

Senate Executive Summary
March 22, 2006
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order 6:07 p.m.
- B. Lizzi Shappell led the invocation.
- C. Chris Garibaldi, Libby Hopp, Rob Lindley, Lisa Rauh, and Christina Calfee were absent.
- D. Jim Grace moved to approve the minutes; Jason Zgrabik seconded. *The minutes from the March 8, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate were approved at 6:09 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

A. Travis Arnold, Office of the Indiana Secretary of State

- i. Travis Arnold said that he understands that there aren't a lot of students from Indiana here at ND, and most people are registered to vote in their home states. If they aren't, they can register in Indiana. In 2002, Bush signed a Help America Vote Law. To comply with that, the Secretary of State of Indiana has started modernizing the voting process and making it more accessible. The Photo ID law was passed in Indiana. It is our job to get this new information to our constituents. The new law requires that everyone has a photo id on Election Day. Usually an Indiana driver's license will work, student IDs don't work. You have to show an ID that has your name, photo and the information has to match the voter registration. Examples are: state IDs, US passports, military cards, etc. You can check out www.photoid.in.gov and it has more information. He has been touring colleges around the state to disseminate this crucial and relevant information to all college students. The deadline to register for the primaries is April 3, and the regular election deadline is in October 10. You can check out the secretary of states website for even more information, in case you didn't get enough voter registration information tonight. You can't vote in two states though: one person, one vote people. He gave Lizzi his digits, so you can call him with anymore questions.
- ii. Nick Guzman added that it is good for off campus students to have a voice in Indiana while we are living here, especially with all of the issues they have been dealing with.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President

- i. Dave Baron said that last week CLAP presented their report to the administration. He didn't like the way they went about the process. Next Friday they will be meeting again with administrators. They are still trying to look at ways that campus workers can bring their concerns to be heard.

- ii. On Friday, MAC and Diversity committees will be meeting about the overlap that exists and how to create a clear distinction between the two.
- iii. In CLC, they passed the resolution about the physician specializing in eating disorders and women's health. It was sent to Fr. Poorman. Also, they had a discussion about programming standards and Brian Coughlin came to present on the current process for recognizing clubs and approving events.

B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President

- i. Lizzi Shappell said that she and Ali Wishon will be meeting with the YWCA about fundraising efforts.
- ii. The first BOT report meeting will be this Friday with SARG.

C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Liz Kozlow told everyone to enjoy the new shape of stall notes.
- ii. The next Catholic Think Tank series will be Lou Holtz at 7:00 on March 31st at Stepan Center. "Catholicism and Competition" is the name of his speech.

D. Mr. Philippe Collon, Faculty Senate Liaison

- i. Philippe Collon said that they met with Fr. Jenkins to discuss academic freedom. They are still working on their resolution.
- ii. He asked Senate to double check ND's membership in the AAUP.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Chris Harris said that on March 30th they will have a forum on faculty-student relations. If you are interested in being on the forum, talk to Drew Beatty.
- ii. They went off-site to a local high school to talk about college. The students liked Rob better than Chris. IUSB also joined them on their romp to Riley High School.

B. Committee on Diversity Affairs

- i. Sarah Liu said that this is Stand Against Hate Week. There are 6 dorms hanging up their spirit of inclusion flag. She has a statement explaining the campaign and the flag. She handed out posters of the flag for people's doors.

C. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Ali Wishon said that next week is Sexual Assault Awareness Week. They are collaborating with the Gender Relations Center and Men Against Violence. On Monday and Tuesday there will be two GRC events and there is a MAV white ribbon campaign.
- ii. Their main event is Sex Signals, which was created and is preformed by a Notre Dame graduate. It will be at 9 p.m. in the Hesburgh Library Auditorium. Contact Erin Hankins if they are willing to help with the event.

D. Committee on Residence Life

- i. Mark Seiler said that they will have focus groups for the college town research for next week. This is our chance to get our voice and concerns heard.

E. Committee on University Affairs

- i. Matt Walsh said that the academic freedom resolution will be coming up a bit later.

F. Committee on Oversight

- i. Suj Pandya asked everyone to encourage new Senators to come to the next Senate meeting.

G. Committee on Community Relations

- i. Nick Guzman asked everyone to pick up legal aid seminar posters. It will be Wednesday at 8 p.m. in 126 DeBartolo. There will be Jimmy Johns.
- ii. He met with the director of Transpo about creating a permanent relationship with student government. She will be working with them on the South Bend guides. Nick is working with next year's chair to ensure continuity.

