

# Notre Dame Student Senate

## Executive Summary

April 2, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

### I. Opening Business

- a. Chairman, Jeremy Lao, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.
- b. Chaplin, Mike Anderson, led the invocation.
- c. David Osburn and Andrew Sandstrum were absent. Alumni Senator and Off Campus Senator have not yet been chosen.

### II. Officer Reports

- a. Mr. Pat Hallahan, Student Body President
  - i. Pat Hallahan commented that he has been very busy lately. He recently met with Fr. Poorman, Vice President for Student Affairs, and will meet with Executive Cabinet tomorrow, April 3, 2003. If there are any questions, come to the Student Government Office and he will do his best to help answer them.
- b. Mr. Jeremy Lao, Student Body Vice President
  - i. Jeremy Lao reminded all Senators to sign up today for a minimum of two committees. Committees include: Academics, Diversity, Gender Relations, University Affairs, Residence Life, Oversight, and Ethics. Senators may not sign up for Ethics. There will be a drawing next meeting to place members on the Ethics Committee. He also reminded everyone to be mindful of the new attendance policy that was administered last year. **The attendance policy allots a maximum of 5 absences;** on the fourth absence there will be a warning and on the fifth absence the Ethics committee will meet and discuss removal of the Senator. There is also a **mandatory Celebrating Diversity Workshop for all Senators on April 13 from 9:00-2:00 p.m.** If anyone unable to attend, see Jeremy; there may be another workshop next semester. Also, check the Senator list serve two days prior to each meeting to view the agenda. Everyone also received a binder, use it as you wish.
- c. Ms. Emily Chin, Chief of Staff, Office of Student Body President
  - i. Emily Chin reported that yesterday was the first Office of the President transitioning meeting. It went very well. She welcomes everyone to the Senate and looks forward to working with every person.
- d. Mr. Wyatt Maxwell, Hall President's Council Liaison
  - i. Wyatt Maxwell welcomed all the new members to Senate. He is looking forward to a great year.
- e. Lindsey Evans, St. Mary's Representative
  - i. Lindsey Evans, welcomes everyone to Senate and is glad to be back. This Friday St. Mary's is hosting Irish Belles Girls Night Out. It is from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune. It is open to all St. Mary's and Notre Dame women.

### III. Committee Reports/Transition Packets

*Senators: Look at the transition packet for each committee*

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
  - i. Jeremy Lao congratulated everyone for becoming a part of Senate. "It's lots of fun!!" He emphasized that Notre Dame is going through a transition period. There are a lot of changes and a lot more diverse students applying and being accepted into the University. The next few years are critical to the direction Notre Dame is taking. This is a great time to be involved and have a voice. He also reported that the Committee on Academic Affairs will be focusing of intellectual life and problems at Notre Dame. Many of the committee's projects will be long term goals; for example getting TCE's made public. Other projects included in the committee's packet were Distant Learning, First Year

Advising, Advanced Placement Credits, Publishing TCE's, ROTC Minor, Graduation, Economics Department Split, Honor Code, and Contact with OIT. Some of the goals they hope to accomplish are having credits recognized from the AICE exam program, making graduation more personalized, and revamping the computer classes offered by OIT.

b. Committee on Diversity Affairs

- i. Courtney Kohout reported that the Committee on Diversity Affairs will be going shopping for supplies very soon. She referred to the committee as a gateway drug. It is not harmful but it is addicting and it opens many doors. Although the committee does not pass a lot of resolutions it is very important. The committee will be working on improving diversity education and planning diversity workshops, such as the Celebrating Diversity Workshop. The Committee on Diversity Affairs also trains the dorm multicultural commissioners, which serves as a social outreach. The committee also works with the Standing Committee for Gay and Lesbian Student Needs, Outreach, and IFLAG. "Communication is key to this committee." Therefore, it is important to establish interaction with the MSPS, ISSA, and the Office of the President's Diversity Chair. One person from the committee must also serve on the Diversity Council of Notre Dame (DCND) which is made up of the leaders from all the multicultural groups on campus. Courtney will be assisting the new committee members through the fall of next year.

c. Committee on Ethics

- i. Joanna Cornwell informed the members of the Senate that they can not sign up to be part of the Ethics committee. Committee members are randomly selected and this selection will take place at next weeks meeting. The committee only has seven members and meets on an on-needed basis. This past year the Committee on Ethics introduced a new attendance policy because attendance is a necessity, since Senators are representatives to the students in their dorms. Therefore, be mindful when scheduling classes so that meeting times and class times do not conflict. The Committee on Ethics also selects a recipient of the Michael J. Palumbo award. The award recipient is to be kept confidential between the Senate and Nancy Walsh. The actually award will be presented at the Student Government Appreciation day. Also, find a witty way to report "no news" at each meeting; currently she prefers using a Snapple Fact.

d. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Courtney Kohout advised the committee to keep things moving because a lot of projects tend to come about at the end of the school year. Some projects of focus include placing the blue sexual assault posters that are currently in the Residence Hall Bathrooms and outside each RA's door, in all the bathrooms around campus. Work with Bill Kirk, Assistant Vice President for Residence Life, to begin this project. The committee also plans on working with Phil Johnson from the NDSP to improve campus safety; possibly by providing transportation to popular off-campus sites. Also, a parietals resolution to extend weekday parietals until 1 a.m. was passed in the Senate but is still up for debate in CSC.

