

Notre Dame Student Senate
Executive Summary
February 18, 2004
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Emily Chin called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- b. Chaplain Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- c. Cheri Smith and Peter Terilli were absent.
- d. Ryan Finlen motioned to approve the minutes. Andrew Sandstrum seconded. *The Executive Summary from February 11, 2004 was approved at 6:07 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

- a. Andrew Soukup, Observer Editor in Chief
 - i. Andrew came to present a packet of information regarding some concerns that were brought up in Senate and CLC. He has heard noting directly from the Diversity Council. He would like them to come directly to the editorial board to address these concerns. Andrew mentioned that he met last Friday with Emily Chin, Jeremy Lao, and Leah McGee. Their discussion is included with the packet, and the email correspondence between them.
 - ii. Andrew Soukup noted that the viewpoint section was intended to inform and create awareness that sparks discussion. The things that go on the page might not get all of the information correctly, but their mission at the Observer is to encourage campus discussion. The Observer doesn't always agree with the opinions stated. They do not however, represent hateful viewpoints. The letter was chosen for the viewpoint, and after speaking with the author, Andrew concluded that the article was written on the stereotypes he encountered and views expressed were based on personal experience. On page three of the packet, Andrew Soukup noted the standards they use to choose the articles. Sometimes, he continued, they will pull an article off the page.
 - iii. In reference to the requests of the Diversity Council, Andrew outlined his response. They had asked for an apology to run in the Observer. Andrew Soukup said that he felt comfortable printing the articles. He thought it was a point that needed to be expressed. Other letters that were printed in response showed the other side, and for the balance, he feels the topic fulfilled the Viewpoint mission. As for reinstating the MSPS column, Andrew responded that at this point, he didn't want to deal with an entire group's perspective, and deal with many authors. He does encourage individuals to write a column, and apply to do so through their editorial board.
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- iv. Kaity Redfield stated that she felt that they had a harmful ideal. She referred to an alumnus from Christ or Chaos regarding homosexuality. She asked why this story was run, because it seemed evil. Andrew noted that many things some find offensive, while others do not. The background regarding that article showed that the author was not an alumnus, but wanted to print his views as an advertisement. They do not allow those types of ads, as to not monopolize the opportunity for students to speak their mind. He noted that there are people who read the Observer who share that viewpoint, and they should be able to share and print that. Kaity reminded him that did not represent Catholic doctrine. The facts were not necessarily grounded, but stereotypical. Andrew said that many viewpoints are not factually grounded, and there are often, many ways to interpret them. That does not mean they are invalid. They are not a newspaper to promote Catholic doctrine, they are concerned about content. Either an ad or a viewpoint mustn't cross a reasonable line. Kaity asked if they were responsible in their editorial job about the misuse of fact in one article. Andrew said the article with the accusation was not true. From this, they put in place a fact-checking policy. But these can be interpreted in many ways.
 - v. Andrew answered Brain Agganis' question about the hateful tone of some articles, saying, that they do pull many articles of the page. Much of the opinion lies in the eye of the beholder. In this situation, as many of the instances cited, the opinion was based on what author had intended. The affirmative action article was specifically geared to what had in his life. Regarding the homosexuality issue, there are many findings that a significant number of students share that opinion based on letters that come in on the topic.
 - vi. Jack Laskowitz asked what was done for Bishop Jenkey. Andrew responded that article missed a variety of procedures. They did run a response from Fr. McBrian, Bishop Jenkey, and an apology from the editorial board that neither accusation was fact; they should have checked before. They should have spoken with the people involved. This led them to restructure the policy to fact-checking procedure.
 - vii. Laura Feeney complimented him on the diversity inserts that were appearing in the Observer currently. She is concerned that they are printing either one extreme. Could they put in facts that are unbiased, so that students could decide for themselves? Andrew noted that it was a complicated issue. It is always hard to get all the facts. Dialogue is what they are hoping to spark in the viewpoint; the truth comes out in the discussion.
 - viii. Scott Brofuehrer, the current managing editor, said that he welcomes people to talk about the issues that they notice around campus. The Observer is an independent newspaper. They don't
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even have an official advisor. Chandra Johnson supervises them, but she has many responsibilities, and those who try to contact her, often get lost in the shuffle. They should contact the staff directly. Andrew said that he guarantees they will get back to the readers. They want to help build the dialogue. He often considers all the events that are important to students. For those with things to say, they should contact the staff.

- ix. Laura Feeney expressed her concern with the Observer endorsing a candidate for the Student Body Presidential Elections. Andrew Sockup said that they lay-out allows for the Editorial staff to speak their opinion. It is the same reason that they editorialize on other topics. They should be concerned if the coverage is biased. The day-to-day election events and those who cover them are not part of the decision of the endorsement.

b. Brin Anderson, Rice Bowl Project

- i. Brin presented the operation. The junior class council is sponsoring this project along with Catholic dioceses to raise money during Lent. They will pass out boxes to put change in. Seventy-five percent goes to global organizations, and twenty-five percent goes toward the local dioceses. This is a campus wide event and they need the support. They will pass out the boxes Monday from 8-11 a.m. and Tuesday from 9-12 p.m. in front of DeBartolo and O'Shaughnessy halls. Brin announced that they will have a giveaway at the doors in the morning, and then continue passing out more boxes in front of the dining halls and LaFortune in the afternoons. They need some help from the HPC and the class councils, as well as volunteers to man the tables. She asked that if any Senators had some time, to sign up (they need two people there at all times). The pickup of all the change is April 5-7.

c. Andrew Sandstrum, Supporting our Troops Abroad

- i. Drew presented a letter and list of troops that are under the command of a Notre Dame Graduate. He is in charge of twenty to thirty men. He would like the Senates to take the letter to dorms and encourage them to send letters out. These are young guys that miss home and would appreciate the support. We should show that we support the people serving for our country. He will collect all the letters and send them to the troops.

