

Senate Executive Summary
November 30, 2005
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order 6:06 p.m.
- B. Dave Baron led the invocation.
- C. Brad Tucker, Ben Gunty, and Andrew Beatty were absent.
- D. Rob Lindley moved to approve the minutes; Steve Tortorello seconded. *The minutes from the November 16, 2005 meeting of the Student Senate were approved at 6:08 p.m.*
- E. Pat Knapp moved to invert item A from New Business to before the Officer Reports; Christina Calfee seconded. *Item A from New Business was moved to before Officer Reports at 6:09 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. SS0506-17 Cultural Competency Committee

- i. Rhea Boyd said that the Minority Affairs Committee has been working on a diversity course requirement, but because of significant barriers they have gone a different route and have this resolution. The resolution addresses the fact that diversity is a top priority of the University. There have been suggestions for an academic aspect to this call to diversity and this is their recommendation.
- ii. Philippe Collon said that at Faculty Senate it was well received. However, there were some concerns. The term "cultural components" is very broad and not well explained. Some colleges feel like studying abroad can sometimes count as a cultural component. This is a little broad and doesn't say what this will bring to the curricula. The new requirement is a good intention, but it will be met with resistance because there are so many requirements already. He suggested that they might want to think about rewording the resolution. Rhea said that Seth Brown emailed her the definition of cultural competencies; it is seen as an acquired knowledge or skill in how to navigate different cultural experiences. People will be at different levels of competency and they want the class to be a beginning. The use of the term "cultural" was meant to be vague, so that a University committee can decide about their definition of culture. At Notre Dame it is very easy to surround yourself with people similar to yourself. There are issues in our world with globalization and the browning of America. This will give Notre Dame students the strength and background to better interact after graduation. The committee by itself tried to make a proposal, but as students they don't have the resources. This new committee would have enough knowledge, experience, etc to make a feasible proposal. The proposal doesn't require one new class, but it would cross-list with other

cultural competencies. There are a lot of events on campus to get involved, but competencies suggest the skill and ability to deal with other cultures which will be helpful in the future. We need the tools for the future. Chris Garibaldi said that the wording on the cultural competencies is vague, and they need to have it more explicitly stated for those that aren't involved in the discussion right now so that other people know

- iii. Pat Knapp moved to vote; Libby seconded. Katie McHugh opposed. *With a vote of 12 yes and 14 no, the motion was defeated and the Senate stayed in discussion.*
- iv. Katie McHugh said that they need to look past it being too vague because everyone working on this understands it. Vagueness is not a problem and people will be working towards the goal with or without this resolution. It is a need, not a want that we have to pass this resolution, so that we can get jobs when we graduate. We live in a very homogenous world right now. Steve Tortorello agreed that it is important. Steve moved to send the resolution back into committee; Rob Lindley seconded. Rhea said that this shouldn't move back to committee because there has been significant work done on this. The Provost and President's office have said that they are on board with *this* resolution. The vagueness of the resolution isn't an issue. All of the people involved in this know what this means. The Board of Trustees, the Faculty, etc. all support this. Rob Lindley asked who this resolution would go to next. Dave said that CLC and Faculty Senate would get it. CLC has been working on this for years too. Christina Lee moved to end discussion; Libby Hopp seconded. *Debate was ended at 6:38 p.m. With a unanimous vote, the motion to send the resolution back to committee was defeated at 6:39 p.m.*
- v. Archita Patel thought that it is great, but asked if we are trying to make this a requirement for all students. Rhea stressed once again that this is not about a requirement! Rob Lindley moved to vote; Erin Hankins seconded. *With a unanimous vote, Senate Resolution SS0506-17 passed at 6:41 p.m.*

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President

- i. Dave Baron said that at CoR they are looking at fiscal policies. They are recommending a report from the student treasurer and will have that report at the next meeting and will be looking at reallocations. Second, they are working on clarifying the details of the Carry-Forward account. Third, Dave is working with Peggy Hnutusko to give treasures access to accounts. Fourth, they looked at the Carry-Forward as it exists and what to do with that.
- ii. Lizzi Shappell, Liz Kozlow and Dave met with John Affleck Graves. He will come to a Senate meeting to present on the campus plan and the

ten year plan for the University. Hopefully they will be talking to us about what we would like to see. Dave likes Sim City, so he is looking forward to this. Much like Sim City, they are looking at a dumbbell development. There will be commercial areas on each end, with residential areas as the "handle" in the middle.

