

# Notre Dame Student Senate

## Executive Summary

February 12, 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; Joanna Cornwell, Neil Vargas, Felipe Hernandez, Erin Cushing and Kaitlyn Redfield were absent.
- D. The February 3, 2003 Executive Summary was approved at 6:14 p.m. with minor corrections.

### II. Podium

- A. Danielle Ledesma, Judicial Council President
  - a. Election Update: Danielle explained that last Thursday, Matt Padberg's ticket had a hearing regarding the violation of the slander rule; however, no sanction was given. This past Monday, the primary election took place. Hallahan/Lao and Ebersol/Meagher moved on. The final election will take tomorrow, Thursday, February 13, 2003. Tonight in the Library auditorium, the presidential debate will start at 8 p.m. Also, petitions for class office were due today. There are no juniors running for junior class office as of right now. Senate elections should take place the first week of March. It is the responsibility of the Senators to hold an informational meeting.

### III. Reports

- a. Officer Reports
  - 1) Student Body President Libby Bishop reported that the Board of Trustees report went well. The Board passed three resolutions:
    - a) "that the University give each hall \$1000 for dances in 2003-04 contingent on the agreement that halls let school officials review their dance budgets to see where and how the money is spent;
    - b) that student life administrators devise a plan to maximize availability of out-of-dorm dance venues, especially the most popular locations;
    - c) and that officials work with Food Services to lower food options for dances that are required to be catered."

Sarah Bates asked Libby why she did not choose to include the resolution Senate passed last week in her report. Libby replied that her report was pretty comprehensive, and she did not think it was not needed.
  - 2) Student Body Vice-President Trip Foley reported that he, Sarah Bates and Mark Hayes met with Food Services last Thursday and had a good meeting about the Flex 10 resolution. They discussed some of the issues that needed to be considered to implement this meal plan. Food Services wanted to make clear that under the current budget, if the new meal plan was instituted, a new budget would need to be made. They concluded that the professional surveyor at Food Services will devise a questionnaire, which will be sent out to students, to gauge what students want and will sacrifice.
  - 3) Chief of Staff Henry Scott reported that last night there was the Rosary in the Basilica co-sponsored by Student Government and Campus ministry.

Tuesday, February 25, the academic committee in the Office of the President is hosting deans from the different colleges for an informal presentation on commencement procedures. He asked if the Senate academic committee could send some delegates. Coming up on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, kick's off Student Appreciation Week. The last lecture series will take place next Thursday by Prof. Tillery.

- 4) HPC Representative Steve Holte noted that JPW is this weekend. Alumni and Badin are sponsoring a Night of Faith featuring Fr. Rousseau – Topic: Five Luminous Mysteries in the Alumni Chapel tonight at 10 p.m. Cavanaugh Hall is hosting Women's Concerns Week (Feb 17-21). On Monday, February 17 in the Cavanaugh basement at 8 p.m. there will be a talk about rape and on Tuesday there will be a nutrition talk at 7 p.m.
  - 5) St. Mary's Representative Lindsay Evans was not present, but Trip mentioned that Lindsay is working on having a St. Mary's BOG Senate dinner one Wednesday after a meeting.
  - 6) Library Faculty Liaison Cheryl Smith reported Provost Hatch addressed Faculty Senate regarding the affairs of the Economics department. It was a very heated and lengthy discussion.
- b. Committee Reports
1. Committee on Academic Affairs – Jeremy Staley reported that the committee discussed issues of the Econ. Department because they were not sure how big a role students played if any in this decision. The biggest concern right now is that this could happen to any department. If anyone has any concerns, contact Jeremy. Jake Teske met with Provost Hatch; Provost Hatch expressed how impressed he was about the Student Senate action has done. Jeremy explained that senior absences are evaluated on a case to case basis. Absences are actually referred to ResLife in which Bill Kirk makes the final decision. Sarah Blake will be following up on the criteria of a legitimate absence. Dave Brenner contacted Northwestern University about TCE reports. Its evaluation system is what the sub-committee wants TCEs to work; 5 questions, essay and extra question which are made available to all students before the class—very helpful to the sub-committee. Jeremy met with Mr. Loughner of the Kaneb Center. It was basically an informational meeting about TCEs. Kevin Conley is continuing his work in looking into a ROTC minor; he is working with University Affairs. The committee met with Maura Kelley to discuss all the kinks in the ND honor equation. Professors are still submitting all students' papers.
  2. Committee on Diversity – Courtney Kohout commented that only 2 people showed up at the Celebrating Diversity Workshop on Sunday. She thought that maybe the 5 hour commitment and the meeting not being mandatory played a big factor in the failure of the event.
  3. Committee on Ethics - Joanna Cornwell was not present.
  4. Committee on Gender Issues – Olga Urbieta, the Gender Issues and University Affairs committees met with Phil Johnson to discuss campus safety issues. The meeting made a lot of progress and was very productive. They discussed the possibility of getting cards made with cab numbers/safety numbers. It would be sponsored by Student Government, NDSP and maybe Pillars. They also talked about having late night runs to off-campus apartments and getting maps of South Bend.
  5. Committee on Oversight - Elliot Poindexter reported that the committee discussed the Student Activity Fee.



