

Notre Dame Student Senate

Executive Summary

September 3, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Jeremy Lao called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- b. The invocation was led by Paul Dockery.
- c. Mike Anderson, Jordan Bongiovanni, Lindsey Evans, and Andrew Sandstrum were absent.
- d. Jeremy Lao introduced the new HPC liaison, Andy Vitt. He addressed the first meeting of HPC which discussed beginning of the year events including pep rallies. Next week they will discuss funding for dorm events and help from the Executive Cabinet to help with dorm budgets.
- e. Jeremy Lao explained the replacement of Siegfried Senator, Tom Healy. A second election was held and Jeremy introduced the new Senator, Michael Maus. Michael in turn, introduced himself to the group.

II. PODIUM

- a. Dave Brenner, President of "The Shirt" reported 40,000 shirts were sold through the Bookstore, which is a record number financially. 40,000 more shirts have been ordered; 20,000 for this weekend, as well as 20,000 more for the MSU game. Of the 20,000 coming in tomorrow, 10,000 will be available only for students. Students must bring their ID and there will be a limit on the amount of shirts for each ID. Starts Thursday at five p.m., and will stay open until all the shirts they have are gone. [The bookstore] will also have some live entertainment while students stand in line. Ryan Finlen asked the exact limit. Dave responded that the number has not been officially decided, but he approximates two to four shirts, to keep the numbers down. Dave then asked for the Senate's support because the Shirt has mostly been sold to Alumni; however, it is a student-run project, and the money goes to student organizations and selected charities. Therefore, he would like to see an increase in student participation in purchasing of the Shirt. He concludes with gratitude for the Senate's support and looks forward to the success again for this year.
- b. Kaity Redfield requests that the agenda be inverted so as to move A, B, and C from New Business above Officer Reports. Chairperson Jeremy Lao asked for any objections on the floor. Seeing as there were no objections, the agenda was inverted at 6:11 p.m.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appointment of Assistant Student Union Treasurer (letter #1). Request for Kiran Pillai to replace the former who resigned over the summer. His merits of qualification were stated. He asked for any questions on the floor. There

were no objections for Kiran Pillai's appointment; he was approved at 6:12 p.m.

- b. Appointment of SUB Director of Programming (letter #2). The request that Tai Romero replace the former Director was made by Jeremy Lao. He extolled her work on "the Show", and the events on the quad this week. Jeremy then asked if there were any questions. Seeing as there were no objections for Tai Romero's appointment, she was approved at 6:13 p.m.
- c. Appointment for Student Union Secretary (letter #3). Request for Meg Smith to replace the former secretary. Emily Chin stated her merits for the position and asked for her approval. There were no objections for Meg Smith's appointment; she was approved at 6:14 p.m.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Mr. Pat Hallahan, Student Body President
 - i. Pat Hallahan gave an update regarding the meeting of the Executive Cabinet. An investigation into the organization of the Student Government office conducted during Libby Bishop's term, prompted the Board of Trustees to present many questions. These are to be addressed by the Executive Cabinet this year by developing three committees that will be included in the first BTR for this year. The first, Budget committee, will look at the budget process and financial process in the student union. Second will look at the Constitution and transition, and the third will address collaboration among the different groups. He asks that someone from the oversight committee of Senate be involved in the Constitution and a representative of the FMB attended to the Budget committee because if any proposals are made, they must be approved by the Senate.
 - ii. Pat Hallahan also addressed the rape trial taking place against a Notre Dame student, and he has concern about the way the case was handled. Pat expressed that he was unsure of the level that the University places student interest first. He asks the Student Senate to help in the investigation of the University policy regarding serious offenses in the public realm. Included in his concerns were the recent firings of RAs. He stated that if the Student government was to be examining its own practices, that the University should do the same. If we are to better ourselves, it is only fair that they better themselves in their ability to work with us, Pat charged. He feels that the situation regarding the student was handled in disaccord with the Resident Life goals, and that it makes the University look bad in the process. He would like to see collaboration in this case, and hope to make the necessary corrections. Brin Anderson asked if Pat was looking to have anyone on the board for the collaboration committee. He welcomed any help that came from Senators, but that Student Senate itself would be considered in the collaboration efforts. He concluded by telling anyone interested to see Emily Chin, the chair, after the meeting.

