

Notre Dame Student Senate

Executive Summary

January 29, 2003

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; Blake Haan and Jake Teske were absent. Sean Williams was tardy.
- D. The January 22, 2003 Executive Summary was approved at 6:13 p.m. prosperous

II. Podium

- A. Danielle Ledesma, Judicial Council President
 - a. Regarding elections: Danielle thanked everyone who participated in the test online election today. If anyone had any problems, please let Danielle know. Brian Coughlin mentioned that this Monday is the "make it or break it" test for the online election, so the more people that participate would be helpful. The election will be open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. There are now 7 official candidates running.
- B. Dan McCabe and Jim O'Connor
 - Re: Bookstore Committee: Junior Dan McCabe was recently selected as the bookstore student liaison. He said he will be the "vehicle" for the students and faculty. He encouraged feedback and mentioned how he would like to enhance the services and goods to the students. There will be a new Bookstore Communication group co-headed by him and Senator Erin Cushing. He stressed the importance of increasing student involvement within the bookstore. If anyone is interested or knows anyone who is interested in becoming part of the committee, email Dan at dmccabe@nd.edu.

III. Reports

- A. Officer Reports
 - 1) Student Body President Libby Bishop informed that she is still working on the winter Board of Trustees report which will be presented February 6-7. She also mentioned that she will be delivering the State of the Union Address after Senate.
 - 2) Student Body Vice-President Trip Foley emphasized the importance of attending hall council meetings. He encouraged everyone to keep the tradition of communication.
 - 3) Chief of Staff Patrick Hallahan reported the Office of the President is sponsoring Sex Signals this Thursday, January 30 at 7 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.

- 4) HPC Representative Steve Holte noted the Keenan Revue will be this weekend, and Lewis/Knott, Cavanaugh and Carroll have dances. Steve also wanted to echo Trip's message regarding hall council attendance.
- 5) St. Mary's Representative Lindsay Evans reported that SMC had its first online voting election with 25% voter turn-out. Junior Class Pride Week this week. On Saturday, there will be a Freshmen/junior formal. Trip Foley sent his congratulations to the new Student Body President and Vice President.
- 6) Library Faculty Liaison Cheryl Smith mentioned that they had their first meeting of the year. The topic of discussion regarded the state of affairs in the Economics department. Right now it is in a stage of many changes, and the faculty is not positively looking on these changes for it is moving toward more main stream economics. This is a very controversial decision and has been delayed for further investigation. If anyone has questions, ask Trip Foley or Jeremy Staley.

B. Committee Reports

1. Committee on Academic Affairs – Jeremy Staley reported that Dave Brenner met with Provost Hatch, and he is very excited about distance learning. Sarah Blake met with Dean Chamblee regarding IB credit. Improvements are already being made, which is great. The committee is excited about the new bookstore committee and thanks Erin Cushing. The committee is still looking into the ROTC minor. Felipe Hernandez noted that the second floor of the library is wireless; soon the basement will be too. Also, floors 4-14 are getting new windows. There will be a FYS meeting tomorrow at 6 p.m. Jeremy mentioned that new complaint has been brought up regarding seniors getting penalized for missing class due to job interviews. Finally, there is a resolution regarding TCEs.
2. Committee on Diversity – Courtney Kohout informed that the committee has set a date of February 9, 2003 for the Diversity workshop. They are working on invitation. She asked if the Senators would spread the word about the workshop to their hall councils. Also, Sr. Mary Louise, a leader in gay and lesbian affairs, and the committee are looking into an administrative position. Lastly, the committee is looking for new ideas to pursue, so if anyone has any suggestions let them know.
3. Committee on Ethics - Joanna Cornwell encouraged everyone to keep up their attendance and to keep focus. After the State of the Union Address, the Ethic committee will meet.
4. Committee on Gender Issues – Courtney Badgley said they are continuing their efforts on the same issues. Kara Wick is looking into the hall monitors issue.
5. Committee on Oversight - Elliot Poindexter reported that the new meeting time will be on Sundays at 5 p.m. He will discuss the student activity fee later in the meeting.
6. Committee on Residence Life – Kevin Conley informed that Katie Boyle got the Huddle surveys back, Brin Anderson is working on football seating distribution, and Sarah Bates is looking into making it possible to buy course packets on a student account. Trip, Kevin and Dave are following up with food services and the Flex 10 meal plan. Sarah Blake also got a toaster placed in the Huddle.
7. Committee on University Affairs – Gail Thompson said the committee is working on a safety awareness campaign, SYR research, and OIT. Some of the members had a meeting with people of LaFortune regarding the basement.

