

## Notre Dame Student Senate

### Executive Summary

October 1, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

#### I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Jeremy Lao called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- b. The invocation was lead by Mike Anderson.
- c. Chuck Anthony, Claire Berezowitz, Pat Hallahan and Andrew Sandstrum were absent.
- d. Jack Laskowitz motioned to approve the September 24, 2003 minutes. Karsten Steinhäuser seconded the motion. The executive summary was approved at 6:06 p.m.
- e. Aaron Zielinski motioned to move New Business item A above officer reports. David Osburn seconded.

#### II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Letter of Approval for SUB Controller
  - i. Charlie Ebersol presented the letter to the Senate nominating **Jan Vijayaraghavan** as head controller. He asked them to approve her. Kaity Redfield asked how many controllers and managers that SUB had. Charlie responded that the executive board only consisted of five members, but they had many of their staff leave over the summer. Jeremy Lao asked if there were any questions. Ryan Finlen moved to suspend the rules. Jack Laskowitz seconded. The Senate moved into the approval process: Without objection, Jan Vijayaraghavan was approved as head controller of SUB at 6:09 p.m.

#### III. PODIUM

- a. Charlie Ebersol for SUB
  - i. The Comedy Show presented by David Spade is coming to campus and Charlie agreed to have David Spade shave his head on stage if they sold 3,500 tickets. He is hoping that the Senate will spread the news to their dorm and help promote the event. Ryan Finlen asked how many tickets have already been sold. Charlie said that he had no idea thus far.

#### IV. OFFICER REPORTS

- b. Ms. Emily Chin: Chief of Staff
  - i. This Saturday, from 1-5:00 p.m. the Multi-Cultural fair on North Quad. They will showcase forty different clubs and twenty performances as well as food from the various groups.
- c. Mr. Andy Vitt: HPC Liaison
  - i. They spent much of their time at the last meeting debating the amendment referring to the number of presidents to be allowed for each dorm. It said that there can only be two presidents per semester, with a total number of three if some decide to go abroad. One must be present all year. The amendment did not pass. They will research the issue more, and present another amendment. Jeremy Lao wondered the reason why it was blocked. Morrissey Manor felt that each dorm should have the decision themselves, and not be established by HPC, and this might have changes a few opinions, but they will talk to each dorm, and find out the exact reasons the amendment did not pass. J.R. Garcia asked if every President received a vote,

or if each dorm received one vote. Andy responded in the latter, and added that it was quite possible that the Presidents did not communicate with their dorms regarding the decision, and didn't give much thought to the amendment before that night.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
    - i. Ryan Finlen reported that Chuck Anthony met with OIT to look into changing the class search by time slot for IrishLink. The OIT in the Registrar's Office will not be making any major changes at this point because in a few years, they will change the entire system for registering for classes.
    - ii. Ryan also met with the heads of the Distance Learning Department in OIT to discuss having outside speakers. It seems that this will become available over Teleconferencing.
    - iii. The Graduation Committee will be taking suggestions to the Registrar's office by fall break. They will meet tonight at 9:30 p.m.
  - b. Committee on Diversity Affairs
    - i. Laura Feeney stated that the Diversity Workshop from last week was a success, and they received positive feedback from the participants. The table tents are coming out, and the letters will be presented to the rest of the Senate this evening.
    - ii. In keeping with the Conference on the Church in Africa, their committee will be investigating scholarships for African students. Jeremy Lao asked if these would be merit-based scholarships. Laura stated that the current University policy is that no foreign students get scholarships or financial aid money; the only groups who do are Latino American students. They would like to research this policy to promote more international involvement on campus.
  - c. Committee on Ethics
    - i. Molly Griffin reported that there would be a change in the Diversity Seminar, and she would let those who still needed the training about the changes.
  - d. Committee on Gender Issues
    - i. Kaity Redfield reported that the Sexual Assault Awareness posters have been printed and are ready for distribution in the dorms. Each Senator should post these in the bathrooms of the residence halls, as well as give them to RA's and Rectors within the halls. They are working on a letter to Dr. Moss to pitch their goal in working with the Women's Resource Center.
  - e. Committee on Oversight
    - i. Aaron Zielinski said that they have been working on adjusting the approval process of the budget, so that new Senators would not be burdened with a responsibility with which they had no prior experience. Claire Berezowitz met with Jeremy Staley earlier in the week to discuss the possibility of having the Executive Cabinet approve the new budget for each year. They will have a proposal within the next few weeks.
  - f. Committee on Residence Life
    - i. Jana Lamplota reported that the group had been working on the proposal that is to be brought forward tonight regarding RA training. They also will continue their talks with the Fire Department.
  - g. Committee on University Affairs
    - i. J.R. Garcia and group met with the Oversight committee to further discuss some Constitutional issues. They also compiled a survey which will be submitted to the Psychology department to prove its unbiased nature. He is
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asking that after that, each Senator will take the survey back to the dorms so they can complete their research.

