

Notre Dame Student Senate

Executive Summary

January 22, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- A. Chairperson Trip Foley called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
- B. The invocation was led by Paul Dockery.
- C. Roll call was taken; Gail Thompson, Sean Williams, Kevin Conley, Jesse Norman Courtney Watson and Steve Holte were absent. Allison Childs was tardy.
- D. The January 15, 2003 Executive Summary was approved at 5:05 p.m.
- E. Without objection, the agenda was inverted -- moving the discussion of Resolution SS0203-14 to after the first podium speaker.

II. Podium

- A. Danielle Ledesma, Judicial Council President
 - a. Regarding elections: Danielle updated the Senate on the 2003 election for Student Body President and Vice President. There are 6 tickets running. So far an online election will take place this year.

III. New Business

- A. SS0203-14: Amendment to the Constitution regarding CCC structure
 - Amy O'Connor, club coordinator, explained that while she and the CCC were preparing their Strategic Plan for Executive Cabinet, they ran into some obstacles. The CCC decided that it would be beneficial to add a performing arts division because they saw that they could add 20 clubs to this division. So they must change/amend the Constitution.
 - Elliot Poindexter moved to suspend the rules to vote on the resolution. Dave Brenner seconded. There was no discussion, so Senate moved into voting procedure. **With unanimous approval, Resolution SS0203-14 was passed at 5:10 p.m.**

IV. Podium

- A. Paul Green, Knott Hall
 - Re: Career Center Internship Fair. Paul informed that the fair will take place next Tuesday, February 28, 2003 from 4-8 p.m. in the JACC. This event is open to everyone, specifically for sophomores through seniors. On Monday (1/27) from 7 p.m., some businesses will be there to answer any questions. Also on Tuesday (1/28), there will be a diversity reception—it is a good chance to meet employers before the fair starts. Paul stressed that these companies are coming to hire Notre Dame students; it is not an information session. This is a professional event, so come prepared with a resumé.

- Dave Brenner asked how many students attend usually. Paul replied between 2000-2500 students. He also added that there are quite a few jobs available. Brin Anderson wondered if all the jobs were full time. Paul said that there are summer jobs available also. Trip thanked Paul Green for his information and time.

B. Dave Brenner, Dillon Hall Senator

- Re: Student Meal Plans. Dave said that he had been working on the dining committee as a part of Reslife. They found some needs in food services that need to be changed. He complimented the food services new efforts of adding more food venues, etc. After careful research, they concluded that the main problem was that the dining hall was not “customer friendly.” He said he feels that the students are “stuck in sales orientation” (marketing term), in which food services is forcing the product on the student. Students are not paying a meal to meal basis. He expressed that what they want to see is that food services to align their operations with their customer base. Many students have commented that they would like more options in the dining hall. Dave suggested instituting a Flex 10 meal plan. The statistics show that a student is only eating on average 9.2 meals a week. Students will still eat in the dining hall no doubt. He believes that this issue is something we need to tackle. The resolution is definitely a step in the right direction.
- C. John Fitzpatrick, Sorin College
- Re: Student Meal Plans. John Fitzpatrick is a RA and senior. He wanted to express his thoughts and ideas on the meal plan. He said that the Flex 10 system would address the issues that students are running out of flex points during the semester, and that students are only eating about 9 meals a week. However, he believes that the Flex 10 system does not address the heart of the matter, which are why are students only eating 9.2 meals a week and, more importantly, why are fast food restaurants winning the students over? John said that a dining hall system should be established so that the nature, flavor and quality of the food served are determined by the competition of a free market system. He suggested that inside each of the dining halls there be independently run food stations. After ordering what item the student wanted, the student would then swipe their id and pay. Those stations that were not profitable would have to change their food or whatever to keep competing. The food services would have to earn the students money. He believes that this system would work because students just want to pay for what they eat. When the dining hall has no incentive to take the risk to make changes because they are not competing with the fast food restaurants because they receive a fixed income from the start.

He stressed that we must give the dining hall the chance to compete and fulfill their mission. He believes that that Flex 10 system would just be jumping around the real issue.

V. Old Business

A. Approval of Election Executive Committee

- Last meeting Danielle Ledesma introduced the new 6 committee members nominated to the Judicial Council. **Without any discussion, comments or objections, the “Special 6” were unanimously approved at 5:23 p.m.**

VI. New Business

A. SS0203-13: Resolution Regarding Student Meal Plans

- Sarah Bates introduced the resolution on the floor. It was in regards to establishing a Flex 10 meal plan system. She used a postcard which was sent home to parents as an example to support the resolution. Jake Teske wondered how much money the students would receive if the Flex 10 was implemented. Sarah Blake answered and said no specifics had been determined yet.
- Discussion: Erin Cushing said she thought this was a great idea because it saves money for the students. She noted that the podium speaker’s idea was good, but from past experience, when implemented it was disastrous. Rick Harris expressed that it would be nice to have this option. Sarah Bates hoped that the food services would follow their mission statement and listen. Patrick Hallahan commented that if the Senate passes the resolution it will show that students do not like the food services system and something else. Sarah Blake asked where the resolution goes after Senate. Trip Foley replied that it will go straight to food services.
- Voting procedure: **Resolution SS0203-13 Regarding Student Meal Plans was unanimously passed with one proxy vote at 5:29 p.m.**

