

Notre Dame Executive Cabinet

Executive Summary

April 14, 2003

Foster Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- a. Pat Hallahan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- b. Sarah Blake led the invocation.
- c. Seth O'Donnell motioned to approve the April 7, 2003 and Kathryn Barrett seconded. They were approved at 6:04 p.m.
- d. Jacqueline Ballotta, Meghan Barloco, David Dean, Jay Deimel, Charlie Ebersol, Jazmin Garcia, Tim Lavelle, Matt Smith, and Kim Zigich were absent.
- e. Pat Hallahan introduced Elliot Poindexter as the new 2003-2004 Judicial Council President.

II. Student Senate Update

- a. Jeremy Lao, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Jeremy Lao mentioned that last week Senate chose committee chairs and they are taking more control over their duties and tasks. Also, on Sunday, April 13, 2003 Senate members attended an excellent diversity workshop. He definitely sees growth opportunities from it. This week the Senate will vote on two members to sit on the FMB. Jeremy also asked if anyone had any issues they would like Senate to address.
 - ii. Pat Hallahan added that the issues could include things such as items in the Constitution or items that they could address next year. James Leito mentioned that the Class of 2006 wanted to have non-alcoholic tailgates for at least three games but hopefully all games next year. As of right now they are not allowed and maybe Senate could look into it. James talked to Bryan Coughlin who has a meeting coming up to discuss this topic and James will write a letter that Bryan can present at the meeting. Kathryn Barrett added that the Class of 2005 is looking into that issue as well. Jeremy asked James and Kathryn to get him information when they receive it. He also added that they could present a resolution to Senate if they would like to have Senate's support as well. The next Senate meeting is this Wednesday, April 16, 2003.

III. Student Activities

- a. Peggy Hnatusko
 - i. Peggy Hnatusko informed Executive Cabinet members about the Student Activities Office. It consists of three management areas including: Bryan Coughlin the director, the Media (print and electronic directors) which report to Bryan, and Mary Edgington director of Facilities which oversees Legends, LaFortune, Stepan Center, and Field House Mall. Peggy is the Assistant Programming Director and works with all the social (co-curricular) and leadership programs on campus. Peggy, Bryan, and Mary make up the Senior Student Activities Office.
 - ii. She also encouraged everyone to attend Team ND a leadership program that takes place August 20-22. 250 of the top leaders on campus (including HPC, SUB, OoP, Senate, etc) are invited and about 100 come. They leave at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday to go to Michigan to stay. On Thursday they spend the day on the ropes course-which will be a different course from last year. Last year Fr. Poorman said the mass that night and then the group left the next morning. Pat

Hallahan added that he is a two time veteran and encourages everyone to go. You get to meet other leaders and have fun. Sarah Blake asked where students stay during the trip. Peggy answered that they stay at a church campus retreat facility that is near the ropes course and is run by Mennonites. There will probably be 4-8 people to a room and each room has its own bathroom. It is lots of fun and everyone should receive an invitation by Thursday.

IV. Old Business

a. Officer Reception

- i. Pat Hallahan thanked everyone who attended the Officer's Reception. Nine people from the Officer's Group attended. The OoP will try to put a similar event to this together next semester to help improve student/Administrator relations.

