

# Notre Dame Student Senate

## Executive Summary

November 13, 2002

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

### **I. Opening Business**

- A. Chairperson Trip Foley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- B. The invocation was led by Paul Dockery
- C. Danielle Ledesma acted as the Parliamentarian until Ricky Sadowski arrived.
- D. Roll call was taken; Libby Bishop, Jason Creek and Jesse Norman were absent, and Courtney Watson was tardy due to conflicting schedules.
- E. The November 6, 2002 Executive Summary was approved at 6:16 p.m.
- F. Trip Foley moved to invert the agenda so that Danielle Ledesma would speak from the Podium before the Reports.

### **II. Podium**

- A. Danielle Ledesma, Judicial Council President
  - Elections - Danielle informed Senate that for the upcoming elections, she has been working for online voting. If online voting is possible, she will have to rewrite most of the bylaws, so she wanted to let Senate know that she will be needing help to rewrite and its approval later. Notre Dame is getting a new server soon, so before Thanks giving, Danielle will know if the University will approve online voting. Preliminary elections for President and Vice President will be February 10, 2003; the run-off will be on February 13, 2003. Class Officer Elections will be on February 24, and the run-off will be on February 27, 2003. Senators need to be elected by March 1, 2003. An Executive committee, which receives complaints about the election, will be formed before Christmas. For those who are interested in running for Student Boy President and Vice President, there will be an informational meeting Thursday, December 5, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in LaFortune.

### **III. Reports**

- A. Officer Reports
  - 1) Student Body President Libby Bishop was not present.
  - 2) Student Body Vice-President Trip Foley announced that there will not be a Senate meeting the Wednesday before Thanksgiving; therefore, next week's meeting, November 20, 2002, will be longer.
  - 3) Chief of Staff Patrick Hallahan reported that the LTR Retreat was this past weekend, and Libby Bishop expressed that it was a great experience. Also, Martha Merritt will be speaking at McGlinn Hall tonight at 8:00 p.m. For Thanksgiving break, the shuttle which runs to the South Bend airport will be running.
  - 4) HPC Representative Steve Holte reported this Friday, Keenan Hall will have its dance at Beacon Bowl, Welsh Family Hall's semi-formal will be held under the Dome this Saturday, and Siegfried Hall has its dance Saturday. Steve also mentioned Night of Faith at Alumni Hall at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. He informed the Senators that this week is Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

This Thursday (tomorrow) at 7:30 p.m. at Dillon Hall, there will be a presentation for men about sexual assault.

- 5) St. Mary's Representative Lindsay Evans reminded everyone to spread the word about the talent show tonight at 7:00 p.m. at Carroll Auditorium. Also, Mr. Deeds will be shown for free this Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

#### B. Committee Reports

1. Committee on Academic Affairs – Jeremy Staley reported that there are free mugs at the library. Also, their committee had a meeting with 2 representatives from OIT in regards to participation with students. They discussed offering computer classes and offering certification because there seems to be a big gap in Arts and Letter students. Kate Schlosser went to Faculty Senate and realized there were some miscommunications about the TCE reports. It seems that some faculty members were sensitive to getting the results published. All will be clarified soon. Erin Cushing is excited about working with the Bookstore. A First Year advising resolution will be coming soon. Finally, Kevin Conley is working on making ROTC a minor.
2. Committee on Diversity – Courtney Kohout announced that the Diversity committee will be meeting after Senate. She talked about the LTR retreat: She, Joanna Cornwell, Elliot Poindexter, Emily Chin, and Libby Bishop attended the retreat...all having great experiences. She recommended everyone to go on it because it clarified a lot of questions about race and gave a more positive outlook on issues. Joanna Cornwell added that the retreat focused on ND campus and made her reflect on what race is.
3. Committee on Ethics - Joanna Cornwell reported no news.
4. Committee on Gender Issues – Courtney Badgley is still working on the Sexual Assault poster. Also, Katie Boyle has submitted the final freshmen survey to the Psychology department.
5. Committee on Oversight - Elliot Poindexter reported the committee, Judicial Council President and CCC are looking at the inconsistencies in the Constitution.
6. Committee on Residence Life – Kevin Conley expressed that a Rugby resolution will be coming next week. Katie Boyle has continued her work on The Huddle. Sarah Bates and others have a meeting with Brian Kirk to discuss the policy of a rector's discretion.
7. Committee on University Affairs - Gail Thompson said she met with Phillip Johnson from NDSP again. If anyone has any questions, she will be having a follow meeting with him, so email her. The T-Shirt is almost done; more will be discussed under new business. Also, Brin Anderson mentioned that only 6 dorms have responded to the SYR surveys, which were sent out about 3 weeks ago. She asked everyone to remind their Hall presidents to complete the survey ASAP. If the survey has been misplaced, have the president email Brin at [Banders6@nd.edu](mailto:Banders6@nd.edu). Lastly, Olga Urbieto and Elliot Poindexter are planning to talk to OIT regarding the same laptop decision. Trip Foley suggested they speak with Libby Bishop.
8. Ad-hoc Committee – there will be a meeting next Tuesday, November 19, 2002 at Coleman Morse at 7:00 p.m. immediately following the University of Affairs meeting. If you would like to be put onto the list, email Katie Boyle of Jake Teske.
9. Financial Management Board – Elliot Poindexter spoke on behalf of Jesse Norman. He reported that at the last meeting they discussed The Shirt. They

