

Senate Executive Summary
February 15, 2006
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order 6:08 p.m.
- B. Rhea Boyd led the invocation.
- C. Mariana Montes, Philippe Collon, Ali Wishon, Andrew Beatty, and Jacques Nguyen were absent.
- D. Steve Tortorello moved to approve the minutes; Rob Lindley seconded. *The minutes from the February 9, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate were approved at 6:10 p.m.*
- E. Katie McHugh moved to invert the agenda, placing items A and B from New Business before the officer reports; Brian Klein seconded. *The agenda was so inverted at 6:11 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

A. Campus Labor Action Project

- i. Kamaria explained that this is a group to bring together students, workers, alumni and faculty on the Catholic Church's teaching of just labor practices and a living wage. They want to look ND's business practices and then address economic inequities. They will be handing out a report after the meeting. Jackie Clark said that ND incorporates Catholicism into many other areas of the University, and living wage is a huge part of Catholic Social Teaching. There is a lot of work done for this, but we need to look at our own family here. The ability to establish and properly maintain a family is critical to human rights. One earner and three dependents are considered a family. We owe it to other people to make sure that people do not remain powerless in poverty. Last year, the Chief Investment Officer of ND earned \$933,000 compared to a level three wage earner who made \$18,884. ND has \$4 billion in assets. It is a mandate of Catholic Social Teaching to have a living wage and the University is abandoning that. She reported on a variety of different stories of current ND employees. Nick said that in South Bend, the living wage is calculated from a variety of factors like food, housing, transportation, etc. They discovered that an employee needs to make \$12.50 an hour to not be eligible for food stamps. No ND employee should have to rely on food stamps. There are five levels of workers that earn below a living wage at ND. Building services, maintenance, etc. Notre Dame says that the rate of pay is based on the competitive market and level of skill, but never mentions Catholic social teaching. Kamaria said that over 120 ordinances have been passed across the country for living wage. Georgetown and Harvard adopted a living wage on their campuses. It requires a very small part of the budget to implement this. It does not increase the cost to businesses, and can actually reduce training and recruitment costs. It also encourages all employers to raise

wages in the community; we are the biggest employer in South Bend so this could have ripple effects. We are also a leading Catholic institution. They want a public statement by Fr. Jenkins and a commitment to a living wage. They are also asking for the establishment of a joint task force. They are recommending \$12.10/hour. All contracted employers should also have a living wage.

- ii. Nick Guzman asked why the level that government gave wouldn't be higher. Nick said that it was calculated through fair market rent for a 2-bedroom apartment across the country. It is a modern calculation. Brian Klein asked what they hope to achieve by this semester. Kamaria said that they want a public statement from Fr. Jenkins supporting it and the formation of the committee. Christina Calfee asked if this would require reallocating funds and the budget now. Kamaria said that the taskforce should decide and find how to reallocate resources. Pat Knapp asked how many workers they interviewed. Kamaria said that it was over 100, and they work with them at CLAP meetings. Lindsey Meyer asked where they obtained the financial data. Nick said that it is available on the ND website of human resources. It doesn't tell us which jobs fall into each level or how many are in each level. Carol Hendrickson asked if this would just be for full-time workers. Kamaria said it would be for part time workers as well. Steve Tortorello asked how the administration has responded. Nick explained that they have asked for meeting with Jenkins and they have met with Frances Shavers and the head of human resources. They didn't get much out of the meeting except to really state their stance. Rob Lindley asked how many students are apart of CLAP. Kamaria said that there are about 30 core members and at the rally there were over 100 people. They want to make sure that there is a strong student presence in this issue. They could potentially become a real student group on campus. They plan to be around for a long time. Katie McHugh said that Fr. Malloy appointed a taskforce for sweatshops and they are now working on social justice issues. The administration isn't not receptive. Chris Garibaldi asked if they foresee problems with companies contracting with ND. Kamaria said that if you want to integrate Catholic Social Teaching on this campus, we should go through with it. There is precedence with this with sweatshop free clothes and Taco Bell. Pat Knapp asked if they have a report. Jackie explained that it is still a draft because they want more info on outsourcing, and it will be available after the meeting. Carol Hendrickson asked if this would affect student wages. Kamaria said that no, because those wages are based on federal financial wages, but sometimes students can make more than a regular employ. Jim Grace asked if she thought they would see an increase in student jobs. Jackie said that there are a limited number of students who get work-study. She didn't think there would be a surge.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. SS0506-23 Resolution Supporting a Joint Task Force on a Living Wage

