

Notre Dame Student Senate

Executive Summary

February 5, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- A. Chairperson Trip Foley called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.
- B. The invocation was led by Paul Dockery.
- C. Roll call was taken; Courtney Kohout, Brin Anderson, Erin Cushing, Allison Childs, and Libby Bishop were absent.
- D. The February 3, 2003 Executive Summary was approved at 6:16 p.m. with minor corrections.

II. Podium

- A. Amy O'Connor and Andrew Oxenreiter
 - a. Re: Student Activity Fee – Andrew and Amy came before Senate to discuss the student activity fee and FMB's proposal. They came to a conclusion that some sort of mechanism needed to be put into place, so the fee would not increase randomly. They propose to raise the fee in proportion to the increase in tuition, but only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the rate the tuition increases, subject to University policy. They wanted to come here and let Seante know what was happening. Amy explained that they are working on a proposal to get approved by FMB next week. They were hoping to gain student leader support behind this proposal. Then next week, they would like to bring the proposal back which FMB approved and have Senate affirm it.
 - b. Questions: Joanna Cornwell wondered if they could provide some numbers. Andrew explained that tuition is usually raised between 4-7%, but they do not know what the increase will be for next year. They will raise the activity fee $\frac{3}{4}$ of the percentage increase. Steve Holte wanted to know if they will ever meet the requests of clubs of money. Amy commented that probably not in the near future. Last year when the fee was raised was the first time in 8 years. In order to keep raising the fee in large amounts, they want to institute a mechanism where it would be done automatically and watched carefully by FMB ever year. Jeremy Staley wondered if the current fee falls short of what is needed. Amy expressed that the current fee definitely falls short. Compared to other universities, ND is far behind. St. Mary's activity fee is \$150. Ricky wondered if the purpose of the mechanism is so that in the long run, it will take care of itself. Andrew confirmed this statement. If anyone has any questions/comments, please contact one of them.
- B. Danielle Ledesma, Judicial Council President
 - a. - Regarding elections: Danielle thanked those who voted on Monday to test the online election. OIT has agreed to run the online elections this year. Joanna Cornwell inquired if the elections would be only limited to online. Danielle replied that all voting would take place online. Elliot Poindexter wondered if there were other ways to advertise. Danielle said

there will be ads in the Observer. Someone suggested having a campus announcement.

- b. Danielle added that this weekend the Judicial Council received complaints from the Cavanaugh and Lewis/Knott dances. Candidates Mike Bott and Mike Kirsh were accused of campaigning at these dances. The Judicial Council met and found them in violation of 3 bylaws of the Constitution: numbers 6, 10 and 12.

III.

Reports

a. Officer Reports

- 1) Student Body President Libby Bishop was not present because she was giving the Board of Trustees report.
- 2) Student Body Vice-President Trip Foley reported that he received a letter, which he passed around, addressing the Academic Affairs committee. It complimented the committee on their great work especially Jeremy Staley with the First Year of Studies program. Tomorrow, he, Sarah, Kevin and Mark Hayes will meet with Food Services regarding the Flex 10 meal system. He also received information back from the international studies office about the resolution passed regarding awareness of alcohol/drug. They will be meeting with them further.
- 3) Chief of Staff Patrick Hallahan reported that all Senators received a copy of the Board of Trustees report.
- 4) HPC Representative Steve Holte noted that Zahm Hall has a dance on Friday, and PE and Morrissey have dances on Saturday. This Friday, Late Night Olympics will take place in the JACC from 8-4 a.m. The Sophomore Literary Fest begins Thursday—look for the signs!
- 5) St. Mary's Representative Lindsay Evans reported that it is Disabilities Awareness Week. BOG meetings are held on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. on the 3rd floor of Hagar Hall.
- 6) Library Faculty Liaison Cheryl Smith reported no news.

b. Committee Reports

1. Committee on Academic Affairs – Jeremy Staley reported that the committee discussed issues of the Econ. Department. They are waiting to see if there are any student complaints. The biggest concern right now is that this could happen to any department. Sarah Blake noted that Dean Chamblee agreed to pursue three of the four suggestions that the committee made: a) putting a IB chart of accepted credits by the university in the academic bulletin, b) re-evaluate one of the classes that they offer AP credit for but not IB credit, c) strive for equity in evaluating all credit given by any evaluation exams. Kevin Conley and Joanna Cornwell met with Maura Kelley on the Honor Code committee. Still looking into how students should be notified before the paper is submitted for evaluation. Last week, they met with FYS, and the meeting well. The committee is looking into extending Bond Hall Architecture library hours. The TCE sub-committee will be in contact with a company which is for researching and teaching.
2. Committee on Diversity – Neil Vargas informed that the Celebrating Diversity workshop is this Sunday, February 9, 2003. An Indian/Pakistani group brought up an issue regarding a spring event called "Celebration of Color." Trip Foley has taken care of the issues involved in setting up the event though.

