

Senate Executive Summary
October 5, 2005
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
- B. Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- C. Phillipe Collon was absent.
- D. A change was made to the Committee on Academic Affairs section. Fred Thwaites moved to approve the minutes; Erin Hankins seconded. *The minutes for the September 28, 2005 meeting of the Student Senate were approved at 6:10 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President
 - i. The BOT report is called "Strangers Next Door" and will be available online soon.
 - ii. They talked about the activity fee increase at CoR on Monday.
 - iii. At CLC they talked about the pep rally, hall tax fund allocation, and an off campus safety newsletter is being looked at.
 - iv. If anyone willing to serve as a representative to the SMC board of governance let Dave know. They meet Mondays at 7.
- B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. The BOT presentation will be next Thursday.
 - ii. She met with Frances Shavers about the Brown Bag Lunch Series. The lunches will be with Fr. Jenkins and a selection of students where they will discuss the academic honor code, diversity in academics, and possibly spiritual character.
- C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Liz reminded everyone to pick up the new lime green stall notes.
 - ii. There was a Catholic Think Tank meeting and letters should be going out by Friday.
 - iii. There will be a Transpo link and committee summaries on the student government website soon.
- D. Mr. Phillipe Collon, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Was absent.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Chris Harris said that he will be talking about the activity fee increase later in the meeting. They are looking at getting professor booklists at the same time as the bookstore.
- B. Committee on Minority Affairs
 - i. Sarah Liu said that the multicultural commissioner training went well. However, they think that it would be better to do it earlier in the year.

- ii. Solidarity Sunday is this Sunday, October 9.
- iii. October 11 is National Coming Out Day and they have posters made up promoting it. Planning on giving out buttons that say "Stand Against Hate" that will happen later this semester.

C. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Ali Wishon announced that fundraising for Eating Disorders Awareness Week is going well, and they will be appealing to the collaboration fund. They are still working on a theme or title for the week. Dr. Jean Kilbourne will be the featured speaker.
- ii. She met with Feminist Voice regarding the gynecologist proposal.
- iii. After fall break they will be working with the GRC on peer intervention programs.

D. Committee on Residence Life

- i. Mark Seiler said that the meeting with Phil Johnson about D6 lighting and blue lights went well. He seemed skeptical about blue lights at first because of infrequency of use, but said that he would look into putting in three more emergency call boxes. He suggested talking to someone else about improving the lighting around the parking lot and the lakes. They are also looking at putting in a crosswalk between the Lyons lot and D6
- ii. Mark yielded the floor to Pat Knapp who asked all senators to fill out the focus group sheets about the new student center.

E. Committee on University Affairs

- i. Matt Seiler said that they will be finalizing the basketball ticket lottery this week. Tickets to big games for the public won't go on sale until the students have had a chance to buy them. They will be publicizing the Ticket Share program.
- ii. There is a Living Wage meeting tonight
- iii. They are still working with the CSC on transportation issues and improving funding for that. The CSC is doing a survey on the effectiveness of the new Transpo routes.

F. Committee on Oversight

- i. Suj said they are looking at amending the constitution in regards to student government transition times.
- ii. His committee members will be going to other committee members to see if they are functioning efficiently

G. Committee on Community Relations

- i. Nick Guzman said that they are still waiting to meet with people from the Career Center.

H. Committee on Diversity Affairs

- i. Rhea clarified that they are bringing speakers in for Black History month because Lizzi and "Davie" put it on their agenda for this year. Other clubs are also planning events for other heritage months. They are looking at getting the picture of Fr. Hesburgh and MLK Jr. put up in LaFortune.
- ii. They have finished the proposal for the diversity requirement and are now working on their BOT presentation.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

- i. Brian Klein said that the committee took the comments that were made last week and reworded it. He pointed out that the committee is just trying to voice the complaints of its constituents.
- ii. Steve Tortorello asked what was changed. Brian replied that it was just a little rewording and removal of some quotation marks.
- iii. Ben Gunty moved to approve the letter; Lisa Rauh seconded. *The open letter to the Office of Public Affairs and Communication was approved at 6:31 p.m.*

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. BOT Approval Process Amendment

