

Notre Dame Student Senate
Executive Summary
April 7, 2004
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Karla Bell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. Chaplain Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- c. Emmie Callund and Agus Galmarini were absent.
- d. The new Senators were given the oath of office, presented by Judicial Council President, Brin Anderson.

II. PODIUM

- a. Joe Dickman: Gay/Straight Alliance
 - i. Joe presented his plea to the outgoing Senate last week and brought an open letter from the Gay/Straight Alliance that was voted upon and endorsed by the Senate. He explained the mission of the club, and the plan of acting for the group from this point. Now, they are asking for signatures from around campus to eradicate this "outright discrimination" of gay and lesbian students. Joe asked the Senators to take the sign up sheets back to their dorms and ask people to sign their show of support. He will be back in two weeks to collect all the signatures. Cheri Smith asked if the faculty and staff could be involved. Joe said that anyone was welcome to sign the list. He will also speak with the Faculty Senate. Mike McGinley asked about the group's mission, since it is deemed controversial. Joe explained that their club is not incorporated, so they do not have an official mission; however, they hope to eradicate homophobia and end discrimination on campus. Their club is open to anyone who has these same desires: gay or straight. Liz Kozlow asked if this was the same thing as AllianceND. Joe responded that they were the same petition, and that the website was set up by his group to get more people involved.
- b. CLC/COR Senator Information
 - i. Karla Bell informed the Senators of two extra committees that they could serve on. Lauren Williams, former Senator, presented the information regarding the CLC. Their purpose is to collaborate with members of the Student Union, MSPS, Rectors, faculty, administration and other students to create task forces to examine issue that will be presented to Fr. Poorman in an advisory capacity. She added that it is a good way to work with different levels of the administration.
 - ii. Meg Smith summarized a letter written by former Senator, Dan Zenker describing the Council of Representatives. She noted that they are the leaders of the major Student Union organizations, and work to advise the Student Body President of relevant issues, as well as approve the budget and appointment of positions.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Mr. Adam Istvan, Student Body President
 - i. Adam could not attend the meeting; he wrote a letter in his stead.
- b. Ms. Karla Bell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Karla began by stressing to the Senators the importance of representing their constituency; their dorm. She noted that in voting, they need to take issues

back to their dorms, and see what they feel is best for their interests. That voice can only be expressed in voting and in committee work. She reminds them that they will operate under Parliamentary Procedure, and need to learn the rules that govern that behavior. Included in their packets, Karla pointed out the constitution exert that explains the duties of the Senators, also, a copy of the constitution in its entirety will be emailed to the Senators. In the coming weeks, they will need to create by laws for attendance and tardiness policy. Karla will send around a sign up sheet for committee work. The descriptions are in the exerts. They need to sign up for three committees and rank them. They will only serve on two, unless they sit on CLC or COR, in which case they will serve on one. She then asked for interest in which committee.

James Leito motioned to invert New Business item d to now. Jordan Bongiovanni seconded. The agenda was so inverted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Jeremy Lao, Student Union Constitution

- i. Jeremy reported that the COR finished the constitution, and as it is voted in the powers of amending the constitution is given back to the Senate. He decided not to sign Article V, regarding the programming branch. The dispute was over a programming executive board to plan the calendar. He felt that there were three main problems: bureaucracy, effectiveness and accountability.
- ii. First, Jeremy said that there is a certain parallelism that the offices on both the COR and the programming board, the only difference is that the VPs and second-in-commands are attending the programming board meetings. The COR includes all of these members and the Treasurer, Senators, and Judicial Council president. He believes that COR can and should set the calendar for the student union. Second, Jeremy said that the executive Cabinet was designed to be an advisory board and set the calendar. This did not work in the past because there were no guidelines. That is why in exhibit 2, there are proposed amendments that creates these guidelines for the COR to set the calendar. The COR oversees the collaboration fund. Any student group can apply to this pool of money to get additional funds. This body should know what is going on in the Student Union. Finally, Jeremy pointed out that the top leaders should be responsible for what goes in within their organizations. They should be responsible to set the calendar.
- iii. Jordan Bongiovanni asked what they could do now. Brian Coughlin explained that it is not clear, because Adam Istvan assumes responsibility for the constitution, before the 10 day limit on Presidential signing is concluded. If, by Saturday, no one signs the Article, it will die, and the current Article guiding the programming bodies will stand. There is not much they can do, because Adam is out of town, and the Senators cannot take any action at this point.

V. OFFICER REPORTS (Continued)

a. Mr. Dave Baron, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Dave tried to explain his duties in this new position. He is in charge of communications, the calendar, and cooperation among the committees of Senate.

b. Ms. Cheri Smith, Faculty Senate

- i. Cheri said that someone from Senate will attend the faculty senate, and she will report their meetings to the Senators. Now, they are mainly discussing TCEs. She encourages all of them to attend.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Former Senators presented the transition reports given by their committees. These are available in the Senate packet.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

- a. SS0405-01: Bestowing Emeritus Title Upon Jeremy Lao
 - i. Karla Bell opened the resolution for discussion. Liz Kozlow motioned to approve. Patricia Thomas seconded. *Without opposition, SS0405-01 was approved at 7:05 p.m.*
- b. SS0405-02: Bestowing Emeritus Title Upon Emily Chin
 - i. Karla Bell opened the resolution up for discussion. Josh Pasquesi motioned to approve; Beth Marchal seconded. *Without opposition, SS0405-02 was approved at 7:06 p.m.*
- c. SS0405-03: Bestowing Emeritus Title Upon Patrick Corker
 - i. Karla Bell opened the resolution up for discussion. Alex French motioned to approve; Marie Vervaeke seconded. *Without opposition, SS0405-03 was approved at 7:07 p.m.*

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Brian Coughlin introduced himself as the Senate Student Activities Advisor. He explained his duties. His office is in 315 LaFortune and his telephone number is 1-9314.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Eric Eichler motioned to adjourn; Julie Pearce seconded. *The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.* The next meeting of the Student Union Senate will take place Wednesday, April, 14 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Body Secretary

