

Notre Dame Student Senate

Executive Summary

December 3, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Jeremy Lao called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
- b. Brin Anderson led the invocation.
- c. Lindsey Evans was absent.
- d. Jordan Bongiovanni motioned to approve the minutes. Jack Laskowitz seconded. *The Executive Summary from November 17, 2003 was approved at 6:11 p.m.*
- e. Jordan motioned to invert New Business B under the Resident Life Committee report, and Senior Privileges under Elliot Poindexter's Podium. *Without objection, the agenda was inverted at 6:12 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

- a. Ms. Kate Schlosser, Academic Delegate
 - i. Kat Schlosser reported that the Academic Council addresses policy issues for all University academic affairs. They are separated into committees to deal with certain issues. These constitute a graduate, undergraduate, committee on committees, and faculty groups. The four representatives the Undergraduates sent are there for when Senators have ideas or have policy issues that they would like to hear presented in the academic council. The best way to do this is to create a resolution and send it up. Kate noted that their top priority now is the publishing of TCEs.
 - ii. They would like some form of publication of TCEs to replace the NDToday website because it is not regulated by the University. They went to the academic council, but it is moving slowly. They need to decide the issue to address and then create an ad Hoc committee to research this problem. The ad Hoc committee was just assigned to look at publishing the TCE and they are looking at the entire program and the concerns that arise. They are trying to accommodate all the concerns. The Committee would like some form that would be presentable to be published. The Undergraduate committee is also researching distance learning, the honor program and the restriction of AP credit. If there are any ideas, Kate is open to receiving these. Amy Chambers asked what is meant by publishable format. She also noted that one of the strengths of NDToday.com is that it is not regulated by the University. That aspect allows for the reviews to be more open. Ms. Schlosser said that was a good point. They will address that concern. They want to make it publishable and get away from the bias of NDToday.com because it was found that site only presents great reviews, or horrible ones for each professor, if they are even
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available. They are still unclear as to how exactly they will do this. Jana Lamplota asked when the next meeting was, and Kate said that it was at some point in January.

b. Mr. Elliot Poindexter, Judicial Council President

- i. Elliot Poindexter first addressed the Student Government elections the election for Student Body President and Vice-President will be held February 9 and run-off February 12. The Class presidents and HPC will be done by March 1. The information session for all those interested in running will be next Tuesday night. Each candidate needs 300 signatures on their petition by January 21, at that time, the Council will determine if the candidate is approved, or if they need more signatures. They are allowed to campaign up until the midnight before the election. Jordan Bongiovanni asked if they can campaign as soon as they are approved. Elliot responded that he will go over the ground rules to avoid any problems on Tuesday night. Elliot added, if there are problems, the charges will be called and reported back to the Senate about what happened.
 - ii. Next, Elliot said that in the CLC task force concerning Senior Privileges, they have been looking at all sorts of privileges for seniors in general, and some for on campus seniors. They would like the Seniors to say on campus and give them some sort of reward for this. Some include parking, discounts at the bookstore, and restriction on class ring orders. He noted that they are looking at creating certain areas restricted to on campus seniors within the parking lots. In the meetings they want to know if the dorms and senators have any concerns regarding this issue. Ryan Finlen asked how many Seniors move off campus. Elliot said that there were 500 on campus seniors with cars. This would not create enough spaces for all these seniors, but it will help some number below that. Brin Anderson wondered whether this could be first come, first serve? Elliot said they would work out the signage for this to seniors eligible. JR Garcia asked how they plan to enforce this. Elliot said there are various methods under consideration. They are looking at fencing, ID cards, parking stickers and others. Patrick Corker wondered if they could just lower the costs in case this does not go through. Elliot said that was proposed, but not well received because of the money involved. As soon as money gets involved, they hit a snag.
 - iii. Brian Agganis asked the senators to present this to students to gauge reaction. Elliot said he brought this here to get opinions. Maybe a survey would work, but the task force is against this because of their past experience with bad results. They are looking for some sort of vocal opinion. Jordan asked if they brought this to the HPC. Elliot said that Wyatt did present it. Andy Vitt said they talked about this. Every dorm President was in favor. They are
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supposed to talk about it in their hall council, however. Chuck Anthony asked if it was the goal of the task force to keep seniors on campus. Elliot said the university wants to promote community based living. They like the seniors on campus to be active role models within the dorms. He recognizes that this might not keep people on campus. Brian Agganis noted that much of his dorm is against this plan. He asked if there was any feedback that could constitute a concise student opinion. Andy mentioned that the hall presidents were supposed to email Wyatt with a response. Elliot said they are trying to get a voice out there. If they get a push for this project early, they can get is past funding with greater success. Jana suggested using an online survey. Elliot said they were most concerned with the results. If this was to increase the response from students, that would be great, but he doesn't have that guarantee.

- c. Mr. Pat Hallahan, Student Body President
 - i. In his State of the Student Union Address, Pat Hallahan announced this would be his last Senate meeting. He thanked all the Senators for all the hard work they have done during his administration. He thanks them for their response to the changes in student government. Pat appreciates all the extra work that he Senators do. He thanked them for making his term, a good term. He feels they have made some great progress on the RA issue, Gender Resource Center and TCEs. They are moving along by talking about the important issues. They are really responding to what students need. Their greatest accomplishment is the creation of the Council of Representatives by looking at student government as a whole to make progress. They will see the fruits of their work. The vote that the Senators gave will be looks at as a major step to student government. Often, students don't realize what we do. He said to keep up the motivation because they can get a lot done in the rest of this time. The changes made will be amazing, if they get right back to it. It is only a tow and a half month period to do this work. He thinks this is a great and unique group. Pat urges them to stay committed through this progress. They may not see the results, but they will come if the Senators work hard. It might be a frustrating process, but we are so close to making good things happen. Pat thanks them for a good semester. He wishes the Senate good luck.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Mr. Jeremy Lao, Student Body Vice-President
 - i. Jeremy said he is looking foreword to the new challenge and the two and a half months of work ahead of him.
 - b. Ms. Emily Chin, Chief of Staff
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- i. Emily reported that early next week the 'Notable Irish' will come out. The CLC resolutions concerning Injured Students Transportation and the Gender Resource Center were passed.
- c. Mr. Andy Vitt, HPC Liaison
 - i. Andy said that Wyatt Maxwell reported on the Senior parking privileges, discussed by Elliot earlier. The Christmas lights and decorations will be judged Monday. Their amendment concerning the number of Presidents for each dorm was passed on Tuesday. This includes one president who resides in the dorm all year and one VP for each semester, at least. Jana Lamplota asked if one VP was the maximum number allowed. Andy said that a minimum of one will be recognized, but the dorm is left to its own discretion over actual dorm work.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Ryan Finlen reported their new ideas. They are working on a Study Abroad Night to shop around for the best program and the information included. The group is also investigating pricing in the bookstore for texts. They are still working towards the distance learning program. They are making a presentation on technology to t faculty members and see if they are interested in being part of this innovation. They are still working to adjust the finals schedule to add a study day between test days as well.
 - b. Committee on Diversity Affairs
 - i. Laura Feeney said they are researching table tents to come our after Christmas break.
 - c. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Kaity Redfield noted that the CLC passed the resolution unanimously. When they met with Dr. Moss, he seemed very interested in the GRC. They are now waiting on Fr. Poorman's response.
 - d. Committee on Resident Life
 - i. Brin Anderson mentioned that they received news that LaFortune is planning on updating the first floor lounges. They are working on an off-campus housing information book with resident information and renting information. They have a presentation in by Dan Zenker regarding bike racks. They are also working with ND catering to compromise for dance prices.
 - ii. Dan Zenker presented operation "Nice Rack" to the Senate. He pointed out the areas on campus that could use a new bike rack. They are currently working with NDSP on this issue.
 - e. Committee on University Affairs
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- i. JR Garcia reported they are working with Travis Manly from Kentucky University for research on *ND on cell phones for emergencies. They are now developing a new plan.
- f. Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty/Student Interaction
 - i. Lauren Williams said that the Hall Fellows have been selected by many dorms. She thanks all the academic commissioners who have worked on this. Ten dorms have Hall Fellows. If a Senator's hall doesn't have one yet, they should take this up soon.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Naval Science Minor
 - i. Dave Osburn noted the changes made to his letter, including a new paragraph starting with the words: "In addition". Aaron Zielinski motioned to approve the letter. Drew Sandstrum seconded. *Without objection, the letter recommending a Naval Science Minor was approved at 6:51 p.m.*
- b. RA Training Surveys
 - i. Jeremy Lao mentioned that the Senators should turn in their surveys to give to Brian Agganis. He has extra copies in the office, and they can be mailed to Brain in 346 Knott Hall.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. New Lyon's Hall Senator
 - i. Christie Benson mentioned that this was her last Senate meeting. She announced her replacement will be **Natasha Mikha**.
- b. CLC Taskforce on Campus Beautification
 - i. Jeremy noted that the CLC is looking at campus problems with landscaping and safety. They would like to send a letter that cites all the problems around the grounds and send to landscaping. Andy Vitt said they can email any issue that they want addressed to Wyatt Maxwell as well.
- c. Judicial Council Representative
 - i. Jeremy Lao noted that since Elliot Poindexter's presentation, they should elect a Judicial Council representative. The Senators voted between nominees: Dave Osburn, Sujal Pandya, and Jordan Bongiovanni. *Sujal Pandya was named the new Judicial Council Representative.* –Congrats!

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Karsten Steinhäuser announced that the Carroll Christmas will take place Friday from 6-8 p.m.
 - b. Andy Vitt stated that the Howard Halliday will be on Bond quad. Each dorm has a Christmas tree.
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- c. Drew Sandstrum noted the Secret Santa party on Thursday. They should email Amy Chambers to participate.
- d. Laura Feeney yielded to James Leito. The Class of 2006 will make Christmas cards Thursday from 9-1 a.m. Saturday, with SUB and Legends, the class will present Matt Nathanson beginning at 9:30 p.m.
- e. Dan Zenker said the Keenan Raindeer Roast will happen Saturday afternoon.
- f. Jordan Bongiovanni noted that the JPW Chair, Meg Harty is looking for a sophomore understudy.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Ryan Finlen motioned to adjourn. Lauren Williams seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, December 10, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Body Secretary