- i. Dave Baron said that in 2003 the President and Vice President of the student body were made ex officio members of the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Recently, that position has been clarified and there will be more one-on-one interaction between student leaders and trustees in a less formal and more social setting. They are also expanding the number of students who will be presenting to the Board. This year, with the topic of community relations, they are working with VOICE from the CSC.
- ii. Dave asked everyone to look at the proposed amendment which would affect Article VI, Section III of the Constitution.
- iii. Brian Klein moved to approve the amendment; Lindsay Meyer seconded. *The amendment changing Article VI, Section III of the Student Body Constitution was passed at 6:37 p.m.*

B. Student Activity Fee Increase Proposal

- i. Chris Harris said that this proposal is coming out of the Academic Affairs Committee. He said that they are looking to increase the student activity fee by \$15 from \$80-\$95 for the full academic year. His committee is recommending \$10 for collegiate readership program which was wildly successful. The extra \$5 would go to other student groups. Tuition has been increasing dramatically, but the activity fee has not kept up, even with inflation. The proposal for fee increase is less than the percentage of tuition inflation over past three years.
- ii. Christina Calfee asked who is in charge of allocating the extra money in the raise. Dave Baron explained that the Financial Management Board is in charge of deciding that every year in April depending on requests. Chris Harris pointed out the chart that adjusted the percentages given to student groups in order to make room for the Collegiate Readership Program. If we approve this, the CLC has to approve it, then it goes to Fr. Poorman and then it goes to the Financial Approval Board of the University. From Feb 8th – March 4th Student Government did a four week pilot program for the Collegiate Readership Program. Newspapers were distributed for free to students. 82% of students felt a fee increase would be worth putting the

program in place. They found that getting about 2100 newspapers is our equilibrium. Student Government would not put this into the constitution, but leave it up to future administrations. Chris Harris indicated that this plan would only have 1600 papers a day, not the 2100 equilibrium. They would only have papers in dining halls and off campus location to ensure student use, not professors. Student government would also promote a recycling system for the papers. Lizzi Shappell reminded the Senate that they are not voting today.

- iii. Brian Klein asked if was always the plan to recommend the Readership Program if the pilot program was successful. Chris said that they wanted to see if it was popular, and then started deliberating how to fund it and activity fee increase was the best way to do so. Jason Zgrabik asked if it would be put in place for this year. Chris replied that it would not be implemented through an activity fee increase, but possibly through private donors. Jason asked if this it isn't approved by the other committees, are there other ways to go about funding this. Chris replied that he did not know. Katie McHugh asked if the papers would go out 5 or 7 days a week. Chris replied that it would be just during the weekdays. Steve Tortorello wondered whether there is money available now that we can use to pay for this. Could we mess with the numbers to make it work? The Carry-forward Account could be analyzed to see if this is the best way to do this. He suggested ditching the current proposal and focusing on two separate proposals, one for the fee increase and one for the Readership Program. Lizzi clarified that the Carry-Forward Account is at \$180,000, but wouldn't be able to pay for the program for more than two years. Chris said that the activity fee would extend the program for more years and doesn't think that an audit would be successful, nor would it be enough to pay for the program. Dave Baron said that his initial inclination was to look at the issues separately, but after doing research, it was made clear that this was the best way to do it. He would also like to see the Carry-Forward Account used for something permanent. He also stressed that this doesn't put the College Readership Program in the Constitution, if it becomes an albatross to the student body, they could get rid of it. Rob Lindley thought that there are other ways for clubs to get money and that we should move ahead with the increase. Chris Garibaldi thought we should look into making sure that we can keep the newspapers at a fixed rate so that it doesn't get more and more expensive every year. Chris Garibaldi moved to adjourn; Lizzi Shappell declared it out of order. Lindsay Meyer moved to end discussion; Chris Garibaldi seconded. *Discussion was ended at 7:15 p.m.*

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Rob Lindley said that the Keough Chariot Race is this Saturday.
- B. Erin Hankins reminded everyone that tomorrow night is the Mr. ND Pageant.
- C. Archita Patel asked everyone to give her the sheets regarding InsideND.
- D. Chris Harris thanked everyone for the discussion and asked them to talk to their dorms it.