

Senate Executive Summary
September 14, 2005
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- B. Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- C. Chris Harris, Nick Guzman and Andrew Beatty were absent.
- D. Rob Lindley moved to approve; Steve Tortorello. 606

II. PODIUM

- A. There was no one on podium.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President
 - i. Ali Wishon and Dave met with Bill Kirk about the "Football to Finals" project and making the Off-campus Fair a project that continues from year to year.
 - ii. Inauguration, inauguration, inauguration. Talk to your constituents about getting out to the events. On Thursday there is an academic forum and Friday is the actual convocation and inauguration, with the inaugural dance on South Quad that evening.
- B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Iris Outlaw contacted her about getting multicultural posters out to dorms, check and see if your dorm still needs them.
 - ii. Lizzi is hoping to have the grand total for the Katrina Collection table collection by Friday night, she thanked those that had donated thier time.
 - iii. Lizzi yielded the floor to Aly Baumgartner who thanked everyone for their help in recruiting volunteers for the Katrina Stadium Collection and asked them to remind volunteers about the meetings this week.
 - iv. Lizzi led a round of "Happy Birthday" for Brenna Doyle.
- C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. The Student Government website has been updated:
www.nd.edu/~studegov
 - ii. The Catholic Think Tank committee will meet early next week, she asked members to email her with meeting times that work.
- D. Mr. Philippe Collon, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. The agenda for the Faculty Senate as of now is: 1) working on TCEs, 2) examining academic freedom, and 3) the behavior of students at basketball games.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Chris Harris was absent. Lizzi Shappell said that majors night is coming along well so far.
- B. Committee on Diversity Affairs

- i. Sarah Liu mentioned the letter her committee wrote to the Observer and how we will be discussing it later in the meeting.
 - ii. On September 28, from 5:45-8:15 in Como there will be training for multicultural commissioners.
 - iii. They are working on a photography show for students that did ISLP projects over the summer.
 - iv. They are working with the GSA on National Coming Out Day, which is on October 11.
- C. Committee on Gender Issues
- i. Ali Wishon said that the committee is working on funding for Eating Disorders Awareness Week, as well as programming for that week.
 - ii. The first Feminist Voice meeting was last night and she will be working with them on getting a gynecologist on campus and various awareness campaigns.
 - iii. She is working with Mark Seiler on getting safety lights in the D6 parking lot.
- D. Committee on Residence Life
- i. Mark Seiler informed the Senate, if they hadn't already noticed, to-go cups are in the dining halls with a nice plaque telling people who is responsible for providing them.
 - ii. Ben Gunty is working on printers in dorms and getting wireless
 - iii. There will be a letter about the D6 parking lot coming soon, as well as one about lighting the tennis courts.
 - iv. They are on the speaking docket for HPC on September 20 about hall signature charities. They are also working on lowering catering prices for dorms.
- E. Committee on University Affairs
- i. Matt Walsh said that the committee is working with Josh Berlow about basketball ticketing. He is excited about improving attendance and working on the ticket exchange program.
 - ii. If you have any questions about FedEx-Kinkos on campus, talk to Matt.
- F. Oversight Committee
- i. Suj briefly mentioned that there will be two amendments up for approval later today, both are very cosmetic.
- G. Committee on Community Relations
- i. The committee is continuing to work with off-campus law firms.
- H. Minority Affairs Committee
- i. Rhea Boyd met with representatives from the Admissions Office and will be working with them to increase the numbers of minorities at Notre Dame. They will be helping with phone centers and be part of panels for prospective students. They especially want to work on spring visitation week.
 - ii. They have narrowed down the list of speakers for Black History Month. (I didn't get all of the names down, but all of the people are amazing! Talk to Rhea for more details)

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. BOT Report Topic Approval

- i. The BOT report will be presented on October 13 and the topic will be community relations. Carol Hendrickson moved to approve the topic; Lindsay Meyer seconded. *The topic of community relations was approved for the first Board of Trustees report at 6:21 p.m.*