3. Committee on Ethics - Joanna Cornwell reported they will be having a meeting this Sunday at 1 p.m. The Senate gave a round of applause for Joanna! (Sarah Bates and Jake Teske gave her a standing ovation.)
4. Committee on Gender Issues – Courtney Badgley said Olga is working on the safety on campus; Katie Boyle has the freshmen orientation survey, which will be distributed to the dorms soon. The committee is working with Martha Patzer on gender issues. She may come to the next Senate meeting.
5. Committee on Oversight - Elliot Poindexter reported that the committee will meet this Sunday. They will discuss different issues/concerns about the Constitution.
6. Committee on Residence Life – Kevin Conley stated that Sarah Bates met with the Copy Shop, and they were more than willing to help out with the course packets; however, they are still working on the student accounts area. Also, Katie Boyle is working on the Huddle Survey. They actually want to add three more questions and have taken the responsibility of distributing the surveys through email—3 flex points will be added to a student account, if the survey is taken.
7. Committee on University Affairs – Gail Thompson noted that they are waiting to hear from transportation regarding safety issues.
8. Ad-hoc Committee – Jake Teske informed that he sent an email out to Dr. Hugh Paige, Associate Dean of Arts and Letters regarding the lecture series for the dorms.
9. Financial Management Board – Jesse Norman reported that they approved using a fund to cover a capitol expense for Irish gardens. They also discussed the student activities fee proposal.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

- a. Elliott Poindexter and Olga Urbietta
 - i. Re: OIT – Elliot explained that they met with the CIO officer before Thanksgiving. They came before Senate to discuss and inform what they had talked about with OIT. They discussed with OIT the question of the wireless issue on campus or the future of it and the future of computer access for all students. They had heard from other sources that this is what OIT was pursuing, so they wanted to find more about it. Elliot and Olga had thought that they were farther along than they had expected; however, OIT was still in its introductory stages. The computer issue was that perhaps there would be a requirement of a laptop of all students in the future. As of this moment there is no computer mandate, but there is a belief throughout the faculty that students have the same amount of access to computers, which Elliot and Olga thought was not the case. They were in favor of a computer mandate because there are some students on this campus who cannot afford a computer. The mandate would be built into tuition/assistance. Olga mentioned that some professors do not have access to computers and getting more access to them would be OIT's first priority. Elliot continued that the wireless issue is still up in the air. Having a wireless connection is a long term goal. The classroom would be the first place to install wireless connections before a dorm because in a classroom, wireless would

increase the potential for learning. Olga added that OIT would never take away the physical wires. If wireless would take place, the computer system would be completely revamped; however, right now wireless is not the most secure system. There were no further questions.

b. Election Appeal: Mike Bott

- i. With no objection the appeal was adopted to the floor. Matt Corgan, vice president of elections, introduced the case. He said the Judicial Council received several complaints from the Lewis/Knott and Cavanaugh dances this past weekend regarding candidates Mike Bott and Mike Kirsh. They called a hearing of the election committee, which is composed of a representative from each dorm, this Monday night. They decided which laws were being called into questions and which ones had merit. After discussion, the committee voted that the candidates violated numbers 6, 10 and 12. Matt referenced to the laws violated in the Constitution (p. 44). The reason why # 6 was violated was because the Mike Bott and Mike Kirsh campaigned in a student activities room (LaFortune Ballroom). # 10 was violated when the candidates did not produce a receipt for a sign they had put up at the dance. # 12 was violated because the sign that was put up was not approved by the Danielle Ledesma or Matt. Five members of the executive committee met after the hearing and talked with Mike Bott and Mike Kirsh. They then discussed possible sanctions and came to agreement that the candidates would not be allowed to submit anymore campaign material until after the general election, Monday, February 10, 2003.
- ii. Mike Bott addressed that he and his running mate were just appealing #6, being charged with campaigning in a Student Union venue. He said he had spoken to Mr. Corgan to seek approval of campaigning at the Cavanaugh dance. He claimed he did not know where the dance was. Mr. Corgan gave his approval. Mr. Bott said the election committee could not even give him a list of Student Union venues when they met this past Monday either. They are appealing because Mr. Corgan had given approval for them to campaign at the dance.
- iii. Matt Corgan affirmed that he and Mike Bott had a phone conversation on Friday regarding campaigning at the dance. He gave his approval because he did not know where the dance was being held. If he had known, he would have said no immediately. Matt continued and said that later in the Monday meeting, Mike Bott claimed that the committee could not tell what the student activities venues are. Matt stated that to it was easily attainable information to find out what a places are student activities venues. He spoke with Mary Edgington, assistant director of student activities and the LaFortune student center. She said the student activities office, specifically herself, manages and maintains the LaFortune Ballroom. The information is readily available on the website, brochure, asking any maintenance staff member or in the office. It is very clear that Student Activities manages the ballroom and candidates do have access to this information before hand.
- iv. Mike Bott mentioned that only one person in the meeting knew that the LaFortune Ballroom was managed under Student Activities. He re-emphasized that they did have permission to campaign at the dance.
- v. Questions: Sarah Bates wanted to know what Mike Bott was hoping for if he won the appeal. Mike responded that the main reason for appealing

was because it was unfair. Jesse Norman asked if Mike had specifically asked for a list of Student Activities venues. Mike replied no. Steve Holte mentioned that in the Constitution it states that no campaigning is allowed in places funded by Student Activities. He wondered if this was the same if a dorm rented the location. Danielle Ledesma answered that the LaFortune Ballroom is specifically funded by Student Activities, any damages done to the room if forwarded to Student Activities. The rental fee is really just to cover the Ballroom monitor. Allison Ferber said she was under the impression that it was implied that the second floor of the LaFortune was off limits for campaigning. Matt Corgan stated he had sent out an email to all the candidates with the statement that no posters could be hung on the second floor of LaFortune. Josh Towns commented to Matt that was it not his responsibility to know where the dance was being held before he gave his permission. Matt Corgan replied that he did not think it was his responsibility to ask more questions to the candidate. He did give him permission to campaign, but not to break other rules of campaigning either. Mike Bott did hand out cards and voice verbal campaigns, which are all legal. Jesse Norman wondered that if in the future, the Judicial Council could include an explicit list of Student Activities venues. He also wondered if the punishment would be mitigated if the appeal was granted. Matt responded by saying he would look in to providing a list, and the sanctions apply to #10 and 12. Elliot Poindexter noted that he serves as executive liaison on the Executive committee. He wanted to reiterate that the conclusion was made based upon all the events that took place. Sarah Blake inquired if they could still design new material or they could not reprint old material. Matt answered that they could make more copies of their already made posters for they are approved; however, they cannot get any new campaign material approved. Jake Teske asked Mike Bott how this would hurt his campaign. Mike said that it hopefully not hurt the campaign too much. Sarah Bates asked Mike if it crossed his mind that the LaFortune Ballroom was off limits. Mike answered that it never crossed his mind—he said that one cannot see the student government offices across from the ballroom. Gail Thompson stated that Mike never addressed # 10 and 12. Mike replied that he was only appealing #6. Steve Holte wondered if the punishment was typical. Matt responded that the hearings are rare and the sanctions are created in accordance of the laws. Each case is different; therefore, each sanction is different. Steve continued by asking if the Judicial Council could forego lag time when approving their new campaign posters if they make it to the run-offs. Matt said that the hours for approval begin the next morning. Jake Teske inquired that in the future could someone/Senate clarify what student activities locations are in the Constitution. Elliot mentioned they would look into it; however, there is no spot within the LaFortune Ballroom to post anything. Kevin Conley wanted to make clear which locations of LaFortune were open to campaigning: TV room, Huddle, Starbucks and bulletin boards. Blake Haan questioned why candidates could not campaign in Student Activities places. Courtney Watson suggested that in the future, all candidates are notified with where they can campaign. Kevin Conley asked Mike Bott if he had any thoughts on a fair sanction. Elliot stated that his general feelings were

that the committee was fair and actually nice to the candidates. He believed they made a fair decision. Blake Haan wondered if the Senate could see a hard copy of the sanctions. Jesse Norman explained that Senate is only dealing with the appeal. Trip added that Senate's ruling is final.

- vi. Sean Williams motioned to exonerate Mike Bott—remove the guilty finding against him. Josh Towns seconded. Debate on the motion began. Elliot Poindexter motioned to the end debate. Debate was closed without any objections. Courtney Watson commented that not all the blame should be put on Mike Bott. Allison Ferber noted that the Judicial Council should be trusted. Elliot Poindexter added that Senate could exonerate Bott on #6, but the sanctions would still hold because they dealt with #10 and 12.
- vii. Voting Procedure: **With 14 in favor of exonerating Mike Bott from law #6 and 7 opposed, the motion failed at 7:15 p.m.**

VI. Announcements

- a. Sarah Bates announced that PW is sponsoring a carnation sale for Valentine's Day at North and South dining halls. The price is \$1.
- b. Danielle Ledesma announced that the 2003 Presidential Debate will take place tonight at 8 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.
- c. Gail Thompson pointed out today's Observer viewpoint. She recommended everyone to read the article and to boycott Heartland this Thursday.
- d. Katie Boyle announced for Joanna Cornwell that the Sophomore Literary Fest starts tonight. It would great for everyone to support.
- e. Jesse Norman wanted to commend Coach Willingham on an outstanding recruiting season!

VII. Adjournment

Blake Haan motioned to adjourn. Kara Wick seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 7:20 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, February 12, 2003 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Chin
Student Union Secretary