

Senate Executive Summary
February 8, 2006
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order 6:05 p.m.
- B. Carol Hendrickson led the invocation.
- C. Jessica Zarra, Libby Hopp, Jason Zgrabik, and Brian Klein were absent.
- D. Brenna Doyle moved to approve the minutes; Lisa Rauh seconded. *The minutes from the February 1, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate were approved at 6:08 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

A. USA Today, College Readership Program

- i. Lizzi Shappell announced that the \$15 Activity Fee increase was approved by the Board of Trustees, so we will be able to implement the College Readership Program by next fall. Chris Harris said that the Academic Affairs committee was happy. He introduced Jill and Meghan from USA Today.
- ii. Jill was here when the pilot program was launched and congratulated us on the passing on the activity fee. There will be a choice of newspapers and online resources to use. If you visit usatodaycollege.com they have programming ideas. There is a career site and a site for democracy that covers many different issues. The pilot was from February 8 –March 4, 2005 in different locations around campus. They provided the Chicago Tribune, the New York Times and USA Today. The pilot program was very popular among surveyed students. There was equal use of the New York Times and USA Today, and there was slightly less use of the Chicago Tribune. The dining halls and LaFortune were big areas of use.
- iii. Meghan spoke about the need to choose locations for distribution. One of the key factors is touch-points and convenience for students. They want to create a logo just for Notre Dame. They still need to work on looping in student ID card contacts and creating a marketing plan. She showed us University of Nebraska's layout. They have found that about one location per 1,000 students works very well. Since students are paying for it, they are the only ones who should have access, which is why they would use the card reader for public access areas. They will have a recycling bin at each location.
- iv. Ben Gunty asked if the card readers would be everywhere. It would be inconvenient during the rush time in the dining halls. Meghan replied that if it was only students, that wouldn't be a problem. They will work closely with building personnel to set that up. Chris Harris said that they need to talk to OIT to see if it is feasible to have card readers on campus. If the newspapers go to the other buildings they will have the readers. Lindsay Meyers asked if the number of newspapers will stay the same.

Meghan said that they have seen the number changes and she would expect to see a decrease in usage because the faculty won't be using it or the card readers. They will work to combat staleness, and they are always working on marketing efforts. Jill added that they can distribute as many as we let them, but they will never exceed the budget but will always meet the demand. Katie McHugh asked how the marketing is paid for. Meghan said that the newspapers will all contribute to this and the funding would not have to come from the students. Jill said that the displays and signs are all paid for. Chris Garibaldi asked how often the prices of the newspapers change. Jill said that the prices should be constant for at least a year, but she doesn't see a change happening in the next few years.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President

- i. Dave Baron said that at CoR they had an informal discussion about the upcoming trip to the South Bend City Council. This is a time for us to show that we are willing to participate in their government. They will give six people specific topics to prevent repetition.
- ii. This Friday, he and Lizzi will be meeting with Frances Shavers and Hilary Cercovich because Fr. Jenkins wants to come to Senate to talk about academic freedom.
- iii. He and Lizzi had breakfast with John Affleck Graves about the D6 parking lot. Buildings operations will partition up the parking lot into three pieces and fix the drainage problems over the summer.
- iv. Christina Lee moved to invert Old Business after New Business; Dan Mannion seconded. *The agenda was so inverted at 6:29 p.m.*

B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President

- i. Lizzi Shappell said that in the meeting with Dr. Affleck Graves they talked about the campus plan for the university. They will be coming to Senate on February 22 to talk about the campus plan, possibly with a model. They will be here to discuss the plans and answer any questions.
- ii. Mark Seiler, Dave and she met with Brett Hummel about a market survey for the new college town south of campus. They are aiming to put together a market survey before the end of this semester. This will see what people want in terms of food, retail, etc.

C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Liz Kozlow asked people to pick up the stall notes.
- ii. The Catholic Think Tank is going well. She has more spots for dinner with Bishop Gumbleton; email her if you want to go.
- iii. James Leito wanted her to remind everyone about the student body president candidates' debate at 8 p.m. on Thursday. The election is on Monday, and everyone will get an email about that.

D. Mr. Philippe Colon, Faculty Senate Liaison

- i. Philippe Collon said that the faculty senate passed the cultural competency resolution.
- ii. They are also having discussions about academic freedom.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Chris Harris thanked everyone for the questions about USA Today and the College Readership Program.
- ii. Majors Night was a smashing success because about a third of the freshmen class showed up. Rob Lindley and Carol Hendrickson worked tirelessly on this for a long time. A lot of people want to make this an annual event.
- iii. They were told today that they will keep the library open for 24 hours the week before spring break.

B. Committee on Diversity Affairs

- i. Sarah Liu said that they are compiling a list of all cultural clubs and will be going to meetings to get contact people
- ii. Campus ministry is conducting a survey on religious diversity and the committee wants to get a copy and discuss it with them.
- iii. The Stand Against Hate t-shirt campaign will take place in late March. They want to bring in the movie "Crash", and they will have t-shirts.
- iv. They have been talking about the role of the committee and its relations with the Minority Affairs Committee.

C. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Ali Wishon said that they have been funding for SAAW, and they are less than \$1,000 away. They are committed to making it a big week.
- ii. They are working with health center to help them update their website and they will have a resolution soon.
- iii. She is still working on writing the GLBTQA report.
- iv. Ali will be meeting with Student Affairs about the Frosh-O sexual assault program.

D. Committee on Residence Life

- i. Mark Seiler said that Carol Hendrickson will be presenting the RecSports report later in the meeting.
- ii. For Alcohol Awareness Week, Student Government is going to work with OAED and Pillars to make a dynamite week. It will be from February 27-March 3. It will be a Safe Spring Break/Alcohol Awareness Week. Mark said that he "slashed" the week and simultaneously made up a new verb.
- iii. There was a meeting about the proposed college town that Lizzi mentioned earlier.
- iv. Pat Knapp will bring the report on the student center soon.

E. Committee on University Affairs

- i. Matt Walsh was gone.

- ii. Lizzi Shappell announced that the Campus Labor Action Program will be coming to speak to Senate next week.
- F. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Suj Pandaya said that there would be amendments coming up later in the meeting.
- G. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Nick continuing to work on our current projects
 - ii. Working on the presentation to south bend city council. Looking at enforcement and existence of ordinances at other schools
- H. Committee on Minority Affairs
 - i. Rhea Boyd announced that the resolution passed Faculty Senate and it will be going to Academic Council next.
 - ii. The Chuck D event went well, she is sorry for those who couldn't get in.
 - iii. Members of the community came to the Chuck D event, and it was featured in the South Bend Tribune. It was good to incorporate the community into the event.
 - iv. The Native American Letter is still being revised.
 - v. They are also working on the MAC binders for every ethnic group.
 - vi. They are looking into an education campaign for spring visitation weekend to let ND students know what it is.
 - vii. She mentioned the need to work on the distinction between MAC and Diversity Committee.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Vote on the removal of the Senator from Stanford, David Thaxton
 - i. Dave Baron said that because David Thaxton is in Spain, he won't be able to be a senator. A majority of the members of Senate have signed a petition to impeach him and we need a 2/3 vote to make it official. *With a vote of 21 yes, and 1 no David Thaxton was removed from Senate at 6:43 p.m.*
 - ii. Chris Hollon then resigned as the Senate parliamentarian, because he might be our new senator.
- B. SS0506-20 Committee Programming Amendment
 - i. Fred Thwaites explained that the amendment allows committees to legally program events like Majors Nights and awareness weeks.
 - ii. Lindsey Meyer moved to vote; Christina Lee seconded. *Resolution SS0506-20 was unanimously passed at 6:45 p.m.*
- C. SS0506-21 Transition Amendment
 - i. Rob Lindley said that this clears up inconsistencies and grammatical errors with the passage in the Constitution and outlines the transition.
 - ii. Lindsey Meyer moved to vote; Erin Hankins seconded. *Resolution SS0506-21 was unanimously passed at 6:46 p.m.*
- D. Recreational Facilities Report-Discussion Only
 - i. Lizzi Shappell said that because this was a joint project between CLC and Senate, it will go to CLC on Monday.

- ii. Carol Hendrickson said that James Leito from CLC and she met with people from RecSports, dorm athletic commissioners, etc. They didn't include lights for tennis courts, because it didn't seem to be popular. In regards to the baseball/softball fields, the new plan looks to build new fields or revamp the old ones. They address issues of lights on Reilly fields and McGlenn fields, sprinkler issues, etc. The amenities section covers issues about bathrooms, trashcans, water fountains, etc.
- iii. Pat Knapp said that it was a beautiful report. Ben Gunty suggested some rewording under the amenities sections because the phrasing seems awkward and ambiguous. Liz Brown asked if the suggestion of live webcams was worth the resources and money. She said that she didn't even know that there were webcams. Carol Hendrickson said that it's a long trek for a lot of people. After talking with James, it seems like a good time to bring this issue out right now, because we might not come out with another report. Katie McHugh said that the amenities solutions sections was reaching a bit because it would be more feasible to use the bathrooms in the dorms. Carol said that RecSports really liked the idea.
- iv. Lizzi explained that the Senate will draft a resolution in support of this report later.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Academic Freedom Discussion

- i. Lizzi Shappell asked the Senators to report on what was said in their dorms on the issue of academic freedom.
- ii. Liz Brown said that people said that a Catholic university should work to include all. They had questions about the distinction between dorm events and campus events. The girls were concerned about reinforcing the Notre Dame "bubble". Topics should be discussed in a Catholic viewpoint. She hopes that the handout from one dorm was not a representation of the dorm. She was offended by how generalized and ignorant it was.
- iii. Pat Knapp said that Zahm was concerned about charity aspect of the Vagina Monologues which will be lost. Many guys in Zahm didn't know what it was, but felt like the Vagina Monologues' presence on campus hasn't affected their Catholicism. It is art and is meant to invoke emotions. He shared a limerick.
- iv. Erin Hankins said that the Career Center is having trouble with students getting and retaining jobs because our students are inexperienced in diversity issues. She also raised the issue of the difference between dorms and events sponsored by other groups. They are also concerned about the boy vs. girl discrimination on events. She read aloud from duLac on page 129, which states that ND students and organizations are free to invite anyone of their own choosing and that "sponsorship does not imply endorsement or approval of the university".