- i. Katie McHugh said that this has been talked about on Podium. Currently, the faculty, administration and staff all get the same benefits, but a living wage is more important than that. This is a great opportunity for Senate to make a difference at ND and in the community.
- ii. Dave Baron personally thanked CLAP for coming to Senate. We need more information, that's why the task force is necessary. This is the Student Senate, but it is wholly within our interest to look at workers rights, because it is in our Catholic character. Workers don't have a representative in this sort of thing. Dave had a problem with the language, because it doesn't say what the task force does. Brian Klein moved to add to the first "therefore be it resolved" "to examine campus labor practices and implement a just employment policy"; Pat Knapp seconded. *"To examine campus labor practices and implement a just employment policy" was added to the first "therefore be it resolved" at 6:45 p.m.*
- iii. Pat Knapp asked who the recommendations will be made to. Katie McHugh said that it would be Fr. Jenkins. Rob Lindley asked if this is going to be a task force under CLC. Katie replied that it would be an administrative taskforce. Katie McHugh moved to vote; Rob Lindley seconded. *The Senate moved into voting at 6:46 p.m.*
- iv. *Resolution SS0506-23: Supporting a Joint Task Force on a Living Wage passed unanimously at 6:46 p.m.*

B. SS0506-24 Resolution Supporting a Living Wage

- i. Katie McHugh explained that this is just supporting what they were saying on podium.
- ii. Christina Lee moved to vote; Chris Garibaldi seconded. *The Senate moved into voting.*
- iii. *Resolution SS0506-24: Supporting a Living Wage passed unanimously at 6:47 p.m.*

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President

- i. Dave Baron congratulated Lizzi Shappell as the new President Elect.
- ii. He met with representatives from the ticketing office. They will be using the swipe system that is used for away games for bowl games. Josh Berlow was also open to getting more student tickets to bowl games.
- iii. This Monday, he and Nick Guzman attended the State of the City address by the mayor of South Bend. The theme was on hometown pride and they will be looking into taking portions of the speech that are relevant to students and putting it into a campus-wide email.
- iv. This past Wednesday he attended a Right to Life club meeting with leaders from Feminist Voice. They want to raise money for sexual

assault to compensate for lack of money from the Vagina Monologues. They are looking into a formal benefit dance.

- v. He talked to Ann Carol Nash about taxi prices. They will be getting more information, but if you are ever denied service that is illegal.

B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President

- i. Lizzi Shappell said that the pep rally meeting will be happening soon.
- ii. She and Dave Baron are working on getting Fr. Jenkins to a Senate meeting, which may mean outside of the regular meeting time.

C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Liz Kozlow will be handing out award sheets for student government awards and asked Senators to think about people they want to nominate.
- ii. Everyone should have picked up Transpo posters. If you have any questions, check out sbtranspo.com or just ask Dave. (But if you listen to him you might unintentionally end up at the mall)
- iii. Bishop Gumbleton will be here next Thursday and he will be speaking at 7 pm in DeBartolo 141. The title of the speech is "Catholicism and War".

D. Mr. Philippe Colon, Faculty Senate Liaison

- i. Philippe Collon was absent.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Chris Harris said that the library will be open for 24 hours over midterm week. He wants to advertise that.

B. Committee on Diversity Affairs

- i. Sarah Liu said that they are still in the process of going to different clubs and introducing themselves.
- ii. They want to obtain the results and discuss the results of the religious survey.
- iii. They are trying to obtain copyrights for the movie "Crash" for the Stand Against Hate Campaign in March.

C. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Ali Wishon was absent.

D. Committee on Residence Life

- i. Mark Seiler said that the resolution for the RecSports report is coming up.
- ii. Alcohol Awareness Week will be from February 27-March 3. They have money and product from Coke.
- iii. They are taking another look at the student center report.
- iv. They will begin focus groups for the college town market research.

E. Committee on University Affairs

- i. Matt Seiler thanked the Senators for passing the resolutions; the report will be available by the end of the meeting and will be at the back of the room.

