

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

April 4, 2001

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

Chairman Brian Moscona called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

B. Invocation

Tim O'Malley led the invocation.

C. Roll Call

Before roll call, all Senators for the 2001-2002 academic year were sworn in as according to Section VII.8 of the Bylaws of the Student Union Senate as listed in the Constitution. Jesse Flores motioned for Tai Romero to serve as acting secretary and John Osborn to serve as acting parliamentarian. The motion was passed unanimously. All Senators were in attendance.

D. Approval of the March 28, 2001 Minutes

The Executive Summary for March 28 was approved unanimously.

II. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

1) Ms. Brooke Norton, Student Body President

President Brooke Norton welcomed all the new Senators and reported that all the division heads of student government had been selected. She reminded the audience that several Senate resolutions are scheduled to be brought before the Campus Life Council on April 9, 2001. Ms. Norton also relayed to the Senate that the Board of Trustees Committee Report would be coming soon. She asked that one representative from each dorm be chosen to attend a brainstorming session about how to improve the use of space on campus. Names of those attending the session on April 11 in LaFortune's Notre Dame Room should be submitted to Tyler Jackson at Jackson.76@nd.edu.

2) Mr. Brian Moscona, Student Body Vice-President

At the beginning of his address, Vice President Brian Moscona stressed multiple points concerning attendance, committees, and meeting procedures that were re-iterated in a sheet he handed out. Mr. Moscona stated that a sign-up sheet for each committee would be available after the meeting. He reminded the listeners that all amendments must be emailed to the Senate Chairperson and Secretary by Sunday night in order to be considered for vote at Wednesday's meeting. Furthermore, any item wanting to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to the Chairperson and Secretary by 5PM on the Tuesday before that week's meeting.

Brian advised that all senators read the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body and bring the booklet to each Senate meeting. He also emphasized the power of the Student Senate as the primary policy makers who have the power to change policy, impeach student leaders, and to amend the budget. Chairman Moscona also offered an open door policy in respect to his office in the student government office.

B. Committee Reports

1) Committee on Academic Affairs

Katie Bufalino, 2000-2001 Chairperson of the Committee on Academic Affairs, articulated the main objectives and workings of her committee during last year. These included an extension of study days that did not pass in Academic Council, the idea for the formation of a scholarship office, a closer look into experiential learning and sophomore advising. The Committee on Academic Affairs also formed a committee with the bookstore officials on how to improve the bookstore's role in student life.

2) Committee on Diversity Affairs

Brendan Dowdall, 2000-2001 Co-Chair of the Committee on Diversity Affairs, highlighted the past work of his committee including the Celebrating Diversity Workshop and a closer look into the negative effects of TCE's. Brendan advocated that the new committee members work closely with those people included as contacts in the Diversity Affairs Committee Transition Report.

3) Committee on Ethics

Kelly Bush, 2000-2001 Chairperson of the Committee on Ethics, explained the unique nature of her committee. The Committee on Ethics does not meet regularly. This group has the power to elect and

impeach student officials, as well as ensure that each student official is properly carrying out his or her position. Her advice to the incoming Senate was that when investigating these ethical issues, do not jump to conclusions.

4) Committee on Gender Issues

Colleen Clarke, 2000-2001 Co-Chairperson of the Committee on Gender Issues, presented a brief overview of her transition report including emphasis on 24 hour space, eating disorders, Freshmen Orientation, and Notre Dame and Saint Mary's relations. Ms. Clarke called to attention the section of the committee's transition report that offers ten suggestions to the rising committee.

5) Committee on Oversight

Audra Hagan, 2000-2001 Co-Chairperson of the Committee on Oversight presented an overview of the purpose for the committee as being two-fold—to provide "housekeeping" of the Constitution and to oversee policy and its processes. Ms. Hagan also highlighted the election reforms on which the past committee worked.

6) Committee on Residence Life

Kevin Berchou, 2000-2001 Co-Chair of the Committee on Residence Life, explained that his committee worked on objectives such as a 'Bill of Rights' to eliminate the discrepancies in different residence hall's 24 hour space. Seth Whetzel, 2000-2001 Co-Chair of the Committee on Residence Life, added that this was one of the most fun committees to work on because you get to see the visible changes on campus arise from your efforts.

7) Committee on University Affairs

Bethany Barker, 2000-2001 Co-Chairperson of the Committee on University Affairs, clarified that this committee was created two years ago to foster a better relationship between students and administrators.

III. PODIUM

A. Kaitlyn Dudley on Teacher Course Evaluations

Ms. Kaitlyn Dudley, a 2000-2001 Senator, used her podium time to address the issue of ethnicity boxes on TCE's, one of the number one ways students are able to relay to the administration how they feel about teachers and faculty. Kaitlyn outlined a report that the Committee on Diversity Affairs had sent to Fr. Jenkins, Vice President and Associate Provost of the University of Notre Dame, and from whom they have now received a reply. Kaitlyn explained that the reason for this presentation to Senate is that this issue will be presented to Academic Council on April 18, 2001.

