

Notre Dame Student Senate

Executive Summary

November 20, 2002

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. **Opening Business**

- A. Chairperson Trip Foley called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.
- B. The invocation was led by Paul Dockery
- C. Roll call was taken; Allison Childs was absent, and Courtney Watson was tardy due to conflicting schedules.
- D. The November 13, 2002 Executive Summary was approved at 6:14 p.m.

II. **Podium**

- A. Mr. Lee Svete, Director of the Career Center
 - Mr. Svete, from the Career Center, which is located in Flanner Hall, gave a little background of himself and passed out a packet. He commented that businesses look for: communication, problem solving skills, leadership, public speaking, and writing abilities. When beginning to look out into the career field, one should participate: go to information sessions, write a resume, collect data, and make a contact management spreadsheet. The Winter Career Fair will be Jan 28, 2003; Mr. Svete urged everyone to attend. He, also, said not to wait until senior year to start looking for a job, and to get yourself out there because Alumni contacts can help. Refer to the packet for it had lots of pertinent information. Trip thanked Mr. Svete and encouraged everyone to follow up with him by email or through the Career center.
 - *Key: Pick a passion and love what you do!*
- B. Jason McFarley, Observer Editor in Chief
 - A letter was passed out, and everyone was given the chance to read it over. Jason came to address yesterday's Observer article regarding Senate attendance records and cooperation. Kate Schlosser wondered what "absolutely vital information" meant because to her attendance does not determine a person's commitment to a committee. Jason replied that the Observer is asking for numbers, and how they interpret them is the Observer's own business. Erin Cushing stated that the association of absences with the lack of commitment is incorrect; the Observer must share information from both sides. She requested that the interpretation of numbers not reflect lack of interest/commitment. Jason replied this does not clarify or comply. Sarah Bates mentioned that missing a meeting due to illness is different than missing due to lack of interest. If the Observer just prints the numbers without explanation, the interpretation of the numbers might be interpreted in the wrong way. Jason pointed out that he could not even get the numbers. Jake Teske questioned the effectiveness of the article. He commented that the resolution passed earlier this year was to improve attendance from last year. He thought the article she have reflected the improvement, plus it was unfair to single out two Senators. Ricky Sadowski stated that focusing on only the numbers is not what the

resolution is all about. Also, it states in the resolution that it is up to the chairs, Secretary, and Ethics Committee's discretion. Jesse Norman added that every Senate chair does have the responsibility to take attendance regardless; however, it is up to his/her discretion. Elliot Poindexter mentioned that the numbers were lacking and the article provided an inadequate explanation. Blake Haan informed Jason that if there was a serious problem, the Ethics Committee would relate them to the Observer. Jason wondered if there was any compelling reason why the Observer and student body could not know the numbers before the Ethics Committee reported anything. Trip Foley reminded Jason that the minutes are open to the public. Plus, there is nothing stated in the Constitution that attendance is public knowledge. Jeremy Staley inquired how Jason or any Observer staff member would know how to interpret the numbers. Gail Thompson said that committee meetings are open to all. She invited the Observer to sit in on the committee meetings because during these meetings important issues are also discussed. Gail explained that the reason why many members got defensive because it was the manner in which Meghanna Downes questioned and handled the situation. Jake Teske asked where the topic of this article came from. Jason replied that he honestly did not feel comfortable saying. Jeremy Staley inquired what the Observer's intentions of the numbers were. Jason answered that there was no reason why they should not have access to them. Joanna Cornwell commented that the Observer has not covered the *heart* of the issues discussed in Senate. She thought the Observer should focus on the positives.

III. Reports

A. Officer Reports

- 1) Student Body President Libby Bishop reported that she and Trip Foley had a great meeting with St. Mary's Student Body President and Vice President. They discussed the possibility of having a Senate dinner over at St. Mary's soon.
- 2) Student Body Vice-President Trip Foley thanked Courtney Kohout for her hard work on the Sexual Assault posters. He was very pleased with the many resolutions on the floor today. Also, he reminded everyone to stay focused and keep up the great work.
- 3) Chief of Staff Patrick Hallahan reported that Prof. Martha Merritt speaking at McGlenn Hall went well. For Thanksgiving break, the shuttle, which runs to the South Bend airport, will be running just as it did for fall break. Also, there will be bigger buses.
- 4) HPC Representative Steve Holte reported tonight there is an Art Show at Badin hall starting at 7 p.m. Alumni Hall's Night of Faith featuring Michael Griffin is tonight at 9 p.m. The last home game pep rally will start at 5:30 and is hosted by Zahm, Walsh, Cavanaugh, Sorin, and St. Ed's. BP's Salsa Night is this Saturday in the LaFortune Ballroom.
- 5) St. Mary's Representative Lindsay Evans informed that student tours of the dining hall would be at 2:30 p.m. There will also be Karaoke at 7 p.m. tomorrow.
- 6) Library Faculty Liaison Cheryl Smith reported no news.

B. Committee Reports

1. Committee on Academic Affairs – Jeremy Staley reported no news.
2. Committee on Diversity – Courtney Kohout announced that Gail is working with Outreach, and Jeremy Staley is working with St. Mary's on the sexual/harassment clause.
3. Committee on Ethics - Joanna Cornwell reported the committee had no issues to pursue.
4. Committee on Gender Issues – Courtney Badgley informed that the poster was complete, the Psychology department is still working on the Freshman Survey, and Kara Wick is researching the security guard issue.
5. Committee on Oversight - Elliot Poindexter reported no news; however, there will be an Oversight meeting after Senate.
6. Committee on Residence Life – Kevin Conley noted that there are 2 resolutions on the floor this meeting. Also, a special thanks to Jeremy Lao.
7. Committee on University Affairs - Gail Thompson said they have a meeting with OIT next Tuesday at 8 a.m. Also, BP, Morrissey, PE, Stanford, Zahm, Welsh Family and O'Neill have not responded to the SYR surveys, which were sent out about 3 weeks ago. If the hall president has misplaced the survey, have them call Brin Anderson ASAP. Gail mentioned that the Copy Center closes an hour earlier and is not open on Saturdays. If anyone hears of any problems or complaints, talk to the committee. The committee is also looking into the social security numbers issue. Finally, there was another meeting with ND Security (keeping the communication open). So far, there has not been any security at Sabarro's because there has been no need. Gail encouraged everyone to act like adults and then there should be no problems.
8. Ad-hoc Committee – Jake Teske announced that the first meeting was yesterday, and it went well. They discussed hall fellows, in which a professor goes to the dorm and gives a special lecture – PW does this. Everyone was asked to talk to his or her rectors and hall presidents to see if the dorm was interested. The committee is looking into how many professors use the dining hall passes. Also, they are interested in setting up a Student and Faculty Senate dinner.
9. Financial Management Board – The "Rainy Day" Fund was approved.

IV. Old business

V. New Business

A. SS0203-07: Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Bike Deposit Program

- Jeremy Lao and Matt Kinsella, Sophomore Class officers, presented the resolution to the Senate. An explanation was passed out to each Senator, which laid out the purpose and logistics of the bike program.
- Discussion: Blake Haan asked if the bike rental was a one-time rental. Jeremy said, for example, a student could rent in the spring and return the bike in the summer or rent in the fall and give back the bike in the spring. Ideally, a freshman could rent the bike in the fall and return the bike senior year. Erin Cushing mentioned students might not return the bikes if the rental fee is only \$25. Brin Anderson suggested maybe the student account could be charged a certain amount, if the bike is

not returned; otherwise potentially many bikes could be lost. Erin Cushing added that it would be intelligent to state this in the agreement. Jeremy added that NDSP will be maintaining the bike and addressing any repairs needed. The bikes will also be a distinguishable color. Ricky Sadowski wondered if someone stole a bike, would they be sent to ResLife. Jeremy stated that Cappy believes in the students and does not want to hold a student to contract, for he has faith in them. Steve Holte commented that the bikes are University property. If they are stolen, the person should be taken to ResLife. Courtney Kohout thought this was a great idea and urged everyone to give this proposal/resolution a chance. Blake Haan asked if off-campus students were allowed to participate. Jeremy replied yes.

- The resolution went into discussion/debate: Blake Haan added a comma after the second RESOLVED. So it reads:
 - BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate...
- Voting on the bike resolution with the added comma. **The Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Bike Deposit Program was unanimously approved, without any objections at 7:05 p.m.** Congratulations Jeremy Lao, Matt Kinsella and the Residence Life Committee.

B. SS0203-08: Resolution in Support of the South Bend Old Boy's Rugby Team

- Sean Williams introduced the resolution to the Senate and reported that lots of research went into the resolution. The spirit behind the resolution, as Sean explained, is to give support and hope towards regaining the status of the South Bend Old Boy's Rugby Team (SBOBRT).
- Discussion: Jeremy Staley wondered what the name of the team was before its banishment. Sean was not quite sure, but it did have Notre Dame in its name. Blake Haan wanted to know what "exclusively to Notre Dame students" meant. Sean explained that last year Holy Cross members played last year. Josh Towns added that other members of other schools participate in ND affiliated activities. Max Walters, Alumni Hall, is a rugby player and thanked everyone on behalf of the team. Courtney Kohout states that this resolution singles out one specific club. She reminded the Senators that if another specific club issue comes to the floor, they must whole heartedly address the issue also.
- Debate of the resolution: Brin Anderson added a friendly amendment. After "current" add "members of the"
 - It reads:
- Elliot Poindexter PQ-ed, and Neil Vargas seconded. The resolution was moved into vote. **The Resolution in Support of the South Bend Old Boy's Rugby Team was passed by the majority, without opposition at 7:15 p.m.**

C. SS0203-09: Resolution Supporting the Sexual Assault Awareness Poster and Its Distribution to Resident Halls

- Courtney Kohout addressed the Senate and said she made all the necessary changes and improvements to the poster. Also, Trip Foley

has addressed the Sexual Assault advisory committee earlier, and Ava Preacher's name was added to the poster. The posters will be printed on teal colored paper, which is the official color of sexual assault awareness, and laminated.

- Discussion/Debate: Erin Cushing requested to write a resolution so that these posters are not limited just to restrooms. Courtney Kohout said she will be working on that next. Jake Teske wondered if there was any concern of the posters being ripped down. Courtney Kohout stated it was better to try than to not try at all. The janitorial staff will be notified, and the RA's will also have them. Brin Anderson wondered why Rectors were not mentioned in the resolution. Courtney explained that RA's appear to be more comfortable people who students will approach. Erin Cushing moved to close the debate, and Elliot Poindexter seconded.
 - Vote: Jake Teske moved for unanimous consent. Jesse Norman seconded. **The Resolution Supporting the Sexual Assault Awareness Poster and Its Distribution to Residence Halls was approved at 7:20 p.m.**
- D. SS0203-10: Open Letter Regarding Distance Learning
- Dave Brenner introduced the letter to the Senate. He explained that the letter was to open dialogue and exploration of distance learning alternatives with the faculty and provost.
 - Discussion: Courtney Kohout wondered if Dave had met with Dr. Hatch. Dave replied he will be very soon. Sarah Bates offered a friendly amendment in the first sentence of the letter. Changing "from" to "of."
 - The Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Senate...
Jeremy Staley commented that this is a great letter, and Dave did a wonderful job. Jason Creek suggested adding a comma after Arts and Letter in the second paragraph.
 - Colleges of Engineering, Arts and Letter, and Business...
Brin Anderson offered a friendly amendment to change "untapped" to "unexplored" to sound more formal.
 - ...but those potentials are currently **unexplored**.
 - Voting on the letter with two friendly amendments: **The Open Letter Regarding Distance Learning was approved by the majority, with the exception of one objection at 7:25 p.m.**

VI. Announcements

- A. Allison Ferber informed that the men and women's Interhall Football Championship would take place in the stadium this Sunday, November 24, 2002.
- B. Joanna Cornwell announced that BP's Salsa Night is this Saturday in the LaFortune Ballroom.
- C. Gail Thompson encouraged everyone to act properly around Sabarro's.
- D. Katie Boyle announced that the preliminary survey of the Huddle would be coming soon.
- E. Trip Foley stated that the steering committee would meet after Senate.

F. Courtney Kohout wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving!

VII. Adjournment

Sean Williams motioned to adjourn. Jason Creek seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 7:29 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, December 4, 2002 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Chin
Student Union Secretary