

Senate Executive Summary
February 1, 2006
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order 6:07 p.m.
- B. Dave Baron led the invocation.
- C. Philippe Collon, Andrew Beatty, Dan Bowen, Dan Mannion, and Suj Pandaya were absent.
- D. Steve Tortorello moved to approve the minutes; Rob Lindley seconded. *The minutes from the January 25, 2006 meeting were approved at 6:10 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

- A. Ali McKillan said that she has a marketing internship with a distributor of Red Bull. She came to speak to Senate because Red Bull isn't sold on campus because there is a strong association with alcohol. Studies show that only 20% of Red Bull use is for alcohol currently. She asked if the Senate would want to do a survey. There is Amp in LaFortune, and we have a contract with Coca-Cola. Red Bull improves performance, endurance, concentration and ups metabolism. Brian Coughlin asked if she has talked to Fr. Poorman. Ali responded that she has talked to Food Services, but Student Affairs has been concerned about this. Carol Hendrickson asked how Red Bull works. Ali said that Mountain Dew has more caffeine; Red Bull has another stimulant that is not as much caffeine, so it's better for you.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President
 - i. Dave Baron said that in CLC they talked about the cultural competency recommendation being sent to Fr. Poorman
 - ii. At CoR they had a discussion about fiscal policy. They are looking into a programming fund, not an endowment. It could be added to by donors.
 - iii. The increase in the activity fee will be voted on by BOT this week.
 - iv. They will be addressing community relations issues on February 27 at the City Council meeting. Josh Pasquesi will be our community liaison. He will be contacting landlords and the apartment complexes to convince them that they don't have to evict students.
- B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Lizzi Shappell said that the programming fund is the biggest thing that she is working on.
 - ii. She is still looking at discussion of academic affairs.
 - iii. There will be a pep rally meeting coming soon.
- C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Liz Kozlow asked that people pick up the stall notes.
 - ii. She asked the Think Tank Committee meet with her. The next speaker will be on February 23, and it will be Bishop Gumbleton.

- D. Mr. Philippe Colon, Faculty Senate Liaison
i. Philippe Collon was absent.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Committee on Academic Affairs
i. Chris Harris said Majors Night is from 7-9 p.m. in the JACC concourse and the Monogram Room. He asked that the Senators talk to the freshmen in your dorm and tell them to go to it. If the Senators could make it, it would be a good show of support.
- B. Committee on Diversity Affairs
i. Sarah Liu was absent. Erin Hankins said that they are looking at a religious diversity survey to hand out to students. They are also planning to send delegates to different multicultural organizations to get more input.
- C. Committee on Gender Issues
i. Ali Wishon said that she is working on funding for Sexual Assault Awareness Week.
ii. The GLBTQA report is coming along.
- D. Committee on Residence Life
i. Mark Seiler said that he has a meeting on Friday about Alcohol Awareness Week.
ii. The Recreational Facilities report is done and might come to Senate next week.
- E. Committee on University Affairs
i. Matt Walsh said that people from the Living Wage are coming to Senate on February 15 and they will have official report done then.
ii. He is working on the GLBTQA report and he will be meeting with a CSC representative.
- F. Committee on Oversight
i. Suj was absent. Lizzi Shappell says that resolutions will be coming next week.
- G. Committee on Community Relations
i. Nick Guzman said that he met about Transpo tours of South Bend for Frosh-O. They will have food and fun stuff; there will be more details in the future.
ii. Phil Johnson said that with security issues it is disappointing because no off campus students stored stuff with NDSP.
iii. Nick met with someone who had an idea about publicizing a guide to South Bend of things that would be good for students.
- H. Committee on Minority Affairs
i. Rhea Boyd said that Chuck D, Chuck D, Chuck D will be coming to 141 DeBartolo at 8:30 p.m. He is fabulous and she hoped to see everyone there.
ii. The Native American letter is in the revision stage.
iii. Caesar Chavez Day is March 31st; they will be working with the Latino Coalition Group to plan an event.