The idea Kaitlyn proposed is to have the ethnicity box taken off the TCE because ethnicity is such an inflammatory issue and because the box is detrimental to students, rather than significantly helpful. Ms. Dudley elaborated on the intention of the box as being to look for ways that students are biased against professors and not vice versa. In the status quo, it appears that the ethnicity box classifies student by race on an aggregation scale. However, there is no compilation of facts regarding individual classes. Therefore, from the reports it is not noted whether or not a minority is discriminated by a particular teacher. Instead, the gathered information appears to be used to support the claim that students will discriminate against a teacher of an opposite race than themselves. If the TCE's were analyzed on a class by class basis, that analysis might affect a teacher's tenure. Kaitlyn emphasized the notion that the ethnicity box serves to heighten a student's sense of bias and hinders an open culture and Christian society on campus.

Senator Jesse Flores congratulated Kaitlyn on her work and inquired where this information was headed. Kaitlyn explained that the report was scheduled to appear before the Academic Council, although it could be sent to Student Senate. Senator Jennie Flannery asked if the ethnicity box was optional on the standard TCE's, to which she got a reply of 'yes.' Jennie expressed her concern that removing the ethnicity box was a rash move due to the fact that more helpful information may be able to be extracted from the reports if addressed correctly and on a class by class basis.

B. Jesse Flores on the Role of a Senator

Senator Jesse Flores extended a welcome and congratulation to all the new senators. He expounded upon the primary job of a senator as being to progress student life and the life of each senator's constituency. He put weight on the fact that Student Senate has the responsibility of overseeing the Student Union by means of the budget, impeachment, and elections. Mr. Flores offered the following advise to the new senators: give due thought to any resolution before bringing it to Senate, do not forget to serve the students, do not be afraid to speak in Senate meetings or to 'nit-pick' at the Constitution, read the Constitution and *Robert's Rules of Orders*, and be willing to cooperate with other branches of the Student Union. Jesse reminded the audience that what happens in Senate stays within Senate.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Letters of Nomination for Student Senate Officers
 1. Secretary of Student Union, Tai Romero
President Brooke Norton presented Tai Romero as the official nomination for Student Union Secretary. Ms. Norton advocated Tai due to her prior experience in student government and her service as Freshman Class Secretary. As Student Union Secretary, Tai will be responsible for keeping accurate records of the happenings for Student Senate, Campus Life Council, and Executive Cabinet.
 2. Parliamentarian, Danielle Ledesma
Judicial Council President Tim Jarotkiewicz presented Danielle Ledesma as the official nomination for Parliamentarian. In support of Danielle, Tim offered her experience in student government and her knowledge of *Robert's Rules of Orders*. Due to Danielle's absence, Tim offered the Senate a letter from the candidate. Senator Nikki McCord asked if there was any possibility of holding the nomination until Ms. Ledesma could appear before the Senate for a proper question and answer period. After some debate and the note that a delay in the approval of a Parliamentarian would break the Constitution, a vote failed to table the nomination until the next week. Therefore, Danielle Ledesma will be up for approval before the Senate on April 11, 2001.
 3. Chaplain of Student Senate, Tim O'Malley
Brooke Norton nominated Tim O'Malley for the position of Chaplain of Student Senate. She also noted that Mr. O'Malley came highly recommended by Mark Leahey, the previous Chaplain of Student Senate.
- B. Letters of Nomination for Office of the President Positions
 1. Chief of Staff
 2. President Brooke Norton promoted Jonathan (JJ) Jorissen as the Office of the President Chief of Staff. Ms. Norton praised Mr. Jorissen for being approachable and friendly. She included Jonathan's extensive experience in the Student Union and his leadership in retreats for freshmen and Carroll Hall as being exceptional. Furthermore, Ms. Norton offered Jonathan Jorissen's past cooperation with the *Observer* as another bonus point for his approval as Chief of Staff.
 3. Academic Delegate
Brooke Norton endorsed Melissa Rauch for the position of Academic Delegate, which serves as a representative to the Academic Council. Due to Ms. Rauch's spending this semester in Dublin, Brooke spoke on the candidate's behalf. Senator Matt Parsons asked Ms. Norton if Ms. Rauch was aware of the issues facing Senate now. President Norton explained that Ms. Rauch keeps abreast of current events through the *Observer* and constant updating by Susan Roberts, the 2000-2001 Academic Delegate. Senator Mike Shultz requested that Ms. Rauch supply a letter to expand upon her desire and qualifications for this position.
 4. Controller
Ms. Brooke Norton supported Audra Hagan as Controller of the Student Union. Ms. Hagan has served as the senator for Pasquerilla West for the past two years, as last year's Committee on Oversight Co-Chair, and as the Student Senate representative on the Financial Management Board last year. Ms. Norton articulated that this plethora of experience more than qualifies Ms. Hagan for the position that manages all Student Union accounts and attends the meetings of the Financial Management Board.
- C. Letters of Nomination for Judicial Council
 1. Vice President of Elections, John McCarthy
Tim Jarotkiewicz, Judicial Council President, endorsed John McCarthy as the council's nomination for Vice President of Elections. Tim offered John's commitment and discipline, as exemplified in his involvement in Navy ROTC, as adequate traits needed for the position. Tim continued in saying that, although John is only a freshman, any questions he may run into can be addressed to John's predecessor or to the past President of Judicial Council. Senator Padraic McDermott voiced his trust in John's capability for the job.
 2. Vice Presidents of Peer Advocacy, Nikki DePersis and Susan Wong
Tim Jarotkiewicz offered letters of nomination in support of Nikki DePersis and Susan Wong. He added the Susan was highly recommended by last year's Vice President of Peer Advocacy. Senate Chairman Brian Moscona requested that Nikki DePersis, who is currently studying in Washington, D.C, send a letter on her behalf.
- D. Letter of Nomination for Student Union Board Programmers
Paul Krivickas, Student Union Board Manager, presented the nominations for the 2001-2002 Student Union Board Programming Board. He added that the candidates were chosen from a pool of forty applicants and interviewed by the Executive Cabinet of the Student Union Board. Mr. Krivickas also noted that this cabinet voted unanimously in support of all the nominees. Senator Nikki McCord posed several questions

