

Notre Dame Student Senate
Executive Summary
September 15, 2004
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.
- b. Dave Baron moved to appoint Liz Kozlow chair of the meeting. *Without objection, Liz Kozlow was appointed chair of the September 15, 2004 meeting.*
- c. Dave Baron led the invocation.
- d. Jeff Mullin, Adam Istvan, Karla Bell and Brad Tucker were absent.
- e. Alex French motioned to approve the minutes; Casey Stanton seconded. *The Executive Summary from September 8 was approved at 6:07 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

a. Rock the Vote

- i. Dave Baron introduced the initiative to raise voter awareness. He had fliers for each of the Senators to take to their respective dorms. Dave then introduced Pete Quaranto, chair of the Rock the Vote committee on campus. Pete said that they are trying to increase political engagement and participation on Notre Dame's campus. He wants the student government to get involved somehow. There is way in which their work is tied together with Student government in general; they should realize the power they have. In addition, ND has the fifth highest percentage of students from swing states.
- ii. Pete Quaranto passed out a blue sheet of events that the Rock the Vote committee was helping to put on. They include various voter registration drives, speakers and events. They are open to helping dorms program election-related events to promote dialogue. They are even able to tag a voter registration table to non-election-related programs that go on campus. He appreciates the Senate's participation in this matter.

b. Jordan Bongiovanni

- i. Jordan presented her point of view regarding the behavior of the SUB organization in relation to their constitutional duties. She said that the Senate has the only amendment power and the oversight committee is charged with the protection of the constitution of the student body. This constitution was changed last year, after much deliberation and on March 31, 2004 a new structure and system was put in to place. Since, there has been a violation of this constitution that SUB has been operating under that name, and not the CPC—the new name given in the constitution. Jordan calls the Senate to their responsibility to acknowledge this violation. She would like to investigate how and why this happened. Although we are all still learning under this new constitution, this investigation would give the Senate an opportunity to evaluate its application.

ii. Jordan Bongiovanni then outlined her purpose: to hold an informal meeting with the key players in this situation, as well as some senators to investigate what happened. She feels this is a better method to handling the violation, instead of taking the matter to the Ethics Committee. Jordan noted that she hopes to gain an understanding of where our institutions fell down.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

a. Mr. Dave Baron, Chief Executive Assistant

i. Dave indicated the sheet that contained the flow chart of student government. He noted that this was for the benefit of the Senate, so they would know the construction of each body. Copies of the new constitution are due shortly.

ii. On the back of the flow chart, Dave pointed out the new posters that would be circulating campus regarding the publicity of the new constitution. He feels that students should understand what goes on within the bounds of student government.

b. Mr. Philippe Collon, Faculty Senate

i. Mr. Collon introduced himself as the new Faculty Senate liaison. At the last meeting there was a report from the President, and they set up the standing committees. Some of these include: Off-campus housing concerns, TCE, Relations between students and professors, and bookstore issues—student discounts and problems with The Shirt.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Committee on Academic Affairs

i. Vijay Ramanan noted their additional projects at this time, including: a proposal for change in DART times so that if one semester you received a spot on the first day, then the next semester, you automatically received a spot on the second day. This is to eliminate the randomness that sometimes hurts students. They are also working on getting textbook lists published early so that books can be bought at another time, and students could get their books at other places than the bookstore.

b. Committee on Diversity Affairs

i. Nick Coleman said that the ISSA, MSPS and SAO are working to create a Diversity Commissioners training night in two weeks to be held at Coleman Morse. Next week, they will present a non-discrimination clause to the Constitution.

c. Committee on Gender Relations

i. Lizzi Shappel noted they booked “Sex Signals” to perform on campus either November 11 or 18. They are still working on the details. The GRC week is still going on. They are looking into a training program to train nurses on using rape kits, and improvements that can be made in the Counseling Center.

d. Committee on Residence Life

i. James Leito presented that they are trying to get Napster on campus. In the Dining halls, they are gathering information on Flex 10 option, guest meals and the \$2 fee. Also, the group is trying to get payment for course packets on student account. With the cable in the dorms, it could happen in the next 5 years, so they are investigating how to speed that process. When speaking with the Vending department, James found that the increased cost of laundry was due to inflation, costs of machines. He is looking for more concrete evidence, and possibly financial records.

e. Committee on University Affairs

i. Katie Boyle stated that they are looking into rector evaluations, and will interview both rectors and students to get information. Also, they are looking into getting printers back into the dorms. The restrictions on bandwidth are the University's way of preventing students from illegally downloading movies and music. Currently, they are working to get Fair Trade Bananas in the dining halls. Katie noted they will look into the University getting exclusive licensing for hats. This means the price will go up about \$15, so they are trying to find out the details as it pertains to students.

f. Committee on Oversight

i. Liz Kozlow mentioned they had updated the absence policy to be presented next week.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Liz Loo yielded the floor to Dan Zenker. Dan, a former Senator, added to what Jordan Bongiovanni presented earlier. He feels that the Senators should get involved in this investigation and attend the informal meeting. Dan noted that they want to move into the future, but they have to understand what happened in the past. Josh Pasquesi said that he failed to see the point in this. It seems that they are making a big deal out of nothing. This type of personal investigation will not help to fight student apathy. Jordan retorted that there should be consequences when you do something against the constitution. She doesn't know what really happened, and agrees that the Senate should concentrate on students. That is why the meeting will be informal. Josh reiterated that he wasn't sure what they would gain from this. Jordan said that she hoped to gain an understanding, how this happened, and how to fix it. Mike McGinley wanted to make sure there was a way for this to be done without publicizing it. It also feels that they are pigeon-holing Jimmy Flaherty, and make him look guilty, even if he is not. There are many issues that came into play regarding this change. There was understandably a lot of confusion at the end of last year. They don't want to make any assumptions before this meeting. James Leito said that he doesn't want to publicize this at all. It is just an informal meeting to find what happened and what didn't happen. He agrees with this investigation.

b. Jordan Bongiovanni added that she recognizes that she could be seen as an attacker, but this is not about assigning blame. She could have called to close this meeting, but didn't because it was something that they needed to handle. James Leito yielded the floor to Dan Zenker. Dan said that they are not trying to put blame. There was apparently a misunderstanding and they are trying to see what happened to fix it and move on. Jordan asked for the opinion of the advisor, Brian Coughlin. Brian said that it is up to the Senate if they want to do this. NO one is obligated to this point. It is your right

to investigate what happened. Vijay Ramanan stated that they are not going to get anything out of this investigation. It parallels the long-standing problem is an order is given, even if it is a bad order, do you follow it? He doesn't want to spend too much time on this question. Jordan noted that she didn't want to write a resolution out of this, just to get an understanding. Transition is the hardest part of the job and this investigation might help that process. Josh Pasquesi concluded, saying, he sees this going down the wrong road. It will cause friction between groups. They need to make sure it is handled correctly.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Marie Vervaeke: McGlenn Organ Donor Awareness Week. Tuesday—8:30 Speaker in the 24 hour lounge. Thursday 8:00—Rosary at Grotto.
- b. Sheldon Dutes: North Quad BBQ and Game Watch. They are selling t-shirts
- c. Steve Cartwright: Keough Chariot Race Saturday 11:00 a.m.
- d. Liz Loo: 7-9 tonight North Quad voter registration drive
- e. Agus Galmarini: Legends Game Watch Saturday

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Julie Pearce motioned to adjourn; Dihan Fernando seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place Wednesday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Body Secretary