

Notre Dame Student Senate

Executive Summary

November 19, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Jeremy Lao called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. Jeremy Lao led the invocation.
- c. Lindsey Evans, Ryan Finlen, and Cheri Smith were absent.
- d. Dave Osborn motioned to approve the November 12, 2003 minutes. Drew Sandstrum seconded. *The Executive Summary was approved at 6:09 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

- a. Mr. Rex Rakow, Director of NDSP
 - i. Rex Rakow addressed the Student Senate saying that NDSP had a new dispatch system and records management section to their force. They in the process of examining the residence hall security system. Since 1961, they have employed hall monitors in case of fire to watch operation of the dorm. By 1980, smoke detectors were placed in the dorms, and changed the system. At that time, women hall's rectors still wanted the monitors. Over the years, it has not changed. However, they do not have equal representation across campus. NDSP has brought in consultants to review the hall system. The halls now operate on the 24 hour card system. This is an open community, but at any hall, they still can open doors. They are looking at what else they needed to provide to ensure safety. This includes bike theft, since it is on the rise. They would like to make their final recommendations to the Administration by Spring Break.
 - ii. Kaity Redfield asked what they are looking to change, and would they take security guards out of the women's halls? Rex responded that they understand one person at the door can't do everything. The officers might work a group of halls during the night and watch outside the halls because there is more of a concern outside, around the dorms, than on the inside. He is still unsure of the definite changes that will be made. Kaity then said she had done research other institutions' procedures on preventing rape and how they respond to a rape. She asked what the NDSP did in those situations. Rex noted that the programs like Rape Aggression Defense System teaches women skills how to extricate themselves from a bad situation. They provide information and skills for women to get a chance to practice in case of an emergency. It is part of the educational process. He cited "The Gift of Fear" as a text they use to promote safety given the theory to use your natural intuition to prevent crime. They teach this in the process of self defense. In rape situations, they use duLac and the procedures outlined on the NDSP website. They have certified counselors and law enforcement training for these and other related incidents. Kaity cited the Cleary Act and wondered how many rapes are reported on campus every year. Mr. Rakow noted that 0-2 each year, and this few number usually indicate acquaintance rape.
 - iii. Laura Feeney asked if there was a written purpose for the security guards in women's dorms. Rex said that although they are employed and trained by NDSP, they work for the Rector. Each has requirements that are set by the individual rector. He believes they should be standardized. Brian Agganis wondered how they advertised their RAD program. Rex said there was information on their website as well as fliers that all RAs have in the dorms. The program is flexible to any group to have the training. Rex Rakow

concluded by saying that there are a few new items that the NDSP is working on. They run 3400 cases per year, and their service incidents are more useful to students. This is all part of the NDSP effort to keep the campus safe.

- b. Mr. Jeremy Lao, Appointments
 - i. Jeremy Lao announced that following Pat Hallahan's resignation, Emily Chin will be the new Vice-President of the Student Body, and Patrick Corker will be the new Chief of Staff. He is excited about this new team and is confident they will do an excellent job.
- c. Ms. Claire Berezowitz, Graduation Committee Chair
 - i. Claire Berezowitz stated the committee will have a new proposal to the Registrar's office. The two main concerns are 1) moving the event outside to accommodate more attendants 2) consistency among the departments in their recognition of students. They would like to see each student receive a certificate, at the very least. These and other considerations will be presented promptly.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Ms. Emily Chin, Chief of Staff
 - i. On behalf of the CLC, Emily Chin reported that the committees: Senior Privileges, RA committee, Gender Relations, and Transportation for injured students are forming and working successfully on their projects. She commends the Senators that worked on the proposal for the Women's Resource Center.
- b. Mr. Andy Vitt, HPC Liaison
 - i. The HPC Executive Cabinet presented a modified amendment to the number of presidents for each residence hall last Tuesday. This includes one president and one vice president in each dorm. The president must reside in the dorm for the entire year. The Executive Cabinet changes include an evaluation of the chairperson, with secretary, treasurer, athletic, senate liaison, and diversity. They can voice opinions this week, and will vote next Tuesday. Laura Feeney asked if it doesn't pass, can the Council of Representatives make the changes. Andy replied that they could.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Jack Laskowitz noted that the committee was working on distance learning, more work with the Career Center and the Naval science minor.
- b. Committee on Diversity Affairs
 - i. Laura Feeney stated that the new set of table tents are preparing now. These will focus on race and ethnicity. They are trying to look at Irish Catholic discrimination to give a more relatable viewpoint.
- c. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Kaity Redfield said that their group met with the CLC Gender issues committee to discuss their research on the Women's Resources Center. All of their work is now in one place. She hopes that on Monday's CLC meeting, they will vote to work on this more and send a proposal to Fr. Poorman.
- d. Committee on Resident Life
 - i. Brin Anderson reported they are working on the Pass and Review, and had a good meeting with Bill Kirk on the issue. Jana Lamplota added that he had a few concerns. The reason that the event was continued indoors was because the Navy office never petitioned to have it outdoors in the past. Capt.

Shelton did not inform them of this. But Bill Kirk did say he was impressed. He will show this to the senior staff. He would like more students to show up to the actual ceremony as well.