B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President

- i. Lizzi Shappell asked everyone to please disregard the copies of the constitutional changes.
- ii. With the Carry-forward account, they have started talks about what to do with the money. There is talk of an endowment. It would be for specific academic programs, student initiatives, etc. There is a possibility for a \$100,000 endowment for student life. They will have future meetings about this.

C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Liz Kozlow said that Catholic Think Tank is going well, and Bishop Gumbleton and Judge Pryor are coming.
- ii. This is the last stall notes of the semester.
- iii. Take happy hour posters for your dorm. We had a very good Happy Hour today led by Chris Harris.

D. Mr. Philippe Colon, Faculty Senate Liaison

- i. Philippe Collon had to leave because of another meeting.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Chris Harris asked Senators to start pushing Majors Night which will be on February 2. They have met with representatives from each college and have put together a rough agenda. They want a lot of people to come out.
- ii. He will be presenting a proposal next week possibly for extending library hours. They are open to hearing our ideas.
- iii. Last, if you know who your academic commissioner is, that's good. Katie McHugh will be emailing them and will be having a forum with them in the future.

B. Committee on Diversity Affairs

- i. Sarah Liu said that last year to have someone from Diversity ND sit on CoR so they are working on getting that for this year.

C. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Ali Wishon said that they met with Annie Kleva about a gynecologist in the health center. There is a major lack of education about services available at the health center. They are thinking about moving their focus to educating about current options.
- ii. They are looking into speakers for Sexual Assault Awareness Week, which will be the last week in March.
- iii. She will be working with University Affairs on GLBTQA issues at ND.

D. Committee on Residence Life

requirements. They want to make sure that students don't have to take more requirements. Philippe Collon said that he appreciates that, and they might want to reword it to make that clear. Jim Grace asked if she intends for this to go past a fine arts requirement. He thought that they need to define "culture" a little more. They should make it more specific with regards to diversity. He felt that there are a lot of opportunities on campus already and didn't know if you can make students do it. He felt that in order to enforce this attitude of diversity, we should state that we want a requirement. Rhea explained that the reason that they are vague is because their proposal wasn't feasible. They want the new committee to find something that is feasible, maybe a requirement isn't the way to go. Carol Hendrickson knew that they are leaving it vague for a reason. She asked if we wanted to make the cultural component non-Western. Rhea pointed out that they are not advocating a requirement right now. With the use of culture they don't specifically make any identification with a specific culture. Jacques Nguyen asked the Senators to not think of it as a cultural diversity requirement, they just want to support cultural competency in the curricula in principle. Dave Baron said that he is been working on this issue for the last two years. He doesn't want to make this onerous for the students. The proposal that Rhea has proposes double counting, so don't get scared about more requirements. There are many courses at the University that fulfill these ideas. There have been incidents in the last few months that have demonstrated how homogenous the campus is. We don't have the resources to figure out if we can do it, that's why we want other people working on it and that's why they left it vague. Rob Lindley said that University education allows students to explore new horizons and it is a chance to become more cultured. He understands that it is meant to be vague for the committee in the future. But he is not convinced that its vagueness might not hurt the discussions of the committee in the future. Some more clarification in the resolution would be helpful. Steve Tortorello asked what the difference would be in this new committee from the current Minority Affairs Committee. Rhea explained that right now there is no committee that is specifically looking at incorporating diversity into the curricula. The Provost's office and members of the President's office and college members have a better idea of how to get policy passed, have access to information, and have more experience with these types of things. The Minority Affairs Committee is not the greatest source of information on this topic. They have contacted the Associate Provost and she has agreed to chair the committee if it is created, so she knows where they are coming from and could direct them correctly. This has been talked about for years, and concrete things need to be done. Dave Baron said that one of the things the Minority Affairs Committee saw was that this project will take years to be complete and with the large turnover in student government, we need continuity. Nick Guzman said that there were questions about