6. Committee on Residence Life – Kevin Conley reported that the committee will be meeting with the rectors on CLC to discuss their feelings regarding dance issues. Courtney and Katie are working on worker's issues. The toaster is now in service in the Huddle. Katie Boyle asked if all senators could ask their dorm workers some questions about their working conditions.
7. Committee on University Affairs – Gail Thompson stated that the committee had an economics department split discussion which inquired if the economics dept. was bringing down Arts and Letters ranking. Gail expressed kudos to Olga Urbieto regarding the meeting with Phil Johnson—the meeting was very productive. The manager of Reckers has noted interest about having trial weekend with security. Lastly, Gail mentioned that someone in one of her classes quoted the Sexual Assault Poster. 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.
8. Ad-hoc Committee – Jake Teske stated that met this week. He received a message back from Hugh Paige, who is running a program called Residing in the World of ideas. They discussed possible arrangements.
9. Financial Management Board – Jesse Norman reported that they approved the Shirt design, SUB bringing in Janet Reno, the Student Activity fee, and the Shirt spending fund.

#### IV. Old Business

#### V. New Business

- a. Letter of Nomination for Henry Scott
  - i. Libby Bishop introduced a letter asking for Senate's approval of Henry Scott as Office of the President Chief of Staff. She was very confident in his abilities.
  - ii. Sarah Bates asked if Libby could explain Patrick Hallahan's resignation. Libby stated that the Observer did an accurate job in explaining; it came down to a balancing role of campaigning and being Chief of Staff. It was mutual decision. Jesse Norman asked if Henry Scott was author of the BOT report. Henry Scott replied yes. Jesse continued by asking how Henry felt about the current report. Henry expressed that it did represent the student opinion according to the research they did; however, the wording and conclusion could have been stronger. But overall, he thought it was accurate and comprehensive. Jeremy Staley inquired what the duties as Chief of Staff entailed. Henry answered managing the Office of the President. Trip Foley stated that Senate will vote on Henry Scott's approval at the next meeting.
- b. Resolution Bestowing Emeritus Title Upon Patrick W. Hallahan
  - i. Sarah Bates motioned to bring a Resolution Bestowing Emeritus Title Upon Patrick Hallahan to the floor. Sarah Blake seconded. Without objections, the resolution was brought to the floor. Sarah explained that this is showing Senate's support and appreciation of all the hard work and dedication Pat put in this year.
  - ii. Discussion: Gail Thompson made an amendment to the resolution in the Therefore clause. She wanted to add after Patrick W. Hallahan, "that there is a statue in his honor." Sean Williams

seconded the amendment. The Senate moved into discussion of the amendment. Ricky Sadowski thought this amendment was not feasible. He discouraged Senators adding this amendment. He wanted to remind everyone how serious Pat took his job. Even though he had some conflicts, he left the office in good terms in Senate. He stressed that adding any amendments would take away from the seriousness of the honor. Jeremy Staley note that no size was specified of the statue. Jesse Norman wondered if Senate had money to build a statue. Trip Foley stated that he does not honestly know what the budget is right now, but nothing was set aside for statue making. Gail Thompson wanted to defend the spirit of the amendment. She thought that everything has gotten too serious and has divided Senate. Granted that Pat did a great job, so many people on this campus also do too. She questioned if the resolution was even necessary. Sarah Blake added that normally the tradition holds that Student Body President, Vice President, and Chief of Staff receive the emeritus title. She reminded Senators to pass the resolution now, so that his duties would not be forgotten. Blake motioned to end debate; Rick Harris seconded. Senate moved into voting procedure. The amendment failed at 6:44 p.m.

- iii. Discussion moved back to resolution in its current state: Jesse Norman motioned to postpone the resolution until after the election (next week's meeting) so it is not seen as a political ploy, and so this title can be recognized as honoring his service. Jeremy Staley seconded.
- iv. Debate: Jeremy Staley stated that Jesse's motion is a good idea, so in the future no one will question the motivation of the resolution. Gail Thompson asked if this could be removed off the record because she concerned that it would look poorly in an Observer article. Rick Harris thought that it was pertinent that the Senate pass the resolution today because since it will be on the record and possibly reported, it would look bad, if it were not passed and just postponed. Jesse Norman stressed that since the elections are currently in progress, the passing of this resolution might look like an endorsement. Blake Haan remarked that he is completely in favor of postponing the resolution until next week because if this is how Senate feels, the resolution will not die.
- v. The Senate moved into voting on postponing the resolution until the next Senate meeting. **With a majority in favor, the resolution will be put on next week's agenda.**

**VI. Announcements**

- a. Katie Boyle asked everyone to pick up Freshmen Orientation Surveys for their dorms. There are enough to go to every freshman. Please give them to your Rectors/RAs to distribute.
- b. Jesse Norman noted that he will be having a meeting with OIT next week, if anyone has any questions, tell him.
- c. Jesse also encouraged the Senators to talk about the Student Activity Fee within their dorms, so the Senators can make informed decisions when voting.
- d. Brian Coughlin mentioned that Student Activities put \$1000 for the Celebrating Diversity Workshop, which was a failure. This significant amount of money could have been used in some other way to fund another event. Next time, please encourage people to attend events like this, so no one's time or money is wasted.

**VII. Adjournment**

Blake Haan motioned to adjourn. Kara Wick seconded the motion, and the meeting ended at 6:48 p.m. The next Student Senate meeting will take place Wednesday, February 19, 2003 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Chin  
Student Union Secretary