to Anne Lim concerning the Multicultural Arts Commission, her past experience in multicultural organizations, and plans for the future of her committee. Mr. Krivickas explained that Anne's job is to serve as a link between multicultural organizations and the Student Union Board. He elaborated by pointing out that the entire board works to promote ideas for the Multicultural Arts Commission.

Matt Parsons took the opportunity to ask the nominees what exactly AnTostal is. Katie Sisk explained that AnTostal is a Notre Dame tradition of allowing students time to let loose before exams. Katie Hammond added that this year's AnTostal will be April 23 through 27.

Jesse Flores and Jim Ryan asked for the definition and difference between the Ideas and Issues Committee and the Special Events Commission. Paul Krivickas explained that Ideas and Issues deals more with academic lectures and such, while Special Events revolves around other extracurricular events.

E. SS0102-01: Congratulating the Women's Basketball Team

Senator Patrick Hallahan presented a resolution advising that the Senate congratulate the women's basketball team. After a spelling change and the rephrasing of the resolution clause, the clause now reads:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on behalf of the student of Notre Dame, the Student Union congratulates the 2000-2001 NCAA Women's Basketball Champions.

It was passed after some debate about where the resolution would be sent if passed. The resolution passed with 26 of 27 senators voting in the affirmative.

F. SS0102-02: Purchasing Multiple Copies of *Robert's Rules of Order* for the Student Senate

Senator Jesse Flores offered the following resolution because a copy of *Robert's Rules of Order* was hard to come by last year. Senator Nikki McCord asked if the budget allowed for this purchase. Chairman Brian Moscona explained that since no more Constitutions will have to be printed this year, the budget should be able to withstand this purchase. After modifications to the resolution to make the spelling and font of *Robert's Rules of Orders* consistent, the resolution was passed unanimously.

G. SS0102-03: Bestowing Emeritus Title upon Brian P. O'Donoghue

Senator Flores presented the resolution and explained that it is customary procedure to grant the emeritus title to the past Student Body President. The resolution was passed unanimously.

H. SS0102-04: Bestowing Emeritus Title upon Jay M. Smith

Senator Jesse Flores presented the resolution, and it was passed unanimously after an explanation of emeritus as being a title of merit to someone who did a good job in his position.

I. SS0102-05: Amendment- Explicit Assignment of Celebrating Diversity Workshop to Senate Committee on Diversity Affairs

Senator Jesse Flores submitted a textual change to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body. This amendment will be voted on April 11, 2001.

J. SS0102-06: Amendment- Sentence Change in Judicial Council Bylaws

Senator Jesse Flores submitted a textual change to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body due to the unusual wording of the original text. This amendment will be voted on April 11, 2001.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Erin Casey, the new Saint Mary's Representative, announced that Michelle Nagle will serve as SMC Student Body President and Kristen Matha will serve as Student Body Vice President for the 2001-2002 year. Senator Brian McKenna advertised Siegfried's first annual golf tournament. