

Notre Dame Student Senate
Executive Summary
January 28, 2004
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Emily Chin called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
- b. Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- c. Meghan Krembel, Becca Saunders, and Aaron Zielinski were absent.
- d. Brin Anderson motioned to approve the minutes. Laura Feeney seconded. *The January 21, 2004 Executive Summary was approved at 6:14 p.m.*
- e. Jack Laskowitz motioned to invert the agenda and move podium after officer reports. Mike Adams seconded. *The agenda was inverted at 6:15 p.m.*

II. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Mr. Jeremy Lao, Student Body President
 - i. Jeremy Lao reported that COR had met Monday to discuss line item changes. The Budget is still up for discussion as well as the split or combined ticket for the dorm.
- b. Mr. Patrick Corker, Chief of Staff
 - i. Patrick announced that tonight at 8:00 p.m. in Keogh Professor Walsh was to deliver his Last Lecture, entitled "God Made ME a Democratic Socialist".
 - ii. Sustained dialogue is holding information sessions on Wednesday and Thursday from 7-8:00 p.m. in CoMo. The kick off retreat is February 7 from 2-5:00 p.m. in Coleman Morse.
- c. Mr. Andy Vitt, HPC Liaison
 - i. Andy noted that the athletic chairs in the dorms have been offered to sponsor athletic teams on behalf of the dorms.

Brin Anderson motioned to invert the agenda and move podium after New Business. Karsten Steinhäuser seconded.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Ryan Finlen reported that they spoke with OIT to get the information out about printing in the clusters from the dorms rooms. They will send those out to the dorms.
 - b. Committee on Ethics
 - i. Dave Osburn noted that they sent out letters regarding attendance, and hopes that this will promote attendance from now on.
 - c. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Kaitlyn Redfield stated that they will have to wait longer on the Gender Resource Center to see what will take place. They are currently working on the Rape Kits for Health Services.
 - d. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Brin Anderson mentioned the resolution on the floor later that Karsten Steinhäuser will present. They will have many of their projects done in the next two weeks. The bike project is in the works, they just have to work out
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the financial situation. The committee is also working on getting the off-campus living guide online.

- e. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. JR Garcia said that they are talking with OIT about the survey. They are now looking for new ideas for their projects.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. COR Update

- i. Dan Zenker reported the items up for debate. One being the election ticket in the dorm; either combined or split. He moved to discussion. Laura Feeney seconded. Ryan Finlen asked if they could leave this decision up to the dorm itself. Dan said that was recommended by Charlie Ebersol. Ryan feels that this is the best decision. Kaity Redfield asked if their opinions would be noted in COR. Dan said that the Senators would take their opinions back. Brain Agganis thought the elections should be standardized throughout campus. He is in favor of the split ticket because the presidential elections can get “clicky”. It is a popularity contest of sorts. Chuck Anthony added that he felt the split was better to have a strong president and the best representatives that have experience and enthusiasm. Laura Feeney offered her vote for the split ticket, but asked if they could run the campaign together. Dan said they could work together. Laura said they might leave those options up to the dorm. Karsten Steinhäuser said that he should leave the decision up to the dorms, but to make sure the roles were well defined. Dan said that the communication between the Senators and hall presidents is the primary concern. He wants to assure the COR that communication will stand, or improve, if the ticket were split. Jack Laskowitz said that Senators deal with campus issues, while presidents deal with dorm issues. These are very different. The senators should just go to hall government. He moved to take a straw poll for the tickets. Dan Zenker seconded. With 15 in favor of split, 2 in favor of combined, and 7 in favor of leaving it up to the dorms.
- ii. Dan Zenker said he would take this back to COR. Jordan Bongiovanni said the reason behind the communication worry is because the hall presidents do not talk with their Senators. Andy Vitt said that all he can do is tell what goes on in the HPC meetings. He has many times told hall presidents to recognize their Senators all Hall council, but that is the issue. They want the Senators to speak at council. Patty Rose said that the Presidents and Senators should come together at hall council; they don’t have to require them to run together, but to meet together. Brin Anderson said she doesn’t see the advantages of a combined ticket. They need to get the best people for the job. They can make a rule to attend the hall council. Karsten noted that Senators should attend their hall council to best represent their dorm. He added that he votes the way the men in his dorm want; not his own personal opinion. Jordan Bongiovanni motioned to end discussion. Ryan Finlen seconded.
- iii. Dan Zenker brought up that the COR was also debating who approves the budget. He motioned to discuss. Laura Feeney seconded. Laura then added that they had already given away that power. It was a good decision and should be kept in place. Amy Chambers said that they don’t want that power anymore. The COR is a small group anyway. Especially during reallocation in the mid year, there would be some arguments. The extra money will come out of someone’s funds. It might be tough among the leaders of the group not to get their personal feuds interfering with the process. Drew Sandstrum noted that Senators do not have a bested interest in the budget. They might

not be as educated as the COR group, but at the same time they don't want a huge argument every year. Karsten Steinhäuser stated that they gave up the decision to decide the budget. He is in favor of dual approval. This might help the conflict of interest. The endowment, if it goes through, will only increase the budget struggle. Laura Feeney asked who gave the reallocation. Emily Chin said the FMB. Laura then asked why it would be a problem in COR. Emily said that when the new administration comes in, the allocation from the middle of the year could affect the debate.

- iv. Amy Chambers asked if they had the outgoing Senate approve the budget, would that fix the problem. Meghan Hanzlik thought the outgoing Senate should approve. In the dual approach, who gets the upper hand if one disagrees? The FMB as an outside source could also approve the budget. Andy Vitt stated that the outgoing have the experience to approve the budget, but since they are on their way out, they might not care to put 100% into the approval. Jeremy Lao echoed Andy's statement. The next year should be approved by those affected. It should be built into the transition time. It is your responsibility as Senators to know and understand the process.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. SS0304-20: Resolution for the Renovation of LaFortune

- i. Karsten Steinhäuser presented the resolution, stating that the first floor lounge, in the opinion of the Residence life committee, is too old and needs to be updated. The lounge is a highly visible, high traffic area for students and visitors. Prospective students, alumni, and visitors often use this area. They would like to change the look in concordance with the basement lounge. This resolution is looking to request funds for that purpose.
- ii. Ryan Finlen asked how much it cost to refurbish the library basement. Cheri Smith noted that the total cost was \$10 million. Most of this went towards shelving. Kaity Redfield was hoping to add to the resolution a space for free speech zone. To clarify, Kaity noted that there are 305 student organizations, and she would like to have an area to post announcements. Her addendum stated: Therefore be it further resolved that included in the renovations as designated area for unrestricted posting. Lauren Williams seconded the addendum. Emily Chin opened the floor for discussion.
- iii. Brin Anderson said that feature is something to be handled in the designs of the lounge. This resolution is just for the allocation of funds. This area might be included in a separate resolution. Kaity hoped that this idea would go in before the final design was made. Andy Vitt said they could make a general note on design, and once approved, they can have a better handle on the design. Ryan Finlen asked PQ to end discussion. Jack Laskowitz seconded. The Senate moved into voting procedure. With no interest in admitting the addendum, the addendum regarding a free speech zone failed.
- iv. Emily Chin moved the Senate back into discussion of the original resolution. Sujal Pandya asked when the lounge was last renovated. Brian Coughlin noted that it was around 1987. Brin Anderson motioned to add an addendum, following discussion that Brian Coughlin and the ASO would most likely design the lounge, because of their involvement in designing the basement lounge. The motion stated: Therefore be it further resolved, the design of the first floor lounge on the west end of the LaFortune student center be designed by both the Office of Student Activities, and the Student Government. Jack Laskowitz seconded.
- v. Ryan Finlen asked Brian Coughlin if he would mind designing the lounge. Brian said that would be fine. Jack Laskowitz asked PQ to end discussion.

- Patty Rose seconded. Jordan Bongiovanni motioned to approve the addendum. Michael Maus seconded. *With a vote of 19:3:1, the addendum passed at 6:50 p.m.*
- vi. Jack Laskowitz moved to approve the resolution. Laura Feeney seconded. *Without opposition, the resolution passed at 6:51 p.m.*

VI. PODIUM

a. Mr. Joe Dickmann

- i. Joe Dickmann presented the Senate with his thoughts on the issue of homosexuality on campus. He hears what is going on and what is happening on campus regarding gay and lesbian students. In every dorm, there are gay students, and yet, there is a separation between the gay and straight community. It is a difficult situation for students who feel alienated. The basic players include Outreach ND, a club not affiliated with the University, and organization for gay, lesbian and bisexual students. It is incorporated with the state of Indiana and established in 1972. The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs has existed since the 1990s and included faculty, staff and students with educational pursuits.
- ii. What is missing, Joe notes, is a forum for dialogue. He feels that homosexual students do not have a voice. Joe wants to get in touch with the straight allies around campus. Notre Dame is number one in terms of where alternative lifestyles are not an alternative. This is unacceptable. The main problem has been addressed. In the University's discrimination policy, there is no clause regarding sexual orientation. Instead, they have devised the "Spirit of Inclusion" statement. This promotes acceptance at the University. However, it lacks that execution and legal strength. We are still the least gay friendly school in the nation.
- iii. Joe Dickmann would like to present a group for students; a club as a forum for discussion. This is for gay and straight students to come together for something positive. He would like to get some information to Senators and give them an opportunity to ask questions. He wants the Senators to go back to their dorm, and gauge the support for a club of this nature.
- iv. Ryan Finlen asked what the Princeton Review used for criteria. Joe said that statistic comes from student assessment. They are not looking at a comparison, but the perceived atmosphere. Dave Osburn asked if Joe was looking to start a new club. He asked what Joe wants the Senators to do. Joe responded that he would like for them to gauge the feeling in the dorm. Brian Agganis is in complete support of this club, and asked where they went from here. Joe Dickmann noted that they have to submit their application to SAO to become a club. They have a constitution already written. He wants to make it apparent that there is more tolerance than it appears. There are straight students who support them, but aren't aware. Jordan Bongiovanni said they will add it to the diversity committee and make sure they stay on top of the issue.

b. Africa Presentation

- i. Nicole Shirilla presented a video that she hopes gives the Senators a taste of what Nigeria was like. It was a part of the Call to Solidarity with Africa conference. Emily Chin noted that they were able to speak about students of Notre Dame, and what they can do in Africa. Laura Feeney noted there will be an ad in the Observer for those who want to get involved in the Africa dialogue.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Dan Zenker motioned to adjourn. JR Garcia seconded. *The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.* The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place on Wednesday, February 4, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Union Secretary