

## Notre Dame Student Senate

### Executive Summary

September 24, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

#### I. **OPENING BUSINESS**

- a. Chairperson Jeremy Lao called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- b. The invocation was lead by Mike Anderson.
- c. Brian Agganis, Lindsey Evans, Laura Feeney, Meghan Hanzlik, and Sujal Pandya were absent.
- d. Dan Zenker motioned to approve the September 17, 2003 minutes. Jack Laskowitz seconded the motion. The minutes were approved at 6:03 p.m.

#### II. **PODIUM**

- a. Kim Anderson: Teach for America
  - i. This is a post-graduate program, started because of a research paper on the educational inequities present in our domestic economy. It was concluded that where you are born determines many of the education opportunities that you have. To change this, Teach for America was developed. They recruit the top graduates from high-ranking schools to become teachers from all majors and many disciplines. They are asked to commit to two years teaching in an urban or rural school. Each person is hired by the district as a full-salaried, full-benefited employee. There are twenty different sites in the program. Last year, 16,000 people applied and 2,000 were accepted total. From Notre Dame, 85 applied; 25 were accepted. The website is [teachforamerica.org](http://teachforamerica.org). There is an informational meeting tomorrow night in 126 DeBartolo; the regional director will be there to answer questions.
  - b. Jack Laskowitz motioned to invert items A and B from new business before Officer Reports. David Osburn seconded the motion.

#### III. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approval of Undergraduate College Representatives to the University's Academic Council.
    - i. Ryan Finlen reported that the Academic Committee proposed three members to the Council. They recommended one person from the college of business, one from the college of science and one from the college of arts and letters. Each candidate was interviewed, mainly on their position on the publication of TCE reports. The nominees are **Nicole Wykoff, Willa Qian, and Megan McCabe.**
    - ii. Lauren Williams asked if the candidates had seen the TCE resolution, and if that would be something they would be willing to address. Willa responded that they have already reviewed it, and have already made it an agenda item. Lauren followed asking if they would be willing to update the Senate on Academic Council news? Nicole said that the group would not meet again until November, but they would come back after every Academic Council meeting. Dave Osburn asked, if the item is on the agenda, when will it be discussed? Willa said they have no idea; they have only just split into committees. Jack Laskowitz asked if there was a plan for pushing the TCE proposal through the Academic Council. Willa said that the group had many issues with the proposal itself, and the will have to work through those first. Nicole added that the Council agrees that there needs to be a resource for students, but they might need to devise an alternative.
-

- iii. Jack Laskowitz moved to suspend the rules. Dave Osburn seconded the motion. The Senate moved into voting procedure: Without objection, Willa Qian, Nicole Wykoff, and Megan McCabe were approved as the Undergraduate Representatives to the Academic Council at 6:10 p.m.
- b. Letter of Approval of New SUB Programmers
  - i. Charlie Ebersol presented **Christian Palmer** as the recommended person for Director of Operations—which is not a Constitutional sanctioned position, but SUB is changing Director of Relations to this new title. The next nominee is **Bridget Meacham**, recommended for Concert Programmer. Jack Laskowitz asked if both members had to be present to be approved. Peter Terilli said they did not. Ryan Finlen motioned to suspend the rules. Jack Laskowitz seconded. The Senate moved into voting procedure: Without objection, Christian Palmer was approved for Director of Operations and Bridget Meacham was approved for Concert Programmer for SUB at 6:11 p.m.

#### IV. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Mr. Patrick Hallahan, Student Body President
  - i. Pat Hallahan remarked on the Church in Africa Conference. He commended the success of the conference, which ended today. In this meeting, one of the students from Nigeria was present to observe. The work will continue over the semester, and Notre Dame students and faculty will travel to Nigeria in January. He mentioned that we have an obligation to help those who do not have the same opportunities that are not available to others. Pat encourages everyone to get involved in a similar program.
- b. Mr. Jeremy Lao, Student Body Vice-President
  - i. Jeremy Lao reported that there is a new Senator from St. Edward's hall, his name is Mark Gerner. He introduced himself to the rest of the Senate.
  - ii. The office of Student Affairs is creating an Ad Hoc committee on Residence life. Some of their plans include the building of new dorms. This will be a large project over the next five or so years. Jeremy said that if there were any ideas that the group would like to pass on, that he would be serving on this committee and would love to share them with the assembly.
- c. Ms. Emily Chin, Chief of Staff
  - i. Emily thanks the Senate for attending the Irish Inquisition. She asked that the group sends her an e-mail with feedback so that they improve the program.
  - ii. October 4 the Multicultural Fair will take place on North Quad. Over 40 clubs will participate. Tessa Garcia has been working on this, so she asks the Senate to come support the event.
- d. Mr. Andy Vitt, HPC Liaison
  - i. Andy reported that the HPC will be voting on the amendment presented a few weeks ago. He also said that each dorm will receive up to \$1,500 for capital improvements. The women's deadline is October 13, so he invites Senators to talk to their hall presidents regarding this issue.

#### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Ryan Finlen reported that the group had spent the last week interviewing the candidates for the Academic Council. They feel confident in the approved members.
  - ii. They are setting deadlines for new projects including revamping of IrishLink.
- b. Committee on Diversity Affairs
  - i. Lauren Williams said that the multicultural workshop was taking place tonight. The table tents will be coming soon; the issue will be homosexuality for the first set.
- c. Committee on Gender Issues
  - i. Kaity Redfield reported that they found a new price for the Assault Awareness posters. They will meet with Professor Phelps from the Women's resource center to develop their program with Notre Dame.
- d. Committee on Residence Life
  - i. Jana Lamplota said that they were working an online ticket lottery for Alumni. They also discussed SYR facilities issue. They are also forming a Marshmallow Squad to investigate that problem.
- e. Committee on University Affairs
  - i. J.R. Garcia reported that they met with NDSP. They are asking for more student input to better communicate with them. They are going to put out a survey for all the dorms in order to get more feedback. They have set up a meeting with ResLife to review the disciplinary process as well.
- f. Ad Hoc Committee on Student and Faculty Interaction
  - i. Lauren Williams said that the letters to rectors on the Hall Fellows program were sent out Tuesday. The dinner between Student Senate and Faculty Senate is set up for October 16 at 6:30 p.m. in South Dining hall. Invitations will go out this week.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

- a. Resolution SS0304-06, Resolution requesting monthly updates from the Academic Council
  - i. Jack Laskowitz presented the letter requiring the representatives to make reports to the Senate following Academic Council meetings. They hope this will keep the communication strong between Senate and the members.
  - ii. The resolution was moved to the floor for debate. Ryan Finlen proposed to amend the word "monthly" to "as needed" in the proposal. Because this amendment changes the spirit of the resolution, the Senate would have to debate it. Jeremy Lao asked if there was any opposition to changing it. Jordan Bongiovanni felt that even if the larger Academic Council did not meet, that she would like to see the student representatives anyway to discuss their concerns. Brin Anderson stated that it was understandable that they might not have anything to discuss, so she proposed that they report to the Senate following each meeting. Karsten Steinhäuser suggested that the report be within seven days of the Academic Council meeting. Dave Osburn expressed his hope that each undergraduate representative would be talking with other committee members, even when they don't have meetings. Aaron Zielinski stated that the "as needed" clause would not help either party. J.R. Garcia asked if there was a specific time that the Council met. Pat Hallahan responded saying that it was a meeting that fell approximately every five weeks, which corresponded to once every month. They could not be on a regular schedule because the officers have such tight schedules. Jeremy Lao presented the two options: 1) to keep the resolution as written, 2) to change "monthly" to "as needed". The Senate moved into voting procedure. There

were no affirmative votes for the clause "as needed". Jack Laskowitz moved to vote to change "monthly" to "within seven days following each Academic Council meeting." J.R. Garcia seconded the motion. The Senate moved into voting procedure. Without objection, the amendment was made to the proposal.

- iii. Chuck Anthony asked why only TCE updates were on the updates. Jack pointed out that the proposal actually dealt with the status in general. Brin Anderson asked what the purpose of the first paragraph was. Lauren Williams said that it was to establish the original purpose and the Senate's main concern going into this Academic Council year. Aaron Zielinski noted that while the TCE is important to the mission, it is already going to be taken care of, and there needs to be more of a focus on their general purpose. Lauren Williams asked if they were to get rid of the first paragraph, then too should they change the last paragraph. Jack Laskowitz believes that just taking out the first will suffice. Brin Anderson moved the previous question. The motion is put foreword on the floor to eliminate the first paragraph of the proposal. The Senate then moved into voting procedure: Without objection, the resolution was passed, eliminating the first paragraph in the proposal at 6:31 p.m.

#### **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Becca Saunders announced that South Quad night would take place Friday night. They will be showing "Top Gun" on the quad.
- b. Ryan Finlen said that October 8 there will be a joint dinner with St. Mary's Court of Governance following the Senate meeting in the Notre Dame room, LaFortune.
- c. Chuck Anthony noted that October 4 is the Keough Chariot Race.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Brin Anderson motioned to adjourn. Jana Lamplota seconded the motion and the meeting was called at 6:32 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, October 1 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith  
Student Body Secretary