- e. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. JR Garcia sated they are interacting with the former Oversight committee. They are also currently working with NDSP on security issues. The results from their survey will come before spring break and then will make recommendations.
- f. Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty-Student Interaction
 - i. Lauren Williams told the Senate that the Hall Fellows list was out. Seven have responded so far and they will brainstorm for more interaction and a permanent committee for successive years.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. RA Training Survey
 - i. Jeremy Lao yielded to Brian Agganis to explain the survey. Brian noted that this survey was essential for the committee work on the CLC regarding the RA training issues. He asked the Senators to give these to their RAs in the dorm and complete. They are looking for all potential conflicts and problems that may have come up during training and material to add to their report. If you do not return these Brian "will hunt you down!"

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Letter from Dave Osburn re: Naval Science Minor
 - i. Dave Osburn presented this letter written by a Senator last year explaining the Naval Science Minor and requesting its application to the academic opportunities for ROTC students. Brin Anderson asked if this just policy to Navy ROTC people. Dave said that it could apply to Army and Navy in the future, but they want to go with the strongest need at first. Brian Agganis asked if there are similar programs at other schools. Dave noted that many schools that Notre Dame compares itself to do not have ROTC, but those who have the program do have a similar minor. The reason to do this through the Senate is to hopefully get the Academic Council to recognize this need and add it as a minor. Since the ROTC students must take these classes, they should have recognition for their proficiency in this area. Drew Sandstrum asked how this related to leadership labs that the military courses had to take. How would a non-ROTC person be able to handle this without the outside training received by belonging to the ROTC? Dave said there are many coursed that are included in the ROTC Navy. But the Army leadership would be more difficult to work through. Jana Lamplota motioned to suspend the rules and vote to approve this letter. Laura Feeney seconded. *Without objection, the letter was moved on the floor to debate at 6:41 p.m.*
 - ii. Drew Sandstrum noted there were some suggestions that he would like to make because there were students that were not in the ROTC program, but would benefit from these courses. He will work on the amendment for this letter. Brin Anderson asked if the Academic Council would need the specific letter to decide the issue or if they could put it on the agenda and receives the letter at a later date. Dave Osburn stated that even if they approved the minor this year, the program might not go into effect for another five years or so; there is no rush. Karsten Steinhaeuser motioned to table the letter. Dave Osburn seconded. *Without objection, the letter was tabled at 6:46 p.m.*
- b. SS0304-18 Resolution to Senate By-Laws
 - i. Jack Laskowitz presented this amendment citing that if you are a Senator and a COR member, that you should only serve on one committee and make

a report to the Senators after each COR meeting as a whole as to what is going on. Jeremy Lao moved this issue onto the floor for debate. Dan Zenker asked if the Council of Representatives report was the President's job. Jordan Bongiovanni said that it is one of the duties. Jeremy Lao said they could make an amendment to make it clear that the President was to make a report every week. Jack said his rationale for this bill was that Senators should report on the meetings concerning Senator issues. He doesn't want any spin or glossing over in light of pertinent issues. Brian Agganis said he felt that Senator Reports were best. Patty Rose noted that this should not apply to alternates.

- ii. Brian Agganis motioned to amend the resolution, giving those members of the CLC the same rights as those who served on COR. The amendment will read the same, but with the words: "and Campus Life Council" in the appropriate places. Jeremy Lao opened this amendment up to debate. Emily Chin said that if you sit on both CLC and COR others might have to pick up the loss of committee work. This is not fair to those who do loose a member in this plan. Brin said that I the same Senator sits on both bodies, they will not have full knowledge of what is going on in the Senate. Patty Rose mentioned that extra work will fall upon the other members. But not many get to do the real work of the committees. This also creates lots of work for few people. Claire Berezowitz made the friendly change to "Senate Sub-Committee" in paragraph three, line two. Meghan Hanzlik said she did not want to spread these members too thin. When the have one committee, they can do really good work. Jana Lamplota noted that it is useful that committee members sit on CLC and COR. This enhances the collaboration and leads them to make better choices. Brin Anderson motioned to end debate. Dan Zenker seconded. Jeremy Lao moved the Senate into voting procedure. Regarding the amendment to add CLC members to the amendment, without objection, this amendment was added at 7:01 p.m.
 - iii. Brin Anderson called for PQ. Amy Chambers seconded. Dave Osburn objected. Jeremy Lao moved the Senate into voting procedure. *With 17 in favor, 7 opposed, and one abstention, Resolution SS0304-18 passed at 7:05 p.m.*
- c. Report and discussion on the proposed changes of the Student Government from the Council of Representatives
- i. Dan Zenker motioned to limited discussion and debate to 13 minutes. Jordan Bongiovanni seconded. *Without objection, debate was limited at 7:06 p.m.* Dan Zenker presented the three structures that were currently being discussed in the Council. After a while, Brin Anderson motioned to end debate. Karsten Steinhäuser seconded. *Debate was then ended at 7:10 p.m.*

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Becca Saunders announced that auditions for the Montgomery Vagina Monologues were tonight. Thursday they are holding a White-McNeil presentation against Women's abuse in LaFortune.
- b. Dan Zenker asked the Senate to email him any concerns about the Student Government structures up for debate because there could be a vote soon as to what the general structure would look like, and he would like the group's input.
- c. Aaron Zielinski is working with Resident's Life to get something else put in the basement of LaFortune other than the arcade. He is open for suggestions.
- d. Emily Chin announced the Last Lecture Series tonight in Siegfried with Professor Godmello.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Aaron Zielinski motioned to adjourn. Laura Feeney seconded. *The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.* The next Student Senate meeting will take place on December 3, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Body Secretary

