

Notre Dame Student Senate
Executive Summary
October 13, 2004
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Karla Bell called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- b. Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- c. Sheldon Dutes, Ryan Brennan, Jeff Mullin, Mike McGinley, and Sarah Bates were absent.
- d. Josh Pasquesi motioned to approve the minutes; Julie Pearce seconded. The Executive Summary of October 6, 2004 was approved at 6:06 p.m.
- e. Jordan Bongiovanni motioned to invert the agenda and make Old Business item regarding TCE letters before Officer Reports. Casey Stanton seconded. *Without objection, the agenda was so inverted at 6:07 p.m.*

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. TCE Letter
 - i. Karla Bell opened the letter up to discussion. Adam Istvan began by saying that he was disappointed in the way that this happened. He personally did not see this before it was sent to the administration and before the Senate approved it. He understands that a dialogue existed, but if it is something promoted by the office of the President, he needs to review it. Vijay Ramanan stated that he spoke with the provost and knew the process would take a long time. He didn't think that it would have to be approved. It is just a proposal to see what corrections need to be made. He added that it should not say "office of the Student Body President", and Vijay apologized for that. However, Vijay then said that if the students do not think it is a good idea, they will still continue dialogue. They started it now to get the discussion going. Vijay wanted opinion of the senate; this is not official.
 - ii. Jeremy Lao then stated that they did allow him to work under the Office of the President on this project, and it was given to him with almost total control. This is the culmination of 3 years work, and not thrown together just now. This is the summation of years of discussions and illustrates the new bargaining point.
 - iii. Liz Loo voiced her concern about students taking the time to fill this section out. If they knew it directly affected this process, then they would participate. She suggests that they mark the form to indicate the service provided upon completion. There was some discussion about the time that Vijay sent the letter to the administration. It was concluded that the approval from Senate would make the case stronger, and was not a formal approval that was mandated to take place. Adam Istvan then indicated that he

fully supports this proposal, and said that he may have presented himself too harshly.

- iv. Jordan Bongiovanni motioned to vote. Neal Kumar seconded. *The senate then moved into voting procedure: Without opposition, the letter was approved at 6:16 p.m.*

III. OFFICER REPORTS

a. Mr. Adam Istvan, Student Body President

- i. Adam reported that the Board of Trustees went well. They were receptive to the idea of off campus safety, but had concerns about the bus. Now it is up to them to rehash the plan and give more work for the bus to be instituted. He encouraged the committees for the work they had already accomplished, as that was noted at the Report by the Trustees. NDSP is already working out a plan for off campus safety. It was such a successful meeting that it set them up for the next Report. Everything is now in motion.
- ii. Brendan McHugh asked what the specific concerns were. Adam outlined a few of them; how to deal with underage drinking on the bus, liability incurred for the bus company, locations for bus drop off and their safety, and that students don't use the transportation for party hopping. Adam noted that they are already researching different avenues to address these problems. Some are that they make sure students know the rules and are responsible for them, stops downtown are pick-up only, hours are pushed back, and there is a possibility of having a paid monitor trained by campus security in these situations. They will come to senate in a few weeks to present a more finalized plan.

b. Mr. Dave Baron, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Dave said that he sent out an email for students to get involved in student government and committee assignments will be coming soon. He will also set up a new committee on communications so that they can be pollers and maybe poster-putter-uppers. They will convene after fall break. He wants to make sure that everyone has a place to get involved.

c. Mr. Philippe Colon, Faculty Senate

- i. Philippe noted their letter of support to Fr. Malloy regarding Tariq Ramadan. They feel that it is the business of the University to have controversial professors. He informed the Faculty Senate of the letter about TCEs. At the November 2 meeting they will discuss this further. They also discussed students that were not insured by the University in "tough sports".

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Vijay Ramanan reported that they are working on quality advising, compiling information of different majors—required classes, professors and contacts. They have divided duties on these projects. The TCE proposal will at least get some web page and will maybe be the location for this major information. He is also beginning the work for Spring Majors Night.
- b. Committee on Diversity Affairs
 - i. Nick Coleman state that they are making plans for Diversity and GOBT week. They have lined up some speakers and are trying to integrate relative topics into those weeks' Theology on Tap sessions. He would also like to bring together a concert with all the multicultural music groups on campus.
- c. Committee on Gender Relations
 - i. Lizzi Shappell noted they went to HPC to present their "Must Sex TV" program, but there was no response. She asked the Senators to go back to their hall presidents to bring this creative presentation to the dorms.
- d. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. James Leito presented that they will have survey for Dining Halls for next meeting that is approved by the Psychology Department.
- e. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Katie Boyle said that some of their projects have hit a dead end. The bandwidth does not seem to be a huge problem, and there is little they can do about Rector equality. Now, she asked the Senators to keep emailing Stephanie about the Counseling Center. They are trying to develop an ad campaign for helpful information and whom to call.
- f. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Liz Kozlow said they are working on transition procedure to make sure the constitution is followed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Dave Baron brought up a discussion he had with Jason Laws regarding the water quality and how it seemed unhealthy all across campus. Sujal Pandya commented that he ran a water project last year, and they received information that the water was safe. But, there was a report from the local power plant, and that could be the starting point. Adam Istvan pointed out that the sewage covers around campus are incorrectly covered as well. This might serve as a new project for University affairs.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. James Leito motioned to adjourn; Lizzi Shappell seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m. The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place Wednesday, October 27, 2004 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Body Secretary