

Senate Executive Summary

March 29, 2006

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
- B. Lizzi Shappell led the invocation.
- C. Suj Pandya, Matt Walsh, and Chris Garibaldi were absent.
- D. Rob Lindley moved to approve the minutes; Steve Tortorello seconded. *The minutes from the March 22, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate were approved at 6:12 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President
 - i. Dave said that he did a lot of transitional work this week.
 - ii. He, Matt Walsh, Lizzi Shappell and Aly Baumgartner will be meeting with Dr. Shavers, Bob McQuaid and John Affleck-Graves to talk about a living wage at Notre Dame.
- B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Lizzi Shappell she and Ali met with the director of the YWCA about donations.
 - ii. Last Friday she had a meeting with SARG because they will be helping us with the BOT report.
- C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Liz Kozlow asked everyone to please put up the stall notes.
 - ii. Lou Holtz is speaking on Friday and you need to bring you student ID to get in. The doors open at 6.
- D. Mr. Phillippe Collon, Faculty Senate Liaison
 - i. Phillippe Collon said that they passed a resolution on academic freedom last week.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Chris Harris said that the forum on student-professor relationships has been cancelled.
 - ii. Chris Harris then read a statement.
- B. Committee on Diversity Affairs
 - i. Sarah Liu said that the Stand Against Hate campaign was a success. Conversations and dialogues have been created.
 - ii. They handed out over 600 t-shirts.
- C. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Ali Wishon said that it is SAAW this week. They have had a bunch of wonderful events this week.

- ii. The trees on God Quad have ribbons tied around them to make people think about sexual assault.
 - iii. Must Sex TV is going on tonight in a variety of the dorms.
 - iv. She met with the director of the YWCA. It is an amazing organization. They have been meeting with CARE and Feminist Voice to put together a fundraiser for victims of sexual assault.
- D. Committee on Residence Life
- i. Mark Seiler said that they have been doing college town market research in Knott and McGlenn. They are aiming to put together a survey for a more comprehensive student input.
- E. Committee on University Affairs
- i. Matt Walsh was absent.
- F. Committee on Oversight
- i. Suj Pandya was absent, but left a note saying that outgoing chairs need to complete transition binders.
 - ii. The outgoing chair-person must attend next few meetings of their committee. Anyone who doesn't do this will have to have a meeting in a dark alley with Suj.
- G. Committee on Community Relations
- i. Nick Guzman said that tonight is the legal housing seminar in 126 DeBartolo at 8pm.
 - ii. Nick also announced that the official start of baseball season is April 3.
- H. Ad Hoc Committee on Minority Affairs
- i. Rhea Boyd said that they will have their focus groups on April 8.
 - ii. The Cesar Chavez discussion on Monday went really well.
 - iii. They are working on hanging a picture of Fr. Hesburgh and MLK Jr. in LaFortune.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. SS0506-34: Student Center Report

- i. Mark Seiler said that this was brought earlier and they have fixed it after meeting with some people. It is improved and there is no reason that this shouldn't fly through.
- ii. Pat Knapp said that there are four spaces. Action venues for social spaces that are gender neutral (i.e. bowling area). Dining options: expand nighttime venues and fill restaurant vacancies with local chains. Technology: update it to make it like DeBartolo.
- iii. Christina Lee moved to vote; Libby Hopp seconded.
- iv. *Resolution SS0506-34 passed unanimously at 6:34 p.m.*