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. D6 Letter

- i. Mark Seiler outlined the two main concerns of the letter: 1) the D6 ponds and subsequent freezing in the winter, 2) they are hoping to increase security since the NDSP building moved and the parking lot is poorly lit.
- ii. Christina Lee moved to approve the letter; Rob Lindley seconded. *A letter regarding the D6 parking lot was passed at 6:24 p.m.*

B. Gender Relations Committee Name Amendment

- i. Rob Lindley explained that they are trying to avoid confusion with the Gender Relations Center.
- ii. Mark Seiler asked why "issues" was changed. Suj said that it was based on a recommendation from the Gender Issues Committee.
- iii. Brian Klein moved to approve the letter; Mariana Montes seconded. *An amendment changing the name of the Gender Relations Committee to the Gender Issues Committee passed at 6:25 p.m.*

C. NDBay Amendment

- i. Chris Garibaldi explained that the amendment simply adds NDBay as part of the Constitution.
- ii. Katie McHugh moved to approve, Pat Knapp seconded. *An amendment adding NDBay to the Constitution passed at 6:26p.m.*

D. Open Letter to the Office of Public Affairs and Communication

- i. Dave also asked Senators to read the letter from Hilary Crnkovich to gain perspective on both sides of the argument.
- ii. Sarah Liu explained that the Diversity Committee found five reasons they didn't like the "candle commercial": 1) it is not an accurate representation of Catholic faith, 2) "higher education" sounds pretentious, 3) doesn't say anything about campus life, students, etc. 4) doesn't represent ND, where are the minorities?, 5) it might not attract the kind of students we want
- iii. Jim Grace moved to limit debate to 20 minutes; Christina Lee seconded. *Debate was limited to 20 minutes at 6:33 p.m.*
- iv. Katie McHugh agreed that the commercial is cheesy and is igniting debate. She suggested putting together another commercial that shows more about the University and doesn't exploit the Catholic stereotype as much. Christina Lee agrees that the student body is pretty homogenous. The reaction she got from most people was actually humorous. She felt that the ad should be replaced, but the letter seemed to be a very emotional and visceral reaction, not organized and mature. Rob Lindley said that the commercial isn't necessarily a non-accurate depiction of Catholicism because prayer is very important. He thinks that if they want to emphasize Catholicism they should include things like volunteering and discussions on campus. Steve Tortorello agreed with Rob and thinks that the "higher

education" statement is a judgement call. Everyone interprets the commercial differently. He felt that the letter was too strong and divisive to come from the Senate. Steve thinks that the commercial doesn't accurately depict minorities, but he feels that the commercial could be improved with additional footage. Brad Tucker felt that the whole situation has been blown out of proportion, it is just a commercial. They have picked a topic and stuck with it, we are Catholic and shouldn't hide this aspect of ND. Lisa Rauh agreed that not much can change before the end of the season, but we can reevaluate what can be done about student involvement in making commercials. Christina Calfee didn't think that Senate can sign the letter because of the language in it. Would it be possible to publish part of Hilary's letter to students and release it in order to give the administration a chance to defend themselves. Dave Baron thought that the Student Senate has a right to make personal interpretations and publish them. He also mentioned that the commercial is not just for recruitment purposes but also for development. The alumni have given a very positive response. Dave thought that the letter needs to be rewritten, but really likes the line: "ND is an institution that uses its unique Catholic faith to stand in solidarity with the marginalized in order to achieve the common good." Jason Zgrabik wondered what the feasibility of student input in future commercials could be. Pat Knapp pointed out the fifth paragraph of Hilary's letter. He agrees with the catholic character of university, but feels that the commercial failed in the attempt. Ben Gunty thought suggestions should be taken to the Diversity Committee and rewrite the letter.

- v. Ben Gunty moved to send the letter back to committee; Steve Tortorello seconded. *A motion moving the letter back to the Diversity Committee to be rewritten was passed at 6:54 p.m*

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Dan Bowen reminded everyone about the Dillon Pep Rally on Thursday.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- IX. Carol Hendrickson moved to adjourn; Lindsay Meyer seconded. *The September 14, 2005 meeting of the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.* The next meeting will take place on September 21, 2005 in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyce Baumgartner
Student Body Secretary