- ii. They got a formal reply from Fr. McDonald, and he will be meeting with them about how people can have more input on the commencement speaker.
- iii. The total number of ND faculty, staff and students that rode Transpo last semester was 22, 917 on the number seven. We have more than doubled the ridership of ND students and staff in last semester. You could say that those are some tangible results.

F. Committee on Oversight

- i. Suj Pandaya said that he is working with James Leito to rework the election sections of the constitution because the rules are different for each race.
- ii. They are working on a memo to resolve the apathy problem, and will have it ready for next week.

G. Committee on Community Relations

- i. Nick Guzman said that he is meeting with Bob Jones about the legal seminar.
- ii. An informal group is meeting this week on the South Bend guide book.
- iii. They are continuing research of ordinances at other schools. Some examples that they have found don't have eviction as the first offense.

H. Committee on Minority Affairs

- i. Rhea Boyd had to leave. Dave Baron said that they are revising the Native American letter.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Chris Hollon as the Stanford Hall Senator

- i. Lizzi Shappell said that since we impeached David Thaxton last week, Chris Hollon was nominated as the new Stanford all Senator.
- ii. *With one abstention, Chris Hollon was approved as the new Stanford Hall Senator at 7:03 p.m.*

B. SS0506-22 Recreational Facilities Report

- i. Carol Hendrickson said that the report was talked about last week. They will have a formal bound report available for other people.
- ii. A friendly amendment was made to the fourth paragraph.
- iii. Rob Lindley asked who this report would go to. Carol said that it would be going to Fr. Poorman.
- iv. Rob Lindley moved to vote; Brian Klein seconded. *The Senate moved into voting.*
- v. *SS0506-22 was unanimously passed at 7:07 p.m.*

C. Academic Freedom—Discussion Only

- i. Lizzi Shappell opened the floor to more discussion.
- ii. Brian Klein read a written statement. "I talked with some Manorites who were generally apathetic, several who were holding strong at either extreme, and others who were trying to find a middle way. Those solidly in favor of Father Jenkins' perspective generally cited Notre Dame's right as a private institution to restrict campus

productions and to limit university sponsorship to those events that align with Catholic teaching. Those firmly opposed to his position stressed that a University should not close avenues of expression, that we should be exposed to diverse modes of thinking, and that sponsorship—as defined in duLac—does not imply endorsement. The general sentiment, however, was one of uncertainty. Most people granted a measure of understanding for Father Jenkins' perspective and dilemma. However, they also expressed genuine uneasiness with the idea of restricting public expression on campus. Some of the most original and insightful comments, while generally one-sided, are summarized in the following. I don't know about the rest of you, but I did not come to this university to be comfortable. I came here because I wanted to be challenged every day. I wanted to be forced to consider alternative perspectives and to engage contentious ideas both inside and outside the classroom. It's not an overstatement to say that the future of our University is at stake in this discussion. Depending on how Father Jenkins' administration decides to interpret the relationship between Catholicism and academic freedom, I see two very different Notre Dames down the road. The first is an elite university that respects the classroom as a safe forum for discussion of controversial material but restricts the expression of contentious perspectives from its public space. It is a place where we can argue but not necessarily perform, read but not exhibit, where we might privately consider, but collectively condemn. The second alternative, as I see it, is more than an institution of learning. It is an open and engaged community, one where we are free to stage events—yes, with departmental sponsorship—that espouse controversial points of view, that challenge the beliefs we hold most sacred, that are meant to provoke disagreement, dissent, and ultimately a greater discernment of truth. Now ask yourself: What kind of campus culture do we want to create? Is Notre Dame Catholicism to be dictated dogma? Or will it continue to represent the search for living truth? I recently came across some of the writings of Frank O'Malley. He attended and taught at Notre Dame, living on campus from 1928 until his death in 1974. A devout Catholic and brilliant intellectual, O'Malley is widely credited as the greatest humanities professor Notre Dame has ever known. While I don't pretend to know how he would side in this debate, I believe two passages from his work are particularly relevant to our current discussion. The first deals with a Christian's role in society. "The Christian man," he writes, "knows that his achievement of intellectual and moral virtue ought not to set him at severe odds with the society in which he finds himself...The necessity for the Christian man...is to comprehend the world in all its weaknesses and terrors no less than in its glories and wonders. Because of the human deficiencies inevitable in the Church itself on earth, the deficiencies which are Christ's very Cross, he knows that he cannot expect perfection from ordinary