B. Election of Student Senate Alternate Representative to Campus Life Council.

- Blake Haan one of the Senators represented on the CLC has a time conflict with the meeting this semester. Trip Foley explained what the CLC did and when it met. He then asked for nominations. Jeremy Staley nominated Kaitlyn Redfield.
- Kaitlyn accepted. Since there were no other nominations, Senate took a vote to approve Kaitlyn. **With unanimous consent, Kaitlyn Redfield was elected as the alternate student Senate representative to Campus Life Council at 5:32 p.m.**

VII. Reports

A. Officer Reports

- 1) Student Body President Libby Bishop informed that she and Trip are still working on the winter Board of Trustees report which will be presented February 6-7. She mentioned that one of the issues she will be addressing is the new the dance policy. Jeremy Staley wondered what the main message she was going to present. Libby replied that the main focus would be that there a few changes that need to addressed regarding the student body.
- 2) Student Body Vice-President Trip Foley had no news to report except for that he is working with Libby on the Board of Trustees report.
- 3) Chief of Staff Patrick Hallahan reported the Office of the President is in the process of being reorganized.
- 4) HPC Representative Steve Holte was not present.
- 5) St. Mary's Representative Lindsay Evans had no news to report.
- 6) Library Faculty Liaison Cheryl Smith had nothing to report.

B. Committee Reports

1. Committee on Academic Affairs – Jeremy Staley reported no news. He and Trip will be re-proposing the TCE letter at Faculty Senate tonight. Academic Affairs will meet immediately after Senate. Jeremy added that a student emailed him regarding classrooms not being open to students as study rooms. Olga Urbietta informed that there are classrooms open in O'Shaughnessy.
- Committee on Diversity – Courtney Kohout informed that the committee has set a date of February 9, 2003 for the Diversity workshop. Also, they will be meeting with Sr. Mary Louise, a leader in gay and lesbian affairs.
2. Committee on Ethics - Joanna Cornwell reported she will be contacting the committee through email about an issue.
3. Committee on Gender Issues – Courtney Badgley said they are continuing their efforts on the parietals issue; they are refining the survey. Olga added that she believes there should be a safety seminar for all students. She suggested creating a map which highlighted the safer areas on and off campus. She also wanted the students to be more informed about the new alcohol policy.
4. Committee on Oversight - Elliot Poindexter reported will be a planning meeting with Amy O'Connor soon. He also reemphasized the rules of the election in the Constitution on p. 43. He then reminded all the Senators that they were in a positions of leadership and when asked for advice to use it wisely. Trip Foley encouraged all to help out in the campaigns.
5. Committee on Residence Life – Sarah Bates thanked everyone for passing the resolution. She also thanked Dave Brenner and Sarah Blake for their hard work.
6. Committee on University Affairs – Jason Creek informed that they will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
7. Ad-hoc Committee – Jake Teske informed that the committee will meet tomorrow at 7 p.m. Also he said that ACASL meets in February, and he will keep Senate updated.
8. Financial Management Board – Elliot Poindexter reported no news.

VIII. Announcements

- A. Erin Cushing said she met with Jim O' Connor, manager of the bookstore, and Dan McCabe, the student coordinator for the bookstore. She discussed with them about having a bookstore committee. They were thinking of having the committee consist of 2-3 Senators, 2 students, and a few members of HPC. If anyone is interested or has any suggestions, contact Erin. Also, Jim O' Connor expressed his want to speak on podium.
- B. Katie Boyle updated everyone on the worker situation. Fr. Scully said that he was interested in testimony from workers. She asked if to ask some of the dorm workers to speak up. If anyone has any information or questions, contact Katie Boyle or Allison Ferber.
- C. Josh Towns announced that the Senate T-Shirt should be coming in 2 weeks. If you have not signed up for a shirt, email him with your size. Also, they will cost \$8.
- D. Blake Haan informed that he has Keenan Review tickets for everyone.
- E. Joanna Cornwell wondered if it was possible to have an open discussion on bigger issues. Trip Foley said that he could add open time to the agenda.
- F. Courtney Kohout inquired about the status of getting SYRs back into the dorms. Libby said that Fr. Poorman wanted to try having dances out of the dorms for one more year to get more feedback.

IX. Adjournment

Sarah Blake motioned to adjourn. Sarah Bates seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 5:51 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, January 29, 2003 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Chin
Student Union Secretary