- b. Mr. Jeremy Lao, Student Body Vice-President
 - i. Jeremy Lao addressed September 11 memorial mass in the Basilica. They are looking for people to lead the rosary, lecturers, or Eucharistic ministers.
- c. Ms. Emily Chin, Chief of Staff, Office of Student Body President
 - i. Emily Chin gave an overview of the Office functions. She named the different committees involved and complimented their efforts thus far. At the end of the year, the Office began work on publishing TCEs, which will be discussed at the Academic Advisor meeting. They are establishing an Alumni lecture series with those who visit for committee members. She also promoted the Irish Inquisition, and invited Senate members to attend.
- d. Ms. Lindsey Evans, St. Mary's Representative
 - i. Did not attend the meeting.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs: Jack Laskowitz and Ryan Finlen
 - i. Jack began by addressing their work with the Bookstore: looking to make FlexPoints acceptable in the Café.
 - ii. They are looking into distance learning and seeing what the University is capable of doing.
- b. Committee on Diversity Affairs: Laura Feeney and Lauren Williams
 - i. Laura mentioned their work on a multi-cultural commissioner workshop in September. They are working with MSPS on that topic.
 - ii. They are also discussing new table tents in the dining halls with facts about diversity at Notre Dame.
 - iii. Finally, they are going to be working closely with Dr. Moss, the Vice-President of Student Affairs. He has organized a team called ADAPT. The committee will be working with that program as well.
- c. Committee on Ethics: Molly Griffin and Dave Osburn
 - i. There was nothing to report as they have not held their first meeting.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues: Kaitlyn Redfield
 - i. Working on placing sexual assault posters in all the dorms, as well as all the classroom buildings. Hopefully the revised posters will be out next week.
 - ii. Kaity expressed her desire to establish a stronger contact with the women's resource center and help them make it a more useful resource to students.
 - iii. She told Pat Hallahan that on behalf of the committee, that they would be interested in researching the rape trial and the University's effectiveness in handling it.
- e. Committee on Oversight: Claire Berezowitz
 - i. There are people working on the CLC presentation and there are Senators working on that

- ii. Claire reported that her group was working on a budget resolution that would extend the term of acting Senators in order to pass a budget with people who had more experience.
- f. Committee on Residence Life: Brin Anderson and Jana Lemplotas
 - i. They were unable to meet before this session, but they will be working on a project to be presented next week.
- g. Committee on University Affairs: JR Garcia
 - i. They were unable to meet before this session, but on their list is a discussion about safety—stemming from the problems on campus last year.
 - ii. They will also look at the bussing system for the Notre Dame and St. Mary's campus.
- h. Ad Hoc Committee
 - i. Lauren Williams met with the new committee to discuss faculty lectures within the dorms. She asked for suggestions for speakers.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

- a. University Committee on Libraries: Cheri Smith
 - i. Cheri began by describing the committee; comprised of the Library Director, a few staff librarians, several faculty members, a representative from the graduate school, and a student Senator. The group meets once a month; at 7:30 a.m. Jeremy Lao asked what the mandate of the committee is. She explained that they discuss larger library issues, including budgetary issues. Recently, Cheri continued, the library had a five percent budget cut. They had to make cuts in the journals, which will, in the long run, hurt undergraduate students because the turnaround time on papers is so short, that these students cannot borrow from other libraries. They discuss printing issues and other nuts and bolts things as well; however, most of the discussion will be about the budget.
 - ii. Jeremy asked if there was any immediate interest in the student Senate position. Ryan Finlen volunteered. Seeing as there were no other volunteers, Ryan was appointed Student Senate Libraries representative.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Jack Laskowitz announced the Dillon Pep Rally at 7:00 p.m. in front of Dillon Hall, South Quad.
- b. Dan Zenker mentioned the Keenan Lunch Fest. If you sign up, on Wednesdays, you give up lunch in the dining halls. You can; however, use your FlexPoints and Domer Dollars, but you cannot eat lunch in the dining halls for the whole year. The proceeds go to the fight against world hunger. Seek the dorm representative to sign up.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Dan Zenker motioned to adjourn. Brin Anderson seconded the motion and the meeting was called at 6:30 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, September 10 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Union Secretary