Dan Zenker motioned to invert the agenda and move the COR update before Officer Reports. Laura Feeney seconded. The agenda was so inverted.

III. OLD BUSINESS

a. COR Update

- i. Dan Zenker stated that they approved the resolution to approval of all positions. The COR now has that power; they felt that they knew the most and were the most qualified. The second thing passed was regarding dorm elections. They approved that the dorm was to decide on how they ran the elections. All will have to present this decision to the Judicial council in due time. Jordan Bongiovanni presented the third resolution. Regarding the budget approval, she tried to represent the sentiments of the Senate to have the Treasurer present the budget before the approval by COR. She understands that they had no rights to make changes, but they would like it to be presented. The COR viewed this as an extra layer of bureaucracy, and it failed. She also tried to get Senate to approve the budget along with COR, but that also failed.

Brin Anderson motioned to strike New Business part C due to time, and move to next week. Karsten Steinhäuser seconded.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. Emily Chin, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Emily noted that Class Council elections are taking place Monday.
- b. Patrick Corker, Chief of Staff
 - i. Pat stated that the posters on table were part of their alcohol responsibility campaign. He asked them to take them to the dorm, and post. This is their big endeavor for the semester. Patrick asked them to promote this at Hall council as well. Everyone will get a survey to determine how to help students, and he would like to see more people participate for next year.
- c. Andy Vitt, HPC Liaison
 - i. Andy reported that the Executive Cabinet will meet with the dorms to talk about their transition and elections. He wants to let them know all of the options and who they should encourage to run.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Jack Laskowitz mentioned that they will have new table tents regarding library drop-off points and printing instructions in clusters. They are pressing further into distance learning. Those letters are to be presented next week. They will discuss the resolution for the CLC and ask for support.
 - b. Committee on Diversity Affairs
 - i. Laura Feeney noted that they have been working on the resolution to be presented tonight.
 - c. Committee on Ethics
 - i. Molly Griffin reminded the Senators to attend all of their meetings.
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- d. Committee on Gender Affairs
 - i. Kaity Redfield announced that they are investigating rape kits in Health Services. At this point they are researching other schools.
- e. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Jana Lamplota said that they are working on what went wrong with the previous Irish Video store. They do not think that they can get a franchise in the LaFortune, but they are going to look into a scheme like the old Irish Video. The committee is also looking into ROTC advertisements to garner support for those troops. The dog book project is coming along, although, Patty Rose asked for more quotes to include in the text of the book. Tonight, they will present the off-campus living guide.
- f. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. JR Garcia announced that Sujal Pandya met with OIT. They are also working to get staplers back into the computer clusters. The group is investigating getting Bond or Colman Morse open twenty-four hours. They have also spoken about new computer clusters and express computers at popular places.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. *SS0304-23: Resolution Requesting the Creation of a Campus Life Council Task Force Addressing Social Awareness Issues*
 - i. Laura Feeney presented the letter that requests the group to address two issues: a task force, and a class. Jack Laskowitz asked PQ. Ryan seconded. Lauren Williams objected, asking for the Senators to read the entire letter. Chuck Anthony asked what kind of class they were thinking of. Laura noted that they do not want to make demands on the type of class. They would like them to investigate at first, and get the opinion of the faculty. Aaron Zielinski asked if this was the best avenue? They only have a few meetings left before their term is over and the issue could be dissolved. The Senate might want to do this independently. Emily Chin made a point that the CLC work does not end April 1. Aaron noted that still they did not have much time. Ryan Finlen motioned to end debate. Jana Lamplota seconded. Claire Berezowitz objected. After a vote; after some friendly changes from Brin Anderson, Claire noted that it might helpful to use the Academic liaison. Dan Zenker motioned to end debate. Meghan Hanzlik seconded. *With one opposition, the resolution passed at 6:59 p.m.*
 - b. Committee on Residence Life—Off Campus Living Guide
 - i. Amy Chambers presented the guide with the four main apartment complexes. The Residence Life website has something, but nothing in detail. This guide gives them rent, when to apply, where they are
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located, how to book the apartment, the amenities, details and pictures. This might be placed on the student government website, but for now, it is just in print.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Jeremy Lao mentioned that he just met with the ticketing office. He reminded them of the policy: you can use anyone's ticket, and you don't need to match the name with the student i.d.
- b. Jack Laskowitz announced that Dillon hall raised \$7,500 for Cancer research from their Stash Bash.
- c. Emily Chin reminded the Senators to put up the posters in their halls.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Michael Maus motioned to adjourn. Ryan Finlen seconded. *The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.* The next meeting of the Notre Dame Student Senate will take place Wednesday, February 25, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Smith
Student Body Secretary, eh?