V. New Business

a. In Hall Dance Discussion

- i. Pat Hallahan mentioned that today the CLC (which consists of 9 students, 2 faculty, 6 rectors, and 1 administrator) debated the resolution to put in hall dances back into the dorms with a probationary period. He allowed Emily Chin to elaborate on this issue. Emily added that the past Senate passed a resolution for in hall dances. Today the CLC reviewed the resolution and brought up concerns on space in dorms and student accountability. The Pangborn Rector was concerned with space but Rich Williams, a Faculty Senate Member, thought that students should be granted a probationary period that allows dances because if space is an issue, with enough time students will figure that out on their own. The resolution did fail with a tie of 8 to 8 because a 2/3 vote was needed. It did, however, bring good discussion.
- ii. Jeremy Lao added that the CLC wants to make students more responsible with alcohol consumption. They think that the current dance policy is a good step in that direction because it does kill an aspect of alcohol abuse. Students cannot go up to their rooms to drink and then go back down to the dance. He feels, however, that slapping a rule down about dances may cause more problems. He also thinks it is interesting that they are now using space as an issue when they did not use that argument before. Jeremy suggests finding out from the fire department how many people can fit into the rooms and then finding out how many people usually attend dances to see if this is really a huge issue. Don Norton added that ambulance visits and emergency visits due to dances are down from the past and it could be from in hall dances. Sarah Keefer suggested looking at the ratio of students attending the dances to hospital visits because there may be a higher percent of students going to the hospital now. James Lieto added that the emergency visits cover all incidents not just from in hall dances. Jeremy Lao added that a new law is going to be passed by Congress that protects the identity of students that go to the hospital. Therefore, in the future it is going to be harder to know which students go to the hospital. James Lieto asked if the problem is that there is not enough space. Emily answered that before people would go up and down from their room so there would be about 75 in the room. In the resolution, however, students would have to stay at the dance and some dorms could not hold 200 people in one room. The resolution, however, leaves the option open to those dorms that do have enough room. Kathryn Barrett added that during Cavanaugh dances students were not able to go up and down, did they talk about this? Emily added that the CLC feels that it is too soon to

discuss this issue and that it needs a few years. Pat Hallahan added that the problem with waiting is that in a few years there will not be any students on campus that have experienced in hall dances and therefore they probably will not fight to get them back. By waiting the CLC will win. It is true that some dorms do not have enough space, but other dorms do not have enough people to go to another place. Dorms have enough RA's and security guards to keep people from going up and down. The CLC needs to have faith in students to work together with them. The students want the dances back. Over 3,000 students responded to the referendum and 2,500-2,600 wanted in hall dances. The rectors seem open to having dances back if the right proposal is submitted. Sarah Keefer stated that we should continue to pursue this issue because Executive Cabinet represents the students and if the students want it then we should push for it. She also added that the CLC should not be able to use space as an issue unless a specific area is closed off because otherwise the entire dorm space needs to be considered. Seth O'Donnell said that he is against the limiting rules the resolution would place on students. He went to high school for 4 years and had enough rules; however, if this is the concession needed to allow in hall dances then he thinks it is good. He also thinks that alcohol use is a concern, but there needs to be a compromise- alcohol should not be ban but rather students should drink responsibly. For example, if 5 drinks is binge drinking then students could wear a ribbon that says they will not drink more than 5 drinks. Jeremy said that he would like to see a push towards more vibrant dorm life, like section parties like they use to have with kegs...as long as there is responsible drinking, of course. He thinks that if the administration takes away our privileges more upper classmen will move off campus and tradition will change. Pat added that the administration makes drinking seem evil, but it is the abuse of alcohol that is evil. We can be normal and drink responsibly. Don added that we cannot go back to the way things were because kegs in dorms provide a large amount of alcohol for a small amount of students. He also suggested telling the CLC that we support the alcohol policy but we want to improve the dance issue. If we can prove to the administrators that we can be responsible then he thinks that the administrators will work with us on more issues. He also added that we sign our rights away by coming to a private institution. We will not get everything back but we need to make small steps in that direction. We need a creative approach. Jeremy mentioned that a rectress did point out that having dorm parties showed responsible drinking. Don also added that if dances are in dorms there are more people to watch the students; however, it can still get out of hand. Sarah Blake mentioned that the O'Neil Mardi gras did prove that students are responsible. There were 2 parties per section and no one was sent to the hospital. Pat added that we need to meet the challenge of responsible drinking. Peggy has been working with the dance commissioners who have been creative this year in spending money, but having in hall dances is a tradition that would be terrible to lose. Sarah asked if there is any policy that will decrease price or increase locations of places to hold dances. Peggy said that there are more venues than before, but the past couple of weeks dorms have been having trouble finding venues. There is talk of the continuation of dance funding and Catering and other areas are trying to cut back on their prices. Pat added that \$1,000 will also be provided for this issue and they are looking for another \$1,000. However, if we did have in hall dances this money could be used elsewhere. Seth added that it is good to say that we will be responsible but it is hard to show if they do not give us a chance. Pat hopes that by the end of next year something more will

come about this issue and hopefully students and administrators can compromise.