- iv. Rhea and Dave Baron will be presenting on the Cultural Competency Resolution tonight at Faculty Senate.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Discussion of Academic Freedom: Gender Issues, Academic Affairs and University Affairs

- i. Lizzi Shappell prefaced this by saying that they feel that the Student Senate should articulate our position on academic freedom. This will be a three week process. The various committee chairs will give a review of what was said at the meetings. It is important for senators to go back to the dorms and see what the opinions of the students are. You need to be the voice of your dorm. We really want to gage student opinion on this. Hopefully a resolution will be put together by February 15th.
- ii. Ali Wishon said that the group mentioned some possible fears. They included: certain recruitment promises weren't going to be fulfilled, our status as top-20 university will be jeopardized, there will be an inability to recruit top faculty, students don't want to leave ND with deep knowledge of Catholicism because of lack of debate, the devalue of our diploma in 10 years, and the lack of freshmen voice in this debate because of their short time on campus. Their concerns included: increasing the ND bubble, how far the possibly policy changes will extend to (i.e. the Dillon Pep Rally or the Keenan Review), there are Catholic issues in the real world and it is good to be exposed to it here. By talking about these issues debating skills will be honed, the Catholic doctrine that is being examined is more than sexual morality, matters don't weaken faith but strengthen it, students need to be presented with different views and be challenged. ND admits people with character and students feel that the administration is not giving students enough credit to be critical thinkers and mature. She added that removing sponsorship is de facto censorship because of the high cost of production. Some possible solutions the committee came up with were: "Her Loyal Daughters" is a program that includes Catholic character but also includes people from the university community; they would like to hear more about this. The committee is committed to ending violence against women; they are concerned because \$15,000 won't be going to SOS and YMCA from the V-Day campaign. Groups could make sure that the Catholic position is clear at all events, but let the events go on. The issue is much bigger than the Vagina Monologues and the Queer Film Festival and the student position should focus on bigger issue and don't get bogged down with minor side issues.
- iii. Chris Harris said that his committee framed the discussion around what student government's response should be. The overwhelming response is one of questioning. The committee was unsure of the stance or if we

should have a stance. Perhaps neutrality is the best solution. They need to know how the constituents feel, so it is very important to go back to the dorms. People would be upset if we didn't take a stance because we are student leaders. Fr. Jenkins needs to address the awareness of the issue. They are concerned about the precedent that is being set by this entire issue.

- iv. Matt Walsh said that the committee agreed that this is the most important issue that we will ever face. He stressed the need to be proactive on this. They brainstormed on what the committee could do. They suggested having a larger meeting sponsored by student government, perhaps a debate or question and answer session to encourage students to go to that. It is important to represent the views of the entire student body because a recent Observer poll shows it is a clear split. We can't take a position on this right now, and we need to look at both sides. Academic freedom is about more than Vagina Monologues and Queer Film Festival. They said that it is important to remain a top 20 college; they were concerned about the diploma value, and thought that all events should have a place on this campus regardless of content.
- v. Lizzi asked the senators to take this to their dorms and take this seriously.

B. CLC Member and Alternate Elections

- i. Lizzi announced that David Thaxton went to Spain and forgot to tell us. He was a member of CLC and Christina Lee was alternate but she now has a class conflict. We need nominations today for the two remaining positions. CLC meets every-other Monday at 3 p.m. It is made up of rectors, factually, HPC, SUB, and Judicial Council representatives. The term is until the end of the school year, not just April 1st.
- ii. Pat Knapp and Carol Hendrickson volunteered.
- iii. We also need a new Senator from Stanford. Dave Baron explained that if the spot is vacant with 8 weeks left in the term, the Senate gets to appoint a new one. He is going to ask the Stanford President to nominate someone.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Dan Bowen announced that the "stache bash" will be held in Dillon to raise money for charity.
- B. Pat Knapp said that Zahm Hall was involved in something that degraded Keenan Hall and was not in the spirit of Zahm. He apologized for the vomit on Keenan. Pat offered Jason Zgrabik an olive branch (pine bough) to maintain a healthy rivalry. Jason Zgrabik will officially accept the apology and hopes to go on in a new light
- C. Katie McHugh said that she has a documentary on Vagina Monologues if anyone wants to watch it.
- D. Christina Lee owns it the text.

- E. Blake Jackson said that he recently found out that Perkins offers a 10% discount to all students and this information rocked his world. He felt responsible to pass this information on to posterity.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Rob Lindley moved to adjourn; Steve Tortorello seconded. *The February 1, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.* The next meeting will be held on February 8, 2006 in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyce Baumgartner
Student Body Secretary

