

**Notre Dame Student Senate**  
Executive Summary  
November 5, 2003  
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

- a. Chairperson Jeremy Lao called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- b. Emily Chin led the invocation.
- c. Brin Anderson, Mike Anderson, Lindsey Evans and Andrew Sandstrum were absent.
- d. Jack Laskowitz motioned to approve the October 29, 2003 Executive Summary. Karsten Steinhaeuser seconded. *The minutes were approved at 6:05 p.m.*

**II. OFFICER REPORTS**

- a. Emily Chin, Chief of Staff
  - i. Emily mentioned that November 12 the Office of the President is hosting a last Lecture Series featuring Professor Joe Buttigieg at 7 p.m. in Pangborn hall.
- b. Andy Vitt, HPC Liaison
  - i. Andy reported that HPC handed out Rockne awards. Keenan won over-all, BP and Morrissey won female and male dorm awards. Male capital improvement funding is due on Monday. This is for \$1,500.

**III. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
  - i. New projects include the graduation committee, ROTC minor, distance learning, and a study abroad information night.
- b. Committee on Diversity Affairs
  - i. Laura Feeney stated that the table tents are up in the dining halls. They have scheduled a meeting with the Gay/Straight alliance on campus.
- c. Committee on Ethics
  - i. David Osburn reported that they are looking into attendance issues. On the fourth absence, you are issued a warning. With the fifth, they will form an ethics committee to investigate and remove the offender.
- d. Committee on Gender Relations
  - i. Kaity Redfield said that their work lately has related to the resolution put forward tonight.
- e. Committee on Oversight
  - i. Claire Berezowitz mentioned that they were redefining their role within the Senate in light of the changes made within the structure of the Student Union.
- f. Committee on Residence Life
  - i. Jana Lamplota noted that they will be collecting the petition regarding the Presidential Pass and Review, and their new projects include a student handbook.
- g. Committee on University Affairs
  - i. J.R. Garcia said the group worked on the issue of Basketball tickets.
- h. Ad Hoc Committee on Student and Faculty Interaction
  - i. Lauren Williams and group are speaking with academic commissioners for all halls and faculty who volunteered to participate in Hall Fellows Program.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Presidential Pass and Review Petitions
  - i. Jana Lamplota asked what the reaction of each dorm was regarding the petitioned issue. Many gave their perception within the halls, citing different

issues that came up. Michael Maus asked what kind of security measures will be taken against protestors. Jana said that in the past, protestors have not been violent. They are more concerned with the practical concern of students lying down in front of the ROTC students. Dave Osburn noted that only a handful of protestors come every year. Jana felt that these protests were for the ROTC in a Catholic University in general. They will present this petition to bill Kirk. They are on an undecided time frame, depending on the reactions and the results of the petitions.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Resolution SS0304-17 Regarding the Women's Resource Center

- i. Kaity Redfield presented this resolution on behalf of the Committee on Gender Relations. First, the group compared with other top twenty and Catholic Universities to study what kinds of Women's Resource Centers (WRC) were in place at these schools. They would like to ask the Administration to realize the need for a similar program on this campus. It would be an umbrella for all gender-related groups on Campus, would also address the topic of rape, and help with additional resources for women. Kaity noted the plan was to take the resolution to the CLC, given it passes in the Senate. Jordon Bongiovanni asked what they are saying to the CLC? Are they asking to create this Center? Kaity addressed that the students, need, want and expect this office for women on campus. They are asking the CLC to help form this institution. They would like to see it on par with the Office of Drugs and Alcohol education. Lauren Williams asked if they would be polling the student body. Kaity responded that depending on how the CLC receives the proposal, they might take that direction. The previous research does draw from students, faculty and rectors. They have a large list of work that has been done in the past from failed proposals. Brain Agganis asked why this type of program has failed in the past. Kaity Redfield feels that the Catholic views have hindered its development. Brain asked how they would answer that problem? Kaity said their viewpoint is that the need covers more campus issues than controversial ones. If the University strives for personal growth and development, they should foster this idea. This is a large part of student life. Jana Lamplota asked what the limits are when it comes to issues on planned parenthood? Kaity expects this issue to come up. She has faith that this need is far more than the issue of abortion. There are a plethora of other issues that need to be addressed. Becca Saunders noted that the WRC would encompass much more than birth control. This issue would be under the discretion of the University anyway. Ryan asked what kind of funding is involved in something like this? Kaity realized there are budget decreases across the board. But the demand is high; they will give the money to this worthy cause. Claire Berezowitz would like them to look into the costs of the new buildings and where the money is really going. Christie Bolsen added that their primary research comes from other Universities. If this center is University funded, birth control would be under their supervision. Laura Feeney said that BC and Georgetown has these programs, and they are primarily Catholic Universities. At one time, there was no MSPS, but students came together and created this center. They would like as much administration, faculty, and student support as possible. Jack Laskowitz motioned to limit debate to the next five minutes. Karsten Steinhäuser seconded. Without objection, debate was limited to five more minutes. Ryan Finlen asked how many administration and faculty were involved in this endeavor. Kaity responded that there is a wide support for this program.

Chuck Anthony posed the question that the University might ask what this center offers that RAs or a Rector could not do. Laura said that not all the rectors are equipped to provide the right information. Jordan Bongiovanni reminded the group that they should show the CLC that there is a need for the WRC, and they should not bring up the funding issue. Kaity agreed, and the preliminary step will be to bring it to their attention, and then go from there. Jeremy Lao moved the Senate into voting. *Without objection, the resolution was approved at 6:29 p.m.*

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. "Has ND Lost Its Way?"
  - i. Jordon Bongiovanni would like to bring this issue to the attention of the Senate because she feels it is important to hear what students are saying.
- b. Jack Laskowitz announced the Motown Night in Dillon at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday.
- c. Brain Coughlin mentioned that the Program Department at Legends that two big concerts would occur this weekend. "Gavin DeGraw" will play Wednesday night at 10:00 p.m. "Umpheys McGee" will perform Friday night at 9:00 p.m.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Jack Laskowitz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Karsten Steinhäuser seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place on November 12, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith  
Student Body Secretary