b. BOT Report Discussion

- i. Pat Hallahan reported that the Board of Trustee Report is given 3 times a year; once in the fall, the winter, and the spring. Libby Bishop and Trip Foley will be giving the BOT Report this May. Jeremy added that the ideas in this report are for LaFortune improvement, Student Government Structure, and something yet to be determined. Pat prefers something a bit more focused because it is a venue which students can bring up bigger issues. His first BOT Report will take place in October during a football weekend. He asked everyone to think of any big issues that the University needs to address because he would like to research them over the summer. These issues can include academic issues, student related issues, or anything. This year they talked of residential life in the dorms and they did an update on the dances. Don suggested improving relations between the ND Security and the students. Pat agreed that we should pursue that idea at some level; however, these reports usually entail things that are pursued at a University level that may go the BOT. Don asked why we go to the BOT. Pat said it is if we feel the University is not listening to students. Don asked if the publishing of TCE's will be included in the report. Pat said that they are already making progress with it, but they are having slight problems with the Faculty Senate. He, Trip, and Jeremy S. did meet with the faculty senate. They are hesitant about publishing TCE's but they do want to do something. They also talked with administration and 5 or 6 of the 8 wanted something done as long as it did not challenge their jobs. Administrators suggested bringing the issue to the academic council since they are the ultimate authority on the issue. Kathryn asked if all the TCE questions would be published. Pat said that they may make a list of 5 of their own questions because some questions such as, Do you think the professor is prepared for class?, professors do not feel students can evaluate this as well as possible other professors. Therefore, the 5 questions would be geared towards teaching style. This will be monitored through the University. Sarah Keefer asked if there would be questions on material taught or only their style. Sarah Blake said some questions they have come up with are about content. Don suggested having questions like did the professor challenge your intellectually capacity, and did you show up to class. He said it is more important to know the quality of instruction because course content could be the same for many professors. Seth reminded everyone to keep in mind that some students hate filling out forms and that by adding an additional form students may slack off on one or the other or both. He suggested putting the two into one form. Someone mentioned, however, that knowing they are being published for others to benefit, they may fill them out more carefully. Don suggested administering them at the beginning of class and giving the students 20-30 minutes to fill them out while the professor leaves the room. This way the students will not rush to fill them out and leave. Then the professor could give a last blow away lecture. Sarah Keefer agreed it was a good idea to regulate but it would be hard. Also, students should not be told which questions are for which survey. Pat said that 18 out of 20 peer schools do something similar to this and hopefully TCE's will get published sometime next year.

c. Church in Africa Conference

- i. Pat Hallahan said that he had a meeting today with the planning committee for the Africa Conference. The people attending are tentative; however, the date is set for Sunday, September 21, 2003 thru Wednesday, September 24, 2003. It