B. SS0506-35: Minority Affairs and Diversity Committee Amendment

- i. Lizzi Shappell passed the gavel to Liz Kozlow.
- ii. Rhea Boyd said that this amendment represents the culmination of their goals for the year. She said that last night Dave and Lizzi asked that the amendment be pulled from the agenda. She was adamant that it wasn't

because this amendment recognizes importance of having a place and voice for ethnic minorities in the Student Senate. We need to have this decision made by all of the Senate. Their concern is the overlap between Minority Affairs and Diversity Affairs. They have worked tirelessly to articulate their position and purpose. They have presented themselves to the BOT, are sitting on the President's advisory group on ethnic diversity. There is no confusion of who we are. Leaving it as an ad hoc committee is confusing. Do you value our roll on Senate? This is the first time that we have had a clear voice, and to wait another year would be reprehensible. Until Senate makes it clear what the distinction between the two, it won't get better. Semantics are not an excuse for not making this permanent. Permanency shouldn't be contingent on successes and failures. We represent 20% of students. We need one clear voice and committee. Identities as people and purposes are distinct. They complement but do not have the same agenda as the Diversity Committee. There is no guarantee that from a year from now that we will get a permanent committee. No structure should limit the voice of minority students. This will marginalize their concerns.

- iii. Lisa Rauh asked if an ad hoc committee lacks any powers. Dave Baron said that it would not. Christina Lee asked if the Diversity Affairs Committee (DAC) has been asked about this. Rhea said that on Friday they were. She added that ad hoc lacks permanency. Sarah Liu said that they did work on this together. They didn't really talk about the confusion of the name until Monday. A lot of administrators have questions about names. There is some confusion in her experience. There is a lot of overlapping in the issues that we work on. A clear name about who we are is important before we make any changes in the constitution. Jim Grace asked why, in the transition area, did they take out ethic committee. Dave explained that because it is in Judicial Council now and not Student Senate.
- iv. Brian Klein said that he agrees with the amendment. He would like to amend it. In section five, number 3: the added, starting with "importance to the" "racial and ethnic" minority members; Christina Lee seconded.
The amendment was passed at 6:47 p.m.
- v. Dave Baron said that Lizzi, Sarah and Rhea and he put together the language. His concerns were made. He is offended with the accusation these issues haven't been at the forefront of everything he's done. He has been supportive of making minority voices being heard—that's why he created MAC. He wants to get it right and make it efficient. There is some overlap. He doesn't think that we have the right answer right now. The name is important because that is what people see. There is no other committee that has their specific goals and roles delineated. He is not against this committee. He wants to make sure that 10 years from now and have it not make sense. We have an idea of what it means, but a lot of people don't. He wants to make it permanent and clear. To say we shouldn't be thinking about diversity when talking about MAC is wrong,

we are all part of one student union. The problem isn't the issue, but it is the structure. Lizzi Shappell said that she is also offended with implications that she is not concerned. Before she leaves here there will be a permanent means for minority voice in student government. Last week, she had people interested in race issues and they thought that would fall under diversity committee. We need to ensure better collaboration and cooperation. She is trying things differently to see where we go. Answer may come quickly. Need to do research, look at ideas. Her responsibility is for the most productive structure. This is not merit based, but is completely structural. This delineation of power it is not the most efficient. Rhea said that the committees need to be separate because the issues are so distinct. If you spell out where the difference are. Could be overcome by better communication. Wants to make sure that she has done everything in her power to make sure that there is permanence. Nick Guzman said that he sees both perspectives. MAC has done great work this year. The problem doesn't lie in MAC, the confusion comes in with the diversity committee. Need to look at role of diversity committee. Dave and Lizzi have seen these goals as important and this issue was why Dave became president. He has a problem with MAC name because it perpetuates stereotypes. MAC should become permanent a bit later. We have time to still look at this. Understands the ad hoc thing. The more we look into it, the better solution we can get. MAC is necessary, but just need to look into it. Jim Grace said that looking at section 5, the other committees have short descriptions. He doesn't want to outline/mandate certain things that the MAC should do. Leave it open. Sarah said that the diversity committee is not trying to gang up on MAC. They have shared our frustration with working on these issues. It is a bad idea to divide the committees based on issues, because of the overlap. Need to work together. Agrees that diversity committee doesn't have a clear goal. These two committees go hand in hand and you can't talk about one without the other. Pat Knapp said that not including this right now is the best idea. Doesn't hurt to take more time to work on this. Lisa Rauh said that she sat on the diversity committee and it was very confusing. Rhea said that she didn't mean to offend anyone with her comments. Her concern is that at the meeting last night it seemed as if the priority given to minority issues were compromised. What is the difference today and five days or two months from now? You can still change things later even if you make MAC permanent today. Steve Tortorello said that the way to go about this is to pass it and go back, but it is like we are writing them in pencil planning to go back and change things again. If we are going to revise things, we should do it all at once, like a band-aid. The answer should come from a small group hammering out the issue and semantics. Steve moved to send it back to committee; Drew Beatty seconded. *With a vote of 5 yes, 13 no, and 8 abstentions, the resolution was not sent back to committee at 7:08 p.m.*