discussed selling away the rights and what to do with the money. The general consensus seemed to put it in a reserve/ "rainy day" fund.

#### IV. Podium

##### B. Brigitte Gynther

- Workers' Rights - Paul Graham filled in for Brigitte. He explained that he was here to raise awareness for workers' rights and passed around a letter, which expressed neutrality and workers' recognition. He informed that workers on the ND campus are dissatisfied, underpaid, overworked, and feel disrespected. The workers are afraid to say anything, for fear of losing their job. Graham would like our university to make a statement of neutrality and promise not fire or treat the workers unfairly. He would also like to see split power at the bargaining table. There are moral, ethical and Catholic reasons why ND should do this. Senators are supposed to check their mailboxes for more information on this topic. Graham emphasized this is not an anti-administration ploy.
- Questions – Kate Schlosser asked if other Catholic universities allow their workers to unionize. Graham replied that Loyola University has unions. Jeremy Staley wondered what consequence would result if the workers unionized; for example, what if the workers strike? Graham said that if they strike, we need to question why. Sean Williams inquired if student workers would be allowed to work if there was a union. Graham stated that Loyola has student workers. Josh Towns asked about the frequency of exploitation. Graham explained that workers have tried to form unions: 1977 – sit in the main building, school hired a union buster, 1988 – workers were fired, 1996 – school promised secretaries up to level value. Also, the building services are having major problems. Workers, who have been fired, quit, or left, are not being replaced. This puts stress on janitors and makes them frustrated because they are overworked and underpaid. Also, in food services, there are "on-call workers." Some workers might work a 40 hour week and then not work for 2 weeks. The erratic schedule hurts those with families. To sum up, workers on the Notre Dame Campus feel underappreciated, over worked, etc.... Paul Graham hope to get the workers to the bargaining table so they can voice their concerns and bargain as equals. If anyone has any questions, feel free to email Paul at [pgraham@nd.edu](mailto:pgraham@nd.edu).

#### V. Old business

##### A. Sexual Assault Posters

- Courtney Kohout asked for all Senators to email her the number for bathrooms and RAs in each dorm. [ckohout@nd.edu](mailto:ckohout@nd.edu). Also, any changes to the poster need to be submitted by Monday because it will be going to CLC. There was a suggestion to make the University of Notre Dame letter head smaller and emphasizing sexual assault to attract attention.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Report on Residence Hall Water Quality**

- Courtney Badgley and Sarah Bates explained their memo regarding Dorm Water Issues. Kate Schlosser expressed that Pangborn was just renovated this summer, but continues to have “bad smelling” water problems and wondered if there was anything that could be done, for instance adding water fountains for people to drink from. Courtney and Sarah said that adding water fountains is a violation to the widths of hallways. Allison Childs asked if the University was willing to soften the water. They answered that it was too costly. Jeremy wondered what an environmentally safe showerhead was. Ricky also wondered if the hot water was softened.

### **B. Senate T-Shirt**

- Voting took place to determine the final details of the Senate T-Shirt. It will be a grey long sleeve T-shirt with a logo on the upper left hand side of the shirt. The letters will be navy, and the dome will be gold. Gail promised prices ASAP.

## **VII. Announcements**

- Joanna Cornwell announced that this Thursday “Very Potter Evening” will be held at the Bookstore starting at 6:00 p.m.
- Katie Boyle informed tonight, Wednesday, November 13 at 9 p.m. in Coleman Morse, there will be an open forum discussing the issue of parietales. The event is sponsored by PSA (Progressive Student Alliance)
- Courtney Kohout reminded those who are on the Diversity committee that the meeting will be immediately after Senate.
- Trip Foley announced that if anyone was interested in seeing the new ND calendar website, there will be a prototype available at the CLC meeting on Monday, November 18, 2002, at 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 330 at Coleman Morse. Feedback is greatly appreciated.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Sean Williams motioned to adjourn. Olga Urbieta seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 7:10 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, November 20, 2002 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Chin  
Student Union Secretary