

## Notre Dame Student Senate

### Executive Summary

October 15, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

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

- a. Chairperson Jeremy Lao called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.
- b. Mike Anderson led the invocation.
- c. Brin Anderson, JR Garcia, Meghan Hanzlik, Meghan Krembel, Cheri Smith, Lauren Williams, and Mark Gerner were absent.
- d. Jack Laskowitz motioned to approve the October 8, 2003 minutes. Jana Lamplota seconded. The executive summary was approved at 6:10 p.m.

#### **II. OFFICER REPORTS**

- a. Mr. Pat Hallahan, Student Body President
  - i. Pat noted that tomorrow at 1:00 p.m., he would be delivering the Board of Trustees report. The main focus of this will be the CLC and student and administration relations.
- b. Mr. Andy Vitt, HPC Liaison
  - i. Frosh-O awards were handed out. The Dorm of the Month awards will be coming up soon for application. Male dorm deadlines for capital improvements is November 11.

#### **III. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Committee on Ethics
  - i. David Osburn made the point that people have not been showing up to committee meetings and he would like to ask everyone to attend all Senate meetings.
- b. Committee on Gender Relations
  - i. Kaity Redfield noted that their group met with Dr. Moss to discuss the Women's Resource center goals. They will make a presentation to the CLC.
- c. Committee on Residence Life
  - i. Jana Lamplota mentioned their meeting on JACC seating.
- d. Ad Hoc Committee
  - i. Ryan Finlen said that the Student/Faculty Senate dessert was Thursday night at 7:30 p.m.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Amendment SS0304-16
    - i. Jeremy Lao stated that each amendment needed three days before it can be discussed in Senate. To talk about this tonight, someone would have to suspend the rules. David Osburn motioned to suspend the rules. Dan Zenker seconded. Seeing as there was no objection, the rules were suspended. Jeremy then opened the floor for debate.
    - ii. Jordan Bongiovanni presented her goal in amending this proposal. She made some changes: four senators given voting power on the body; any proposals would have to pass by a majority vote, and then approved by the president; the new title would be "The Council of Representatives"; and this body would be given the power to amend the constitution. Becca Saunders recommended that the four representatives would be two males and two females. Jordan responded that they can discuss this further, when they consider people for the positions. Ryan Finlen felt that they do not need a specific clause that stipulated the exact requirements for the representation. Karsten Steinhäuser asked what the word "present" meant in the proposal,
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does this mean before or after approval, or just to keep everyone informed. Jordan said that it was a communication requirement. It does not give Senate any power over the decisions, but a communication between the groups. Jack Laskowitz moved to amend the clause at the end, adding "prior to its final approval of the Student Body President". Karsten Steinhäuser seconded. Ryan Finlen asked PQ. Jana Lamplota seconded. Jeremy Lao opened the amendment to vote. By a hand count, 17 approved. The amendment passed by a majority.

- iii. Chuck Anthony motioned to make an amendment to add clause "therefore be it further resolved that the Student Union Senate be required to review amendments put forth by the Council of Representatives at least two times per term, with the power to revoke constitutional powers by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote". Mike Adams seconded the motion. Jeremy Lao opened the amendment to debate. Chuck Anthony mentioned that his hall is very against this motion. He knows that it will pass, but he wants to see how they can control the council. He thinks they should review what they are doing a few times a year. Many are concerned that they will move the power away from the students and to a group that did not have the closest relationship with the students. He doubts that anything would go wrong, but in case it does, they need a way to deal. Emily Chin said that this group does have a public check, and the Senators would be an immediate monitor on the council. This constitution does not deal with the students, but the organization of the student union. It is a different territory. Karsten agrees with Chuck. Where is the check on that constitutional power? Chuck feels that this measure does govern everyone. All the money that benefits students is approved by this council. They constantly participate throughout the year. There needs to be a way for the student representatives to remove this power if need be. Amy Chambers feels that there might be a worry that there would be an increase in inefficiency with the two year review, but she does not believe this is true. There is no procedure, just a informal review. It will not be a burden on the process. If they do something horrible—they want this ability to take power away. Brian Agganis noted that this body has an even more direct link with the students, then the Senate might have, and having this additional check is unclear to him. The Senate does not have a check on their power, and no one is opposed to their decision making, so he sees no purpose in forcing this regulation on the new body. Jordan Bongiovanni motioned to vote. Brian Agganis seconded. By a hand vote 10 in favor, 11 opposed, and 1 abstention the measure fails. Jeremy Lao moved the original amendment back into debate.
- iv. Chuck Anthony agreed with Brian that the Council was voted in by students, and approved by students, but not enough students know who these people are. They are not easily accessible. If we give any group more say as to what goes on campus, it should be the HPC and the Senate because they live in the dorms and interact with the students everyday. Emily Chin noted that the formation of this Council will give the members more of a public view, and they will be able to recognize them from now on. And she disagrees that students only know their hall president and senator. They know their class president, the student body president, and they will be able to recognize more by the formation of the body. Jordan Bongiovanni mentioned that the goal is to show the faculty, staff, students that they are bettering themselves and improve CLC. The same representation is on CLC, and that will mirror this new body—except they will have more, because these are their peers. After seeing Executive Cabinet meetings, she noticed how connected the

members really are, and she feels more secure about their position. Dan Zenker called for a vote. Patty Rose seconded. Jeremy clarified that this was in regard to the formation of the Council of Representatives. Jordan Bongiovanni called for a roll call, Jack Laskowitz called for a secret ballot. Jeremy Lao decided they will have a roll call vote. With 18 in favor, 1 opposed, and 3 abstentions, the measure passes.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Brian Agganis motioned to adjourn the meeting. Aaron Zielinski seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, October 29, 2003 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith  
Student Body Secretary

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