- vi. Brian Klein said that this supercedes semantics. He feels that there is an imperative to deal with this in your time. Liz Brown said that everyone is pretty rushed right now. She can guarantee that as a part of next year's administration, this will continue as an issue. There is so much confusion right now. We will have time to sit down and talk it out and really look at what the best options are. Not just to ensure that minority students have a voice, but also that diversity issues are taken care of. Sarah said that, as an Asian student, she is concerned about this. MAC won't just continue to hang. After a year of working with this, they haven't done anything that they could have to solve this problem. Mariana Montes said that she is really torn. She feels that the issue picks you and not the other way. They were lucky with all of the issues that came up this year. They had a clear goal and driver for success. What the others have said, these issues won't go away. She feels trepidation in saying that this has to be done now. Need to get this down to a fine science. Nick said that he wants to make it clear that he supports MAC. He would be worried that if that doesn't happen today, he would want the current committee members continue to have a say in what happens. Everyone that has had input should continue to have input. We need to continue in the same direction. Rob Lindley said that he has grown weary of amending the constitution on a regular basis. There is something about going in and setting it in stone in the constitution and then changing it later. He feels that the constitution isn't a punching bag to continuously beat on. It should be more permanent and predictable. He knows that this is an important issue for everyone. He asked everyone to have faith and have patience in this administration because this will get accomplished. Christina Lee said that regardless of whether this gets done, minority issues will continue to come up. If we were to change this, we might want to drop last two sentences to leave it open ended and leave flexibility. Christina Lee moved to strike, in section 5, 2, the last sentence; Jim Grace seconded. Steve Tortorello said the he doesn't want to go back. He felt that we have hit a point to where we are going in circles. Liz Brown agreed that taking a sentence out of each of these will not solve anything and we need more time to work on this. Liz Brown moved to vote; Rob Lindley seconded. *With a vote of 5 yes, 19 no, and 3 abstain, the amendment did not pass at 7:22 p.m.*
- vii. Archita Patel said that she is concerned that our voices are heard. It is important to remember that the issues the diversity committee has. This is important to Fr. Jenkins. It will be an important issue. Blake Jackson said that if we vote down this amendment, there is no doubt that this will be taken care of. He drives to California with Dave a lot and they talk about things, like race. He knows Dave's heart and his life. Jim Grace moved to end debate to 7:30 p.m.; Rob Lindley seconded. *A motion to end debate at 7:30 passed at 7:26 p.m.*
- viii. Katie McHugh said that the only issue that she is hung up on is how do you define these things besides the words that are being used.