- Discussion: Danielle Ledesma mentioned that there is chance that a referendum might not be able to be put on for the new online election. Ricky Sadowski suggested changing the wording of the question to clarify it. Kevin Conley motioned to add “with a proportional amount of flex points” to the first question. Sarah Bates seconded.
- Voting Procedure: Sarah Bates moved for unanimous consent. **Resolution SS0203-15 regarding student meal referendum with the amendment: “Do you think a Flex-10 Meal plan *with a proportional amount of flex points* should be offered?” was unanimously passed at 7:00 p.m.**

D. SS0203-16: Resolution Regarding TCE Sub-committee

- Jeremy Staley introduced the resolution. He stated that in order to get changes done in a timely fashion, this sub-committee needed to be created. Elliot Poindexter asked how this committee was different from what Academic Affairs does. Trip Foley answered that this TCE committee would just be focused on research solely for TCE.
- Discussion/Debate: Courtney Kohout wondered if Senate was planning to get the TCE issue resolved by the end of their term. Jeremy said hopefully and that is why this sub-committee needs to be formed. Brin Anderson mentioned that she was concerned with the third clause because students have access to NDtoday.com. Jeremy stated that NDtoday was not accurate. Dave Brenner offered a friendly amendment regarding the spelling of two words. Jeremy accepted the friendly amendment. Elliot wanted to know who was interested in this committee and wondered if it would overlap with the Ad-hoc committee. Trip Foley answered that it would not overlap. Ad-hoc is focused on hall fellows. Sarah Blake and Dave Brenner volunteered to be on the new committee.
- Voting Procedure: Allison Ferber motioned for unanimous consent. **Resolution 220203-16 regarding adding a TCE sub-committee was passed at 7:06 p.m.**

E. SS0203-17: Resolution Regarding Alcohol Awareness for Study Abroad Students

- Courtney Badgley introduced the resolution. Gina from the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education thought it would be appropriate to make study abroad students more aware about other countries’ alcohol and alcohol policies, so they could be more prepared. She wanted to include this information with the laws and regulations to increase knowledge.
- Voting Procedure: No discussion was made. Sarah Blake moved for unanimous consent. **Resolution SS0203-17 regarding alcohol awareness for study abroad students was adopted at 7:08 p.m.**

F. SS0203-18: Resolution Regarding Residence Life Committee Letter to the Members of the Student Affairs Committee

- Kevin Conley moved to address the letter. Jeremy Staley seconded. A vote was taken to bring the letter to the floor. Without objection, the letter was brought to the floor. Kevin introduced the letter as a nice complement to Libby’s Board of Trustees report. He said that a letter

like this has never been sent before and would make a nice impression because it shows that students do care. He thought that it would give strength to Libby's presentation. However, this letter has to be approved by Fr. Poorman first, and there is a strong chance that it might get approved to be sent to the Board of Trustees.

- **Discussion:** Jeremy Staley asked Libby how she felt.
- Libby answered that at first she thought it was a good idea; however she has reviewed what she will be putting in the report and is not in support of the letter at all. She said the letter would not be helping and would detract from her report. Libby reaffirmed that she would address some of the issues in the letter.
- Dave Brenner suggested maybe a letter from the entire Senate could be added.
- Jason Creek wondered if the letter has the same conclusion as her report.
- Libby responded by saying that she will be giving an accurate student report.
- Katie Boyle commented that the senators have never been to a Board of Trustees meeting, but Libby has and knows how to address them in an efficient manner. However, it is a good idea for Fr. Poorman to read the letter.
- Jeremy Staley stated that he strongly agreed with the message of the letter; however, he did not agree with the method. He emphasized that the students only have one shot with the Board of Trustees, and we do not want to jeopardize the opportunity. We do not want to put Libby in a position in which she has to explain the differences between the letter and her report.
- Kevin Conley said the letter told what has happened on this campus, dances should not have been banned when the ban on hard alcohol took place, and forwarded the idea of instituting a probationary period. He thought the letter was very straightforward and wondered what questions the BOT would ask which would contradict Libby's report.
- Danielle Ledesma brought to everyone's attention that the reason Fr. Poorman said the in-hall dances were banned was because of space, not alcohol. She suggested considering the real reason.
- Patrick Hallahan mentioned that having a letter sent as a supplement to a report is not foreign to the BOT. Reports should reflect how the students feel; this letter will definitely support this feeling.
- Jason Creek then inquired if the dances were banned from dorms because of space, what about those dorms which can accommodate.
- Trip Foley stressed that the letter does represent the spirit of the students, but he did not think it was the best idea to send the letter. He thought the letter was confusing and it would just be repetitive.
- Sarah Bates did not see how this letter would detract from the report. If the Board of Trustees is making decisions about the student body, shouldn't they know how the students feel?
- Rick Harris reminded everyone that the letter would not be seen by the BOT unless Fr. Poorman approved it first.
- Joanna Cornwell stated that something is wrong if the report and the letter do not correspond.

- Josh Towns mentioned that the senate and student body are asking for changes in ideology. This letter is not strong enough for anyone to consider our requests. The letter just seems like a letter from people that are mad; we need to show more concern and evidence to be acknowledged.
- Kevin Conley reemphasized that the letter is reinforcement to what Libby will be saying. It will act as a summary to how the students feel.
- Jeremy Staley asked Libby if she could explain what the message of the report is. He wanted to know if the letter did actually reflect what would be in the report.
- Ricky Sadowski added that he has heard great points from both sides. It is the duty of the Residence Life committee to express the student body's opinion. Right now the committee is fulfilling its mission statement and it is our duty as representatives to further the students' views.
- Steve Holte suggested forwarding the letter to Libby because if the letter is sent to Fr. Poorman and he denies it, the letter will never be seen. If the letter is given to Libby, then she could incorporate some of it into the report.
- Sarah Bates asked Libby how she would use the letter if the Senate readdressed the letter to her.
- Kevin Conley expressed that the letter shows how serious we are. It would be an insult to the time and effort the committee has put in to address the letter to Libby.
- Sarah Bates made a friendly amendment to the second paragraph; Kevin accepted.
- Jeremy re-stressed the one time opportunity with the BOT. He moved to end the debate. Neil Vargas seconded.
- Discussion/Debate if the Senate should close debate on debate of sending the letter:
- Courtney Watson stated that just taking quotes from the letter and putting them into the report would detract from all the hard work that the committee has done. Having the student Senate behind Libby should support Libby. If what is being said in the letter and her report are different, then something is wrong. Libby should be reporting on how the students feel.
- Kevin Conley commented that it would have been a waste of effort if only a couple quotes were out in the report.
- Trip Foley added that there are a lot of issues that many people work, but they never get seen.
- Sarah Blake motioned to end debate; Jason Creek seconded.
- **Jeremy Staley motioned to vote on changing the salutation to address Libby Bishop. With 15 people opposed, 5 in favor and 2 abstentions, the motion failed.**
- Back to discussion on the letter...
- Jesse Norman motioned to limit the debate to two for and two against comments.
- Rick Harris spoke in favor of sending the letter. He thought it was important to send the letter and show the students are very adamant

about the issue. He also believed that the letter would be denied by Fr. Poorman, but at least he will know how the student senate feels.

- Kevin Conley spoke in favor of the letter. He reemphasized that it was an obligation to send this letter. We deserve respect and we need to show the administration how we feel.
 - Josh Towns spoke against sending the letter. He stated that it was unfair of the senate not to trust that Libby will represent us (students). She has experience in dealing with the BOT, and only facts will be presented.
 - Jeremy Staley spoke against sending the letter. He said that there is no doubt that everyone agrees with what is said in the letter. He stressed that the Senate needs to work with Libby and not bypass her.
 - Rick Harris motioned to postpone the discussion to a later date. Jeremy Staley seconded. Debate on the motion on the floor started:
 - Sarah Bates wondering if they would know Libby's report by that date.
 - Katie Boyle mentioned that even if we re-wrote the letter, Libby would not be able to incorporate the letter into her report.
 - Sean Williams moved to end the debate; Jason Creek seconded.
 - Rick Harris decided to withdraw his motion.
 - Elliot Poindexter requested to have a roll call vote. Allison Ferber seconded. Sarah Blake motioned to end the discussion of the letter. Senate voted on Elliot's request for a roll call. It passed with majority, one opposed, and one abstention.
 - Roll Call vote (24 senators present):
 - **In favor:**
 - a. **Joanna Cornwell, Dave Brenner, Jason Creek, Sarah Blake, Allison Ferber, Jesse Norman, Sarah Bates, Rick Harris, Sean Williams, Kevin Conley, Kara Wick, Courtney Watson**
 - **Opposed:**
 - **Josh Towns, Courtney Kohout, Elliot Poindexter, Katie Boyle, Courtney Badgley, Neil Vargas, Brin Anderson, Gail Thompson, Felipe Hernandez, Erin Cushing, Kaitlyn Redfield, Jeremy Staley**
 - **With 12 in favor and 12 against passing the resolution regarding the Residence Life Committee Letter to the Members of the Student Affairs Committee, Resolution SS0203-18 failed.**
- G. Rick Harris moved to adopt a resolution to the floor. ~~Jason Creek~~ ^{Josh Townes} seconded. A vote was taken. With 5 in favor of adopting the resolution and 19 opposed, the motion was not adopted. Trip Foley suggested that Rick bring the resolution to committee.

VI. Announcements

- A. Keenan Revue this Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. There will be a shuttle picking up students from the Grotto.
- B. Jesse Norman informed that "Betty's Summer Vacation" will be performed this Thursday – Saturday.
- C. Joanna Cornwell announced that there will be no Ethics Committee meeting after Senate.
- D. Katie Boyle reminded everyone to speak with the in-hall worker staff. Fr. Scully is still interested in testimony from workers. If anyone has any information or questions, contact Katie Boyle or Allison Ferber.

VII. Adjournment

Sean Williams motioned to adjourn. Neil Vargas seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 7:50 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, February 5, 2003 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Chin
Student Union Secretary

If it is your duty to croak like the toad, then GO
AHEAD! And with all your might! MAKE THEM HEAR YOU!

~ Louis-Ferdinand Céline (1894-1961)
French writer