e. Committee on Oversight

- i. Rick Harris reported the duties and projects of the Committee on Oversight. Some of the duties included keeping the Constitution current through amendments. One amendment passed last year gave students the ability to campaign during elections on the first floor LaFortune only. Rick also suggested looking into the way Student Government operates to find ways to make it more efficient and more representative. During the last term the Oversight Committee passed a resolution that mandated out going Senators stay on committees until the third meeting in the fall to help smooth transition. It is also suggested that the committee meets with the head of SUB to improve the accountability of SUB.

f. Committee on Resident Life

- i. Kevin Conley and Sarah Bates reported the duties and projects of the Resident Life Committee. Kevin stated that the committee deals with all aspects of campus life from changing the alcohol policy to placing a toaster in LaFortune. A few of the committee



members must also meet with the dining hall managers on a regular basis to provide the managers with positive/negative feedback from students. Sarah also mentioned that the committee has recently proposed an inhall dance resolution that will be considered at CLC on April 14<sup>th</sup>. It would be great if everyone could come to show their support. Another plus to being part of the Residence Life Committee is that for the most part, changes being made are visible.

g. Committee on University Affairs

- i. Jake Teske spoke on behalf of the University Affairs Committee. This committee focuses a lot on long term goals that seek to promote an environment that minister to the mind, body and spirit. They worked on many items this year such as the "Stinky Water Report", the LaFortune Report, the implementing of standard laptops, and relations between students and Notre Dame Security.

h. Ad hoc Committee on Faculty-Student Interaction

- i. The goal of this committee is to enhance interaction between students and faculty. Jake Teske reported that the two main projects of this committee are the Yearly Student Senate and Faculty Senate Dinner and Reception that takes place at the beginning of the school year and Hall Fellows. Hall Fellows brings faculty members into the Residence Halls to speak once or twice a semester. It is up to the discretion of the Hall Council to decide if they would like to participate in this event. A letter encouraging the implementation Hall Fellows into each dorm should be sent to the Hall Presidents. Jake encouraged this year's committee to meet with Dr. Hugh R. Page, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, to further discuss Hall Fellows.

#### IV. Podium

a. Mr. Brian Coughlin, Director of Student Activities

- i. Mr. Brian Coughlin will serve as this year's Student Senate Advisor. He is here to give advice and suggestions on how the meeting should be run. He usually does not provide opinions except on procedural matters. He encouraged everyone to have fun while serving on Senate. It is an extracurricular activity and should be enjoyable. He recommended going to Team ND at the beginning of next school year. Try to learn everyone's name because these are the people you will be working with. He advised everyone to **read the transition reports** to that the first few months of school are not spent figuring out what it means to be a senator. We only have ONE year, so use what has already been done to help with your projects. Use the entire year for projects, not the last few weeks. Last year over 35 resolutions were passed, 11 were passed during the last Senate meeting. Administration, faculty and staff, want to meet with students, but students must be informed on the issues occurring. If you have any questions about whom you should talk to or what forms you need, he is happy to help. **His office is 315 LaFortune and his number is 631-9314.**

b. Ms. Katherine Boyle, Workers' Rights

- i. Katherine Boyle welcomes all new members to Senate. She has been working on a project through the Residence Life Committee. She hopes Senate will continue exploring this issue through letters or resolution. She reported the importance of improving working conditions for workers at Notre Dame. From surveys in each dorm, it was found that workers in the Residence Halls appreciate the respect they receive, and the benefits and the amount of sick days allotted. Some problems were that retired workers did not receive replacements, so the number of workers in each hall has decreased while the work load has stayed about the same. Workers feel this has "made them unable to meet the Notre Dame Standard." Also, the time schedules need to be more realistic and include factors that may take longer; for example cleaning up after a party. Workers physical abilities need to be taken into consideration as well; for example some may be unable to shovel snow. Also, staff supervising needs improvement. Many workers will not bring up important issues for fear of losing their job. Workers also disliked assigning them to a dorm for a day; they prefer having one dorm. Other concerns included: better training for new workers, more raise increases, complaint forms should be anonymous.

Workers success is vital to the success of Notre Dame. She encourages this year's members to follow up on this issue. Feel free to contact her at 634-0828 or email her at [kboyle2@nd.edu](mailto:kboyle2@nd.edu). Kevin Conley recognized Kathryn for the amount of time and effort she has spent on this project.

- c. Mr. Pat Hallahan, Student Body President
- i. Pat Hallahan agreed with Bryan Coughlin that this is an exciting time for Notre Dame. The only way to make a difference, however, is with the support of the students. Although at times it may be frustrating do not give up. If there are enough students voicing a concern, administration must listen. The OOP is here for you and wants to help in any way possible. It is our responsibility to look at the world and the community as a whole and to receive input from our fellow classmates on ways to improve current situations. We all have a similar goal, to make Notre Dame and the world better. In order to do so we must **THINK BIG**. We are some of the brightest people with the best resources at our fingertips...make use of this. Some words of encouragement: Do not give up, make friends, and have fun.

