

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

November 10, 2004

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Liz Kozlow called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- c. Eric Eichler, Stephanie Pelligra, Brian Coughlin, Karla Bell, and Brendan Barrett were absent.
- d. Josh Pasquesi motioned to approve the minutes; Alex French seconded.
The Executive Summary of November 3, 2004 was approved at 6:07 p.m.

II. PODIUM

- a. The PILLARS Group made a presentation on BAC cards.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Mr. Adam Istvan, Student Body President
 - i. Adam noted that he met with Bill Kirk regarding the Off campus safety seminar. They spoke about who should get involved in the seminar; NDSP, ORLH, SBPD and landlords should attend, as well as anyone else who can help students. This includes gas and electric representatives, internet suppliers and other vendors that would help off campus students. He is hoping that they can hold the event in the JACC in the beginning of September. Adam will create an ad hoc committee to get involved.
 - ii. James Leito asked if this meeting would be necessary. Adam said that he wanted it to be as appealing as possible. This issue is still to be debated. Jordan Bongiovanni pointed out that an alcohol awareness program for clubs and bars and against drinking and driving would be a good thing to have at this seminar. Sarah Bates noted that they gave bags to some off campus students that had information from PILLARS, but not everyone got these. She thought they would be helpful, and this seminar would be a great place to give them out.
- b. Mr. Dave Baron, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Dave noted that he is working on the Programming endowment. He drafted a letter to Fr. Poorman. Each of the Senators should have the constitutional publicity posters that they need to hang in their dorms. In addition, the communications committee will be compiling surveys on eating options.
- c. Mr. Philippe Colon, Faculty Senate

- i. Mr. Colon stated that the last meeting contained a presentation by Dr. Jacob about promotions and tenure. Also, Vijay Ramanan presented on the TCEs and it was well received.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Vijay Ramanan reported that he and Jeremy Lao met with Dr. Jacobs and will move forward on the TCE issue. He also is working on getting book lists published early.
- b. Committee on Diversity Affairs
 - i. Nick Coleman said that they reviewed the name change of the GBLT week to GLQ—representing Gay, Lesbian and Questioning students. They discussed the possibility of sustained dialogue that week talking about these kinds of issues. As far as Diversity week, they are working to get a banner for outside the dining halls for that week as well. Nick noted that they will also focus on religious diversity.
- c. Committee on Gender Affairs
 - i. Lizzi Shappell stated that Sexual Assault Awareness week was next week, and they have 100% participation for Must Sex TV. She thanked the Senators for their cooperation. This will be presented Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the dorms. On Thursday, at 9 p.m. the Sex Signals show will be performed in the Decio Theater of the PAC. Until then, she will be ‘postering’ the campus to promote these events.
- d. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Katie Boyle reported for Sarah Bates that they have the dining hall surveys, and with the help of the communications department will compile the information and submit this to food services. The committee also hopes to have a resolution regarding student discounts at the bookstore.
- e. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Katie Boyle noted the resolution on the floor tonight regarding basketball ticket redistribution in the dorms. Dihan Fernando is working on getting a student on the Board of Trustees. The University Counseling Center began their awareness campaign. She will also meet with Bill Hoy and the anti-sweatshop task force.
- f. Committee on Oversight
 - i. James Leito said that they were working on transitional binders for committee chairs, but they have more presenting issues to deal with before the elections, as well as some suggestions from COR.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. SS0405-10

- i. James Leito presented the changes reviewed for the Undergrad election section of the Constitution.
 1. 17 b: the committee felt that it was too easy for a write-in candidate to join the running with way fewer signatures required to run. This is in comparison to the standard 700 required for any other candidate. They thought that a fair number was 350 for Student Body Election and 150 for each class.
 2. 18a: just a change in wording
 3. 18 b: the committee thought that there should be no option for abstention in the run-off. It is acceptable in the primary, but once the election gets down to two people, it would be best to vote for one or the other, or not to vote at all. If both candidates get the exact number of votes, it will go to the Senate.
- ii. Adam Istvan spoke to the goal of these changes: the person who gets the most votes should always win. H likes this proposal. But he understands that people like the option for abstention. This makes the run-off a true run-off as well. This needs to be passed before Thanksgiving, so that the Judicial Council and the candidates know the rules. Mike McGinley asked the reason why this option was decided upon, instead of making the plurality win in a run-off James said if that was the case, why do they even have the abstention option, if you just needed the most votes.
- iii. Casey Stanton noted that they want a leader with legitimacy. This forces the students to chooses, as well as adds credibility to the system. Josh Pasquesi agreed with all the changes, but asked why each Senator is given a choice, and they do not follow the dorm tally. Casey said that the Senators have some trust and an obligation to fulfill their duty as an elected official. Adam added that they are more familiar with Student Government. It was stressed that only when the numbers are exactly equal for both candidates in a run-off would the vote go to the Senate. Sujal Pandya spoke to the legitimacy of the process. Many abstain to hijack the process, and these changes make people face a choice. Vijay Ramanan said that an abstain vote means something—he doesn't dislike the changes, but points to some possible complaints. James Leito said that he didn't know hwy people abstain, but they like it. In the run-off, though, you have to choose. They tried to find the best and easiest way to do that. He then asked where they go from here, if they want to get anything done.
- iv. There was some discussion as to the election results from last year. Vijay Ramanan suggested a one year moratorium on the

implementation of these changes. It was further emphasized that it *would only go to Senate if the actual number of votes was exactly the same for the two candidates* (emphasis added).

b. SS0405-11

- i. Mike McGinley presented the resolution regarding basketball ticket exchanges within the dorms. He would like to pass this today and get the tickets moving into the hands of student that want to go to games. He is meeting with the man in charge of ticketing to get more student tickets, but for now, this is the first step. Sujal Pandya motioned to suspend the rules and vote; Jordan Bongiovanni seconded. *Without objection, the rules were suspended at 6:51.* Vijay Ramanan raised an objection—he knows how hard everyone had worked with this, but he is not sure it is the best solution. It might seem that student government people are inserting themselves into the lives of the dorm. Mike said that it was not a requirement, but a recommendation. This is a model to follow, not mandatory. Josh Pasquesi asked PQ; Patricia Thomas seconded. *Without opposition, SS0405-11 was passed at 6:57 p.m.*

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Jordan Bongiovanni motioned to adjourn; Dihan Fernando seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m. The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place Wednesday November 17, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Body Secretary