congratulated the Gender Relations Center on their wonderful initiatives, including the new Football to Finals program and the Men Against Violence. Dave's work with Transpo is a great thing and will bring the greatest benefit to those students who do service, because it provides free transportation for ND students. Dave has also spent countless hours addressing the new ordinances on noise and nuisance and will continue to represent the student body in the future. Fr. Poorman suggested community relations as a possible topic for a Board of Trustees report. The purchase of NDBay will be a great new service for students. Student Affairs has come up with five goals for this year. One will be improving the quality of residence life. The technology improvements are the first step. There is also a 15 month study on life in the dorms and a two year study on all 27 residence halls. Secondly, they

want to work on the integration of dorm life and academic life. One example is the Presidential Scholars program that is being tested in two dorms this semester. Thirdly, they will be examining the needs of graduate and professional students this year. Fourth, they will look at the spiritual lives and needs of students. While many students are Catholic, ways to worship are changing. Lastly, they want to improve hall staff training and recruitment. They had seven new rectors this year, and want to look at how they can recruit and retain them. Gambling has become a national issue, and Notre Dame will make an effort to look at its own students' habits. In the Strategic Plan and the Capital Plan for the University they are considering having Stepan Center replaced with a more serviceable building. They will be taking a preliminary look at that and possible plans for a new building. Another area that they will be working on is employer perspectives of Notre Dame Students. They are hoping to get hard, statistical evidence of our strengths and weaknesses. Legends has been a huge success and a premier venue for upcoming bands. There were over 23,000 student attendees at events last year. Fr. Poorman thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President
 - i. Dave will meet with the Director of International Student Activities to look at where they fit in with the new committees. Friday he will be meeting with the president of the Student Bar Association about the new ordinances and setting up legal resources for students.
- B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Iris Outlaw left the diversity bracelets, and everyone should take one on the way out of the meeting.
- C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Student Government 101 will be held tonight. 260 people signed up at the Activities Fair expressing interest in student government.
- D. Mr. Philippe Collon, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. They will have their first meeting next week, but will be unable to make next week's Senate meeting.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Chris Harris reported that the committee met last night and everyone is working on a project.
- B. Committee on Diversity Affairs
 - i. Sarah Liu announced that the committee has decided to change the way they address issues. Instead of having awareness weeks, they will be assisting in expanding and publicizing already existing events.
 - ii. They are putting together a binder of multicultural commissioner training, which will take place on September 12.
- C. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Ali Wishon reported that they had their first meeting on Monday. Eating Disorders Awareness Week will be November 7. They have two members attending the GRC training this weekend.
- D. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Mark Seiler reported that to-go cups are now in the dining halls. The committee's next project will be working on getting D6 fixed.
- E. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Matt Walsh said that they will have a letter about basketball ticketing and seating at the next meeting.
 - ii. Tonight is the first meeting of the Living Wage Coalition.
- F. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Suj Pandaya said that will expand their role as a committee by monitoring the bylaws of the committees. He also would like to amend the Constitution to make NDBay a permanent part of student government.
- G. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Nick Guzman said that they are adjusting the committee and thinking about a seminar for students moving off campus about signing leases and landlords.
- H. Committee on Minority Affairs
 - i. Rhea Boyd said that Fr. Jenkins attended their first meeting and is hoping to start a lasting relationship with his administration as they start looking at new diversity curricula.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. There was no old business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The Senate needs to select a representative to be on the Academic committee. Former representative Kacy Stanton spoke about her experience last year. She said that it was very interesting to see how the administration works on long term academic project and that the Senator's job is to offer a student perspective. They meet quarterly and most of the work is done on subcommittees. Lizzi Shappell took down the names of those interested in running for the position (Liz Brown, Katie McHugh, Ben Gunty and Patrick Knapp). The representative will be elected at the next meeting.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Rob Lindley mentioned that Campus Ministry is asking for donations from dorms for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Christina Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting; Jessica Zarra seconded. *The August 31, 2005 meeting of the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.* The next meeting will take place on September 7, 2005 in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune.