

Notre Dame Student Senate
Executive Summary
February 11, 2004
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Emily Chin called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.
- b. Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- c. Kaitlyn Redfield and Cheri Smith were absent.
- d. Meghan Hanzlik motioned to approve the minutes. Michael Maus seconded. *The Executive Summary from February 4, 2004 at 6:09 p.m.*
- e. Jordan Bongiovanni motioned invert the to allow Podium item A to proceed Officer reports. Aaron Zielinski seconded. *The agenda was inverted at 6:10 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

- a. Elliot Poindexter, Judicial Council President
 - i. Elliot Poindexter presented his election update. The position of Student Body President is now in a run-off between the Charlie Ebersol/ James Leito and Adam Ivistan/Karla Bell tickets. Elections will be held Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The ballot will be online, as before. Elliot encourages more Seniors and fifth year students to vote. In addition, the class council petitions were due today. They are all yet to be approved. The letter outlining the candidates will be given next week. Jack Laskowitz asked how many students voted. Elliot replied that there were 3496 total.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Mr. Jeremy Lao, Student Body President
 - i. Jeremy informed the Senate of the success of the Board of Trustees Report. The survey regarding residence life is to come out soon. He encouraged all those selected to complete the survey to do so. Jeremy feels it has strong implications for the future of housing. Ryan Finlen asked when the next BOT took place. Jeremy said it was sometime in May. Therefore, Ryan said, they would be presented the new topic to be approved in March? Jeremy stated that was correct.
- b. Ms. Emily Chin, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Emily reminded the Senators to keep attending their hall council.
- c. Mr. Patrick Corker, Chief of Staff
 - i. Patrick espoused the office project "Adopt". They are selling cans of Crush soda to raise money for a family trying to adopt a child. Each can cost \$1. Patrick announced the start of their alcohol awareness program next week.
- d. Mr. Andy Vitt, HPC Liaison
 - i. Andy noted that the gender relations chairs for HPC are holding a snow sculpting contest with Brother/sister dorms. There are going to be kids coming around to be judged. Elections are coming up for in the dorms. The requirements will come later in the meeting, but the amendment that HPC voted on earlier will be included.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Diversity Affairs
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- i. Laura Feeney stated that they will present a topic later on in the meeting. The resolution discussed will come to the floor next week.
- b. Committee on Ethics
 - i. Dave Osburn mentioned there will be a meeting following the general Senate.
- c. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Brin Anderson reported that they will have a meeting about Presidential pass and Review tomorrow for all who would like to attend. The Freshman dogbook is to be presented next week. They are looking for fun facts to add to the book to encourage students to buy. These should be directed toward Patty and Jordan.
- d. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. JR Garcia noted that they are working on getting the office supplies in the clusters. They are also going to investigate the counseling situation at Health Services.

V. PODIUM

- a. Leah McGee and Andrea DeVries, Diversity Council
 - i. Leah McGee began, saying that they are here on behalf of the diversity council, comprised of officers from all of the multi-cultural clubs on campus. They meet to discuss issues and events. Today, they would like to raise the issue of publications in the Observer and the diversity problem on campus as a whole. Andrea and Leah read aloud the letter submitted to the Senate. Following the letter, there was some discussion as to how the Observer was funded. Jordan Bongiovanni tried to clarify what the diversity council wanted Senate to do. It included creating a task force to get a semester required class about diversity, and investigating the Observer-its allocations and practice. Leah pointed out there were two separate issues: the class and the Observer. She wanted to present this to Senate to make them aware. There are things from the observer that will be directed straight to them. But they also want support for researching this class. The board of trustees has been looking into this for a while. They just need the help and research to make the class, and hopefully create a better understanding of diversity.
 - ii. Laura Feeney brought up that they would like to have an Observer member come to Senate to hear about the editorial process. Meghan Hanzlik noted that the diversity council would also like to reinstate the "What's Your Shade" column bi-weekly. Andrea stated that it was done away with when a minority editor took office. Jeremy Lao stated that the Observer is our student newspaper and any student publication should foster intellectual growth. When they look into the Observer issue, they should make sure that is their mission. Meghan Hanzlik stated that she supports many things that the Observer does, however, they have misquoted in the past. She also feels that they should not take sides, but only give straight facts.
 - iii. Jack Laskowitz reported that Dillon hall had a healthy discussion about diversity, and concurs that the Observer does not do a good job. Andrea pointed out that their main concern were the remarks made against African Americas specifically. Leah added that there are many initiatives going on, including sustained dialogue to discuss any issue that causes conflict. But their shortcoming is that they appeal to those that already are sensitive to these topics. They might not reach the ones who need the most information. Jeremy Lao reminded Leah and Andrea that when you try to make classes a requirement, the process is long and hard. Another route they could take is to get the courses cross listed with a requirement class. Leah concluded that
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they are looking at instituting this in the First Year of Studies, maybe as a seminar. But it is difficult, because these professors are volunteering. They are suggesting that certain readings and discussions be incorporated here, as a starting point.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

a. COR Update

- i. Dan Zenker presented a letter for the requirements for hall elections. These things have not been permanently decided, but are in the works. Meghan Hanzlik reported that her dorm thought that the decisions should be left up to the individual dorms. They also suggested that they have the hall pres and vp run before the other elections, because someone who doesn't win the first time around, might be a good candidate for another hall position. Dan noted that they are focusing their discussion on the programming side now, and he will update the Senate as decisions are made.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. *Laura Feeney* announced that this Saturday the "Vagina Monologues" are being presented at Stepan Center.
- b. *Jana Lamplota* noted a Jazz band is coming to campus Saturday night.
- c. *Sujal Pandya* said that Fisher hall is having an anti-Valentines night on Saturday in the basement.
- d. *Brian Coughlin* stated that the Mr. Cool Water Pageant and Model contest is this Saturday, following the Basketball game at Legends.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Aaron Zielinski motioned to adjourn. Mark Gerner seconded. *The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.* The next meeting of the Notre Dame Student Senate will take place February 18, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Body Secretary