- h. Ad Hoc Committee
  - i. Lauren Williams informed the Senate that they were receiving responses to the Hall Fellows Program. Thus far, they have thirteen independent professors and the entire Anthropology Department involved. She is also coordinating a dessert and coffee experience with the Faculty Senate.

**V. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

- a. List of Questions for Conversation Starters
  - i. Lauren Williams presented this list as the text for table tents in the dining halls. They came up with two different sets of possibilities regarding homosexuality. She asked for questions or comments on these and for further input. Kaity Redfield added that they are leaning toward the set that were not in bold type.
- b. Resolution SS0304-12 regarding RA Training and SS0304-13 Questionnaire for RA's regarding RA Training
  - i. Brin Anderson presented the amendment, asking the CLC to form a task force to find ways to avoid the conflicts that took place this year. She feels like this is the best way to get past the opposition. Jeremy Lao asked the Senate to look over the proposal for a few minutes. After some time, Jeremy moved the proposal into discussion. Brin presented the additional survey. The original plan was to send this to all RA's and get this information back to present in the proposal to the CLC. Then, they decided to pass along the survey to the CLC as an amendment to the resolution.
  - ii. Jack Laskowitz moved to amend the resolution and add the survey created by the Residence Life council. The proposal will now say "Therefore be it further resolved that, if the Campus Life Council creates a task force, it use the attached survey for data collection purposes regarding the Resident Assistant training."
  - iii. J.R. Garcia asked if the survey would be used even if a task force is not formed. Jeremy responded that if they do not form a task force, that the Senate will be able to use the survey to collect data and create a more strongly worded resolution. The Senate moves into debate about adding the survey to the resolution. Karsten Steinhäuser moved to strike the clause: 'if the Campus Life Council creates a task force' on the grounds that it sounds as though the Senate does not expect this measure to pass. He would like the resolution to sound as positive as possible. J.R. Garcia seconds the motion. Brin Anderson agreed to the latter proposition. The Senate moved into voting procedure on the clause: "therefore be it further resolved that the task force formed on the Campus Life Council to investigate Resident Assistant training, use the attached survey for data collection purposes" : Without objection, the amendment was approved.
  - iv. Jeremy Lao then moved back into discussion to add the survey to the proposal. Brin Anderson moved to strike the clause 'the task force formed on the Campus Life Council to investigate Resident Assistant training'. Jack Laskowitz seconded the motion. Brin asked the previous question. The Senate moved into voting procedure: Without objection, the clause is stricken.
  - v. The amendment now reads: "Therefore be it further resolved that the attached survey be used for data collection purposes". Ryan Finlen asked the previous question. David Osburn seconded. The Senate moved into voting procedure: Without objection, the amendment was approved.

- vi. Jeremy Lao moved the entire amendment to the resolution back on the floor. Sujal Pandya offered a friendly change in the clause beginning with “Applauding” to change the word ‘their’ to ‘its’. This change was approved.
- vii. Ryan Finlen asked the previous question. Mike Ryan seconded. Jeremy Lao moved the Senate into voting procedure: Jordan Bongiovanni made an objection. She believes that is not within the realm of the CLC to investigate this employer/employee relationship. Therefore, it was moved back onto the floor for discussion. Brian Agganis noted that he served on the CLC and that the by-laws of the CLC state that they have the right to investigate anything that relates to student affairs. The employer/employee issue came into affect with the situation from this year, but he feels that they should look into improving RA training the scheduling and the process as a whole. This affects the realm of Residence life, which is exactly what the group is supposed to deal with. Jana Lamplota added that this decision affects not only the past RA’s but those considering the job in the future. In this research, they will have a better understanding in their undertaking. Brin Anderson stated that she understands the employer/employee relationship and the contract agreement that was made. The committee is not looking into changing the contract, but to making considerations for the future. She also noted that these decisions affect the entire residence halls, because the RAs are chosen as the best qualified for the position, and not having them will ultimately hurt the dorms themselves. They feel missing one piece of training does not demonstrate a lack of commitment on their part. Brin Anderson motioned to end discussion. Karsten Steinhäuser seconded. The Senate then moved into voting procedure: With one objection—Jordan Bongiovanni—the proposal was approved at 6:42 p.m.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. J.R. Garcia motioned to adjourn. Karsten Steinhäuser seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith  
Student Body Secretary

*\* Please everyone talk in a loud voice when you speak on the floor. That will ensure accuracy of your statement, and make my life oh so much easier. Thanks!\**

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