H. Committee on Minority Affairs

- i. Rhea Boyd said that they are waiting for the Native American focus group to finalize the letter.
- ii. The focus groups will be on April 8th.
- iii. There will be a panel discussion for the Week of Action next Monday at 8 in the Kroc institute auditorium. It will cover labor, border, and outsourcing issues.
- iv. Cultural competency is going o the executive committee.
- v. Spring visitation is next weekend and they will include student government information in the packet.
- vi. Brian Klein moved to invert the agenda by placing Old Business A to after C New Business; Pat Knapp seconded. *With a vote of 16 yes, 4 no, and 2 abstentions, the agenda was so inverted at 6:42 p.m.*

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Michael Palumbo Award Nominee

- i. James Leito explained the award. The winner this year is Jordan Bongiovanni. He outlined the letter that was presented about her.
- ii. Carol Hendrickson moved to approve; Christina Lee seconded. *Jordon Bongiovanni was approved as the winner of the Michael Palumbo award at 6:44 p.m.*

B. SS0506-30: Creating a permanent Committee on Community Relations

- i. Christina Lee explained that they have decided that community relation is important enough of an issue to create a permanent committee. They want it in the Constitution.
- ii. Mark Seiler asked about the term "students," and if it applies to all students, on campus and off campus. Christina Lee said it refers to all ND students.

- iii. Dave Baron said that he completely supports this. This year has shown the importance and the need for this committee.
- iv. Brenna Doyle moved to vote; Archita Patel seconded. *Senate resolution SS0506-30 passed at 6:47 p.m.*

C. SS0506-31: Election Amendments to the Constitution

- i. Suj Pandaya explained that this was a long process. James Leito said that they did this to clean up the election procedure. There would be no change in the way that elections are run. He split it up into elections by particular office. There is an added section about hall elections. They put in dates about when elections need to be completed by. The Judicial Council reserves the right to set dates for hall elections with HPC's approval. They left the idea of running as a ticket or an individual up to the dorm.
- ii. Nick Guzman asked if the dorm has to choose one complete ticket or individual. James Leito said that they do. Carol Hendrickson asked if they brought this to HPC. James said that yes, he took it to HPC before spring break and HPC liked the idea of leaving it up to the dorms. Pat Knapp asked if the list of positions was current. James said that yes, and that there is a clause about not holding more than one enumerated position at a time. There has been a concern about what an enumerated position is. The dorm VP is a new addition to the Constitution, so now that position is technically an enumerated position.
- iii. Pat Knapp moved to vote; Brenna Doyle seconded.
- iv. *Senate resolution SS0506-31 was passed unanimously at 6:56 p.m.*

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. SS0506-29: Academic Freedom

- i. Matt Walsh said that they didn't change much information in the letter, but that it is the result of our discussion from last week.
- ii. Pat Knapp proposed an amendment. He added after the fourth recognizing after Notre Dame, "follows many of the policy positions" instead of "is a member"; Brian Klein seconded. *The resolution was so amended at 6:58 p.m.*
- iii. Pat Knapp explained that we follow the AAUP guidelines exactly in terms of tenure and hiring. Katie McHugh said that no universities have signed onto the students' rights part, but associations that we are a part of do sign it. (e.g. Phi Beta Kappa, American theological schools, etc). Jim Grace asked if we follow their rules, but aren't a member, why would we group ourselves with that professors group? Pat Knapp said that it is an oversight body. They address issues like what professors can and can't do. Their policies and statements have a strong influence on most university's policies.
- iv. Steve Tortorello said that he thinks that the AAUP footnote is a fuzzy stretch of logic. He supports the resolution as a whole. Ben Gunty said that if we have groups that follow this, than it isn't really fuzzy logic. Carol Hendrickson said that it really isn't making a very strong

statement. Fr. Jenkins wasn't in talking in terms of disallowing events, but more about frequency issues. She doesn't really agree with everything in the statement and doesn't think that this accomplishes a lot. Matt Walsh explained that someone from the AAUP came and talked to the faculty about this. He thought that we were being nitpicky about language. This isn't about language; we are trying to get an overall idea across. This isn't that strong of a statement, we are trying to be broad and proactive, not a response to one or two events. Jim Grace agreed with Carol on the language. If we are going to make a statement, we need to make sure that our language is clear. He asked about the how it would look if it is ignored by the administration like Alliance ND. We aren't here to set policy for the University. A letter can be just effective. We don't want it to look like the Student Senate is powerless. Steve Tortorello moved to vote; Erin Hankins seconded.