- ix. *With a vote of 6 yes, 18 no, 2 abstentions, SS0506-35 did not pass at 7:31 p.m.*

C. SS0506-37: Chairmen's Union

- i. Pat Knapp said that this is to ensure that committee chairs don't get abused. It would make Dave Baron the leader of our group.
- ii. Erin Hankins asked if this has been a problem in the past. Dave Baron said that we used to have a service committee.
- iii. Erin Hankins moved previous question; Libby Hopp seconded.
- iv. *Resolution SS0506-37 passed at 7:35 p.m.*

D. SS0506-37: Fuzzy Logic

- i. Pat Knapp said that this recognizes the crowning achievement of Steve Tortorello.
- ii. Brian Klein pointed out that George Bush coined "fuzzy math" as a term, and wondered if that was too close.
- iii. Steve Tortorello said that this is all he has. Ben Gunty pointed out that this could actually go into the constitution.
- iv. Brenna Doyle moved to vote; Lisa Rauh seconded.
- v. *With a vote of 9 yes, 13 no, and 2 abstentions, SS0506-37 did not pass at 7:38 p.m.*

E. SS0506-38: Time Out

- i. Brian Klein moved to end discussion; Erin Hankins seconded.
- ii. *With a vote of 13 yes, 8 no, and 2 abstentions. SS0506-38 was defeated at 7:40 p.m.*

F. SS0506-39: Kickball Domination

- i. Jason "Gloves" Zgrabik said that this is important. He added that our kickball roster tested negative for steroids.
- ii. Lizzi Shappell read a statement by HPC. They told us to plan a dance.
- iii. Gloves said that there wasn't a tryout period, but if you were in the room at the time of conception, you were put on the team. Rob Lindley moved to vote; Jim Grace seconded.
- iv. *With a vote of 15 yes, 2 no, and 2 abstention, SS0506-39 passed at 7:45 p.m.*

G. SS0506-40: Reflecting Pool

- i. Dan Bowen asked people to imagine their grandchildren asking you who the reflecting pool was named after and you not knowing.
- ii. Rob Lindley moved to amend the resolution by scratching "Daniel H. Bowen" and insert "James Grace"; Jim Grace seconded. *The resolution was so amended at 7:48 p.m.*
- iii. Dan Bowen moved to amend it to read "Jim Grace and Dan Bowen; Rob Lindley seconded. *The resolution was so amended.*
- iv. Ben Gunty moved to end discussion; Chris Hollon seconded.
- v. *With a vote of 14 yes, 3 no and 5 abstentions, SS0506-40 passed at 7:50 p.m.*

H. SS0506-41: The Daniel H. Bowen Award

- i. Dan Bowen said that if you are is friend, you will vote yes.
- ii. Rob Lindley moved to end discussion; Erin Hankins seconded.

- iii. With a vote of 11 yes, 6 no, and 6 abstention, SS0506-41 passed at 7:52 p.m.

I. SS0506-42: Zahm House Resolution

- i. Mark Seiler said that you guys have seen this before. This is the most important thing he is concerned with. "House" has a warmer connotation than the word "hall". House evokes images of a place where you life, family and memories are. That is why they need to vote for Zahm House.
- ii. Brian Klein moved to end discussion; Lisa Rauh seconded.
- iii. *With a vote of 13 yes, 8 no, SS0506-42 was defeated at 7:56 p.m.*

J. SS0506-43: George Costanza

- i. Brian Klein moved to end debate; Libby Hopp seconded.
- ii. *With a vote of 8 yes, 5 no, and 5 abstentions, SS0506-43 was defeated at 7:57 p.m.*

K. SS0506-44: Jurassic Proposal for the College of Science

- i. Dan Bowen read a statement timed to the theme song from Jurassic Park.
- ii. *With a vote of 18 yes, 2 no, SS0506-44 passed at 8 p.m.*

L. SS0506-45: Fr. Jenkins Nickname

- i. Erin Hankins moved previous question; Brian Klein seconded.
- ii. *With a vote of 8 yes, 10 no, and 2 abstentions, SS0506-45 was defeated at 8:01 p.m.*

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Jason Zgrabik loves us all.
- B. Liz Brown asked that everyone check their mail boxes before turnover.
- C. Mark Seiler: "long live Zahm house."

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Rob Lindley moved to adjourn; Steve Tortorello seconded. *The March 29, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 8:03 p.m*

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyce Baumgartner
Student Body Secretary