- i. Mark Seiler said that there are two new crosswalks going out to Carroll Hall and D6.
- ii. They are in the process of documenting campus beautification issues with the rectors.
- iii. The signature charities will be up soon, really.
- iv. There will be a report on February 1 about RecSports.
- v. They are also looking at lowering catering prices for student groups.

E. Committee on University Affairs

- i. Matt Walsh said that they are working with the DPAC about student programming.
- ii. They have decided to look long-term on the ticket exchange program. They don't want to make a bad program this year.
- iii. They will be working on GLBTQ stuff.
- iv. The Rugby team is looking for a resolution about reviewing them for club status.
- v. He will be meeting with Fr. MacDonald about the graduation speaker selection process.

F. Committee on Oversight

- i. Suj Pandaya said that he is studying the transition right now. He will look at programs to help new Senators learn what they are doing.
- ii. He is also working on improving elections with James Leito.

G. Committee on Community Relations

- i. Nick Guzman said that they might have third year law students have a discussion about legal issues with living off campus.
- ii. Hopefully, the website will be adding a community component; the website administrator has put in his recommendation and is just waiting to hear.
- iii. They have contacted different radio stations and are compiling a demographic study to make advertising easier.

H. Committee on Minority Affairs

- i. Rhea Boyd thanked everyone for passing the resolution.
- ii. She will be working on publicity for the committee. Especially for minority students who may have concerns. The first 10 minutes of the meetings are devoted to hearing ideas from students.
- iii. They will be offering the President's office benchmarks for diversity. They don't have any right now.
- iv. They will be bringing a letter about Native Americans and their issues.
- v. They will also be making "issue binders" and have focus groups doing needs assessments for each minority group to make long term plans.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. SS0506-18 Public Nuisance Ordinance

- i. Nick Guzman introduced this as a follow up to the call to action passed a few weeks ago. They want to go in front of the city and give them our

opinion and position. It states our problems with the ordinance but still wants to improve community relations. Dave Baron added that this is pretty procedural. They are not arguing against the intention of the law, but opposing the harshness of the penalty. They intend to bring it to the South Bend City Council and present it to them face to face.

- ii. Steve Tortorello asked what the medium that will be used at the meeting. Dave said that it will be sent before hand. Nick added that there will also be a presentation from them as well. Steve Tortorello moved to vote; Libby Hopp seconded. *With a unanimous vote, Senate Resolution SS0506-18 passed at 7:01 p.m.*

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Christina Lee said that on Sunday at 1pm at the JACC there will be girls fighting girls. She has tickets for \$5 and all of the profits are going to missions in Africa.
- B. AIDS week this week. There are panels tonight and tomorrow at 7pm, please wear red tomorrow in support.
- C. Chris Harris suggested that the Senators try out the new crosswalks and go to the Carroll Christmas from 6-8pm on Friday. Santa will be there!
- D. Dan Bowen said that a publication a few weeks back about the Zahm resolution, confused his name with the author of the Davinci Code and he has been getting too much fan mail as a result.
- E. Steve Tortorello and Dan Bowen will be performing next Wednesday at 7:30 at Washington Hall with HANDS.
- F. Dave Baron asked that all Senators please keep your weekends on the 20th and 21st open, because they will be having a senate retreat...the Senate shakeup.
- G. On Saturday at 7 p.m. the gospel choir has a concert.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Rob Lindley moved to adjourn; Steve Tortorello seconded. *The November 30, 2005 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.* The next meeting will be on December 7, 2005 in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyce Baumgartner
Student Body Secretary