- v. *With a vote of 17 yes, 3 no, and 1 abstention, Senate resolution SS0506-29 was passed at 7:08 p.m.*

VII. NEW BUSINESS

D. SS0506-32: Amendment to enable proportional voting

- i. Dan Bowen said that he hoped his language is clear. We are a student union, and that doesn't mean representation like the US Senate. Proportional voting isn't democratic. It makes it possible for the tyranny of the minority. He did some research about how smaller dorms can team up against the majority. Right now, each senator gets 3.5% of the vote, but Blake Jackson represents 15% of student body. Setting up a House of Representatives isn't really feasible. It is up to students to experiment with the democratic process.
- ii. Pat Knapp moved to vote; there was no second.
- iii. Nick Guzman said that this is a serious amendment. This is an important issue. He asked why there is a cap on the numbers for off campus representation. Dan Bowen explained that when you do the math, the number of off campus votes is ridiculous. He suggested possibly looking at more than one off campus Senator. Suj Pandya said that this would create a power disparity. This might create a tyranny of the majority. This would emphasize population over power. This isn't what the framers wanted. It is inconsistent to cap the number of off campus votes. Dan said that the population issue is just part of democracy. Ben Gunty said that the fundamental problem is the possibility of the abuse of power. It would make more sense to give more Senators to a bigger dorm. To put all of the power into one person would be wrong. Dan explained that that is the experimental aspect of it. Carol Hendrickson said that it is a cool amendment and would be ideal, but senators aren't really voted in on because of issues. Pat Knapp asked if Dan read the discussions of when this constitution was

drafted. Dan said that he hadn't, but asked if it parallels the arguments between the federalists and the anti-federalists. Pat said that this was discussed and the point was to be a union and not a democratic government. Our responsibility is to represent our dorm, but not our only one. Pat Knapp moved to vote; Dan Mannion seconded.

- iv. *With a vote of 3 yes, 17 no and 2 abstentions, Senate resolution SS0506-32 did not pass at 7:15 p.m.*

E. SS0506-33: Resolution creating Senate terminology in honor of David Thaxton

- v. Dan Bowen explained that this is simply in memory of David Thaxton. It comes from his need for a term to explain the situation.
- vi. Lizzi Shappell read the following statement from Rob Lindley: "For approximately five months, David Thaxton honorably served the student body of the University of Notre Dame as the Senator of Stanford Hall. Over the course of that time, David showed his loyalty and devotion to Our Lady's University, as an ever-present figure on the Student Senate. David was a person who you could always turn to, someone who you could count on to be there at any time...And then Mr. Thaxton went to Spain. Neglecting to resign from his office, we took steps to see that the position was removed from David and given to another. However, was this truly the most ethical thing to do? A lone senator, one Daniel Bowen of Dillon Hall, and my own hindsight have persuaded me into believing this was not the case. David Thaxton is a student, a former senator, and a human being. But most importantly, David Thaxton is abroad right now. He can't be expected to speak for himself, and we should not have to speak for him. Therefore, designating the term "Thaxtoned" for impeachment due to going abroad is not only ethical, but necessary if we ever want to make up for wronging our colleague. How would feel if you got kicked out of office for not following protocol? Pretty awful, I imagine. Therefore, I strongly encourage each and every one of you to vote in favor of this resolution. A vote for this resolution is a vote for David. No, he won't be put back in office, but I think he'll appreciate it just the same. I know I would."
- vii. Brenna Doyle moved to vote; Liz Brown seconded.
- viii. *Senate resolution SS0506-33 passed unanimously at 7:25 p.m.*

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Sarah Liu said that there are Stand Against Hate t-shirts to be worn tomorrow.
- B. Drew Beatty announced that it is Alumni's Wake Week next week and he will have information about the forum next week.
- C. Jim Grace said that he harbors no ill-will toward Dan Bowen or Dillon Hall for his attempted political assassination of Carroll Hall.

- D. Jason Zgrabik voiced a grievance about the new clock. It is difficult to read with the poor lighting in the alcove and greatly hinders his time management.
- E. Nick Guzman asked people to put up the posters for the off campus legal seminar in their dorms.
- F. Dave Baron said that Men Against Violence is for males only. They will be doing a white ribbon campaign for an anti-rape campaign. He asked for the male senator's support.
- G. Matt Walsh said that he won't be here next week (clapping) and it has been a great year.
- H. Mark Seiler said that Matt has been his tag-team member in asinine comments and wanted to publicly thank him.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Steve Tortorello moved to adjourn; Brian Klein seconded. *The March 22, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.* The next meeting will be held on March 29, 2006 in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyce Baumgartner
Student Body Secretary