- v. Professor Collon suggested reading the mission statement as well, because it could provide insight. He said that there are many issues down the road that we haven't met with yet. What ND lacks is a transparent policy, and we should work towards that.
- vi. Rob Lindley said that his dorm didn't want to overlook anything like academic freedom by focusing on the Vagina Monologues. The fundraising and donations that are taken away will hurt in the long run. ND shouldn't have to sacrifice Catholic values for academic values, nor should it sacrifice academic value for Catholicism.
- vii. Steve Tortorello mentioned that there is a really good piece in the Observer by a professor. We need to clarify that the bounds of the classroom need to be specified.
- viii. Mariana Montes questioned the fact that the Vagina Monologues are required for a lot of classes. If the play isn't sponsored by the university, how can it be required course material? A lot of girls are also concerned about how aware the alumni are of this controversial issue.
- ix. Carol Hendrickson said that there is a 50-50 split on opinion on this in her dorm. She thinks that the Student Senate should represent the voice of the students and needs to do so fairly. She thinks that everyone would agree on a compromise that the university should come out with a clear statement.
- x. Brenna Doyle said that her group focused conversation on the common ground that could be reached. A lot of people are frustrated by ignorant opinions and feel that people are riled up for the wrong reasons. There could be a common ground where there is Catholic character infused into the events that people want to hold.
- xi. Christina Calfee said that majority of girls feel that they are afraid of being censored. They don't want to be sheltered. She stressed that one's faith in Catholicism can be strengthened by questioning.
- xii. Katie McHugh read the line in the mission statement. She said that about 85% of the girls in Lewis supported academic freedom. She thinks it's important to think about how the Observer polls people and if they are accurate. As a Catholic university it is important to make people think that they can be Catholic, and we can't tell them what it takes to be Catholic. By closing the door on the definition of Catholicism, it could drive them to think that they can't be Catholic. Students need to be exposed to reality.
- xiii. Ben Gunty said that a big issue was specifying the bounds of the issue. The discussion has been focused on the big name issues dealing with sexuality. People are concerned about where we draw the line and about what is academic what isn't. If the administration is worried about the negative impact, they should add programs, not just take them away. Thomas Aquinas said that in the "true Catholic faith you shouldn't have fear in the opposition". He said that the administration is implying that we, as students, don't have knowledge of our faith.

- xiv. Christina Lee said that people are very torn. There is a lack of dissemination of information and open dialogue. There have been transcripts available, but some students were resentful that there were different forums for various groups. The biggest concern is that the discussion has been marginalized to the Vagina Monologues, people don't know enough about the issue.
- xv. Dave Baron said that Fr. Jenkins did make specific efforts to make sure that students were involved. The speeches were divided between groups because the issues were different for the different constituencies. Texts and video feed are available online right now for reading. Fr. Jenkins is trying to make sure that people are informed on this.
- xvi. Fred Thwaites said that when you come to a university like Notre Dame, Catholicism should fit that mold. It should not be opposed to conflicting ideas and you should expose students to lots of ideas, because Catholicism should be a choice.
- xvii. Chris Garibaldi said that people are worried about the domino effect and where this will lead. If you allow morally questionable things, then you give them a place of prominence at the university. Some people felt that this will erode our Catholic character.
- xviii. Archita Patel said that there are varying opinions and people feel that these events are critical to the university and don't want them to be marginalized by the university. Students should be able to see things from all angles. One girl expected that she would have a Catholic atmosphere. The prevention of the Vagina Monologues from collecting money because it eliminates what is most crucial to Catholic character, and leaving what is not.
- xix. Jim Grace said that people are still very ignorant about this issue and felt that it didn't affect them. Most don't really realize what is going on. A lot of people applauded Jenkins in putting himself in this position of coming to us.
- xx. Dan Bowen said that he doesn't understand why so much attention is given to the performing arts. Those things are a choice, like books in the library. Overall aspect of academic freedom is not being observed.
- xxi. Lizzi Shappell stressed that she wants to make sure all voices are heard before we decide what the Senate should do.
- xxii. Steve Tortorello said that we should all read the text or watch the video so that we are all refreshed on the topic when Fr. Jenkins comes to Senate.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Mark Seiler said that if you want to look at the schedule of the dorm rewiring, go to insideND→ manage content→ add a channel→ residence hall wiring schedule.
- B. Nick Guzman said that they are putting together a team to write a guidebook for students about South Bend and asked any interested Senators to help.

- C. Dan Bowen said that the Dillon "Stache Bash" is this Saturday and they will be raising money for that. They raised \$9000 last year for testicular cancer.
- D. Pat Knapp congratulated to Maddie Hanna for making Observer editor for next year.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Rob Lindley moved to adjourn; Steve Tortorello seconded. The February 8, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 7:31 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2006 in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyce Baumgartner
Student Body Secretary