will open on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. with opening remarks followed by a keynote speaker and an overview. Monday and Tuesday there will be small areas of focus from 8:30-10:00, 10:30-12:30, 2:00-3:00, 3:00-5:00, and 8:00-9:30. These areas include International Business and the Renewal of Africa where they want a CEO and Catholic Relief Services to come, International Finance/Economics and International Trade where they want someone from the World Bank or a trade representative from the U.S. to come, and also issues on theology, politics, and health care. There are lots of areas in which many students may be interested. There is another meeting on Wednesday. They do want President Bush and Colon Powell but they do not want the public to know yet, just incase they cannot come. They want it to be a start for further discussion on the troubles of Africa. Hopefully, he'll have more details within the next two weeks and we can find ways to include students. The first conference is based off of a document by the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the troubles of Africa. The first part will be held at Notre Dame and the second conference will be from January 3 thru January 11 in Nigeria. One item of focus is how to involve students more. Pat suggested to the committee to bring 10 students from Nigeria here and send 10 students from Notre Dame to Nigeria. They said 6 would be a better number. A professor that teaches African Politics was interested in sending students from his class. The conference or the University would probably pay for these students. Pat will talk with Campus Ministry, CSC, and Student Affairs to try to get more monetary help. We need to think who we would send. Don asked if we can get Bono to come. Pat said they are hopeful and they feel he would be more interested if they bring students from Africa here because he likes long term things. Pat also said that hopefully not only names but issues will attract people as well. Sarah Keefer mentioned that bringing delegates to Notre Dame will attract student interest. She also suggested talking with the professor teaching the Holocaust class because he took 3 students to Poland. Her roommate went and she will get more information from her. Pat said that there would probably be about \$30,000 in traveling expenses and this is doable. Sarah suggested talking with the BOT. Pat said the issue now is deciding which students get to go and how to select. Kathryn suggested letting 6 Executive Cabinet members go (=). Pat added that faculty may want students from classes to go or students who have done research on these issues. One possible idea is an essay contest. Seth said that the essay idea is good because it gets people thinking about the topic. He also added that the names of the 6 students could be announced at the conference at Notre Dame so that more students would go. Pat added that the conference will probably be heavily covered by media. He added that we should find ways that the students will benefit the most because there will be a limited amount of seats. We may set up rooms where students can watch or gear certain lectures to business students, medical students, etc. Sarah Keefer added that the University of Colorado has a conference on World Affairs every year and maybe they could be contacted to see what speakers they have come. Talk to Pat Hallahan if you are interested in more details.

VI. Announcements

- a. Pat Hallahan reminded everyone that the Service Fund Forms are available in the Student Government Office and are due May 1, 2003. Don Norton added that if groups are doing last minute spending please let him know.
- b. Don Norton also added that he thinks Executive Cabinet needs to address the issue of transition between leadership positions. There needs to be a transition

- period where new members work with officers from the previous term to talk of issues and ideas they were working on. This would benefit many groups.
- c. Don Norton also mentioned his concern with the Observer being absent. He thinks that the members could reserve the right to say we are discussing certain issues and ask the Observer to step outside. He added that we want good student/government relations and this is one way to do that. If we say the highest body to the OoP is closed that is not good. If people do not want to say something in front of the Observer it probably should not be said. Pat Hallahan added that he currently speaks with a member of the Observer Staff (Andrew S.) Pat does prefer the meetings closed because certain issues like the speakers they want to attend to Africa Conference their names cannot be released or issues such as picking a new President for the University at the end of next year. This is an important issue that could affect the University for the next 10-20 years and we may have suggestions on who it should be, but people may not speak up. However, he is open to ideas and will be meeting with the Observer at 7:30 p.m. is anyone wants to come. He has already emailed them the agenda for today so they can ask questions and we may try to give them write ups. Kathryn suggested how we have Peggy time, having Observer time. Pat disliked this idea because if they asked questions, people may answer things that should not be revealed. He currently meets with the Observer to answer questions. Jeremy added that he sat on the Executive Cabinet last year and this year more people are talking more and are more open with ideas without the Observer being here. He feels the benefits out weigh the cons. Pat also added that if students do want to come the meetings are open. Seth added that the Observer never prevented him from saying anything.
- d. Seth O'Donnell mentioned that the Club Recognition will be on Wednesday, April 30, 2003. The reception starts at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. He will get information out to club officers. Also, if you have participated in or gone to a club event and want to nominate a club event, a club officer, a club, or an advisor there will be forms on the Student Activities website.
- e. Sarah Keefer gave an update on the HPC discussion on the nominations of Hall Presidents. They decided that there must be one junior president, one president must remain all year, and there is a limit of 2 presidents per semester. This is because some small dorms cannot find two people who want to be president that will be staying all year. They hope to have this enforced by the end of this semester but they first need to talk to rectors. Elliot Poindexter asked why one must be a junior. Sarah replied because sophomores do not know Notre Dame quite well enough yet. Jeremy added that if it needs to be in the Constitution to keep the rules in place see him.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. by Pat Hallahan. The next Executive Cabinet Meeting will take place Monday, April 28, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Foster Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiara Nelson
Student Union Secretary