## V. New Business

*Jeremy Lao made two changes to the schedule.*

a. Letter of Nomination for Office of the President

- i. Pat Hallahan, Student Body President, introduced nominations for OOP.
- Chief of Staff, Emily Chin*  
Emily is currently a freshman and served as Student Union Secretary. She has attended Executive Cabinet, Student Senate, and Campus Life Council meetings which has allowed her to gain a great deal of knowledge on the working of the Student Union. Her passion and commitment makes her the best choice for this position.
- Academic Delegate, Kate Schlosser*  
Currently Kate is a junior studying in Chile. She has served as the on the Student Union as Senator and was chair person of the Committee on Academic Affairs. She has met with members of the Faculty Senate and Academic Council and has plenty of experience to make a wonderful Academic Delegate.
- Controller, Mario Braz*  
Mario is currently a junior majoring in Economics. He works in the Office of Business Operations at Notre Dame and has worked on the budget reconciliation for the University's Office of Asset Management. He has shown great enthusiasm for the Student Union.
- Secretary, Tiara Nelson*  
Tiara is currently a freshman that has shown great commitment and dedication to the Notre Dame Student Union by representing Walsh Hall on the Freshman Council. Her organizational skills and work ethic serve as a tremendous asset to the Student Union.
- Chaplin, Mike Anderson*  
Mike is currently part of part of Old College. He was highly suggested by last year's Chaplin, Paul Dockery. He has already begun to show his dedication, talent, and commitment though the prayer at the start of this meeting.
- ii. Discussion: There were no questions concerning the nominees or their positions. Voting will take place next week.
- iii. Brin Anderson moved to suspend the rules of voting so that approval could take place today. There were no objections and no discussion. **Motion for approval of all OOP nominees was passed at 6:55 p.m.**
- iv. Bryan Coughlin informed new Senators about what just occurred. Brin asked to suspend the rules, there were no objections, so Jeremy called for an approval. Any time you're confused...object. Many times rules are suspended at meetings like this to allow it to move faster and to allow people to begin their duties.
- b. Letters of Nomination of Judicial Council
- i. *Parliamentarian, James Terilli*



- Danielle Ledesma, Judicial Council President, nominated James. James is a currently a freshman who has two years of experience with Robert's rules of order. He served as parliamentarian for his high school student council for two years and has shown proper skill and dedication.
- ii. Discussion: Megan Hanzlik inquired the responsibilities of parliamentarian. Danielle stated that he/she must know the rules and advise the chairman on these rules during the meeting. If there is conflict on procedure or on the chairman's behavior, address the parliamentarian.
  - iii. Brin Anderson moved to suspend the rules of voting so that approval could take place today. There were no objections and no discussion. **Motion for approval of parliamentarian was passed at 6:59 p.m.**
  - iv. Bryan Coughlin mentioned that some chairmen like to have people second the motion and others ask for objections. If there is an objection then he/she will ask for a second. Jordan Bongiovanni inquired how long the suspension of the rules lasted. Jeremy replied only for the issue at hand.
- c. SS0304-01: Bestowing Emeritus Title Upon Libby Bishop
  - d. SS0304-02: Bestowing Emeritus Title Upon Trip Foley
  - e. SS0304-03: Bestowing Emeritus Title Upon Henry Scott
    - i. Brin Anderson requested the approve of the incoming Senate to bestow the Emeritus Title upon Libby Bishop-Student Body President, Trip Foley-Student Body Vice President, and Henry Scott-Student Body Chief of Staff. Brin stated that they did a good job working on the issues presented before them and this is a way to show our appreciation. Also, disregard the resolution for James J. Foley III on the back of the resolution for Elizabeth D. Bishop. A new sheet for James J. Foley was passed around.
    - ii. Discussion: It was inquired the length of time Henry served as Chief of Staff. Brin answered he served as Chief of Staff for a one and one-half months, but served as Assistant Chief of Staff before becoming Chief of Staff.
    - iii. There were no objections and no further discussion. **Resolutions to bestow the Emeritus Title Upon Libby Bishop, Trip Foley, and Henry Scott were approved in that order at 7:02 p.m.**
    - iv. Jeremy Lao congratulation Senators for passing their first three resolutions.

## VI. Announcements

- a. The Lewis Crush will take place tomorrow, April 3. Everyone is welcome to come.
- b. Wyatt Maxwell informed everyone of Fisher's Regatta that will take place a week from this Saturday. Forms are needed a week from tonight.
- c. Morrissey Highland Games will take place this Saturday on South Quad.
- d. Pat Hallahan warned Senators that next meeting may be long because must discuss the budget. Jeremy will email everyone a copy of the budget. Please look over it. Come with questions.

## VII. Adjournment

- a. Dan Zenker motioned to adjourn. Jack Laskowitz seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 7:09 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Thursday, April 10, 2003 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tiara Nelson*

Tiara Nelson  
Student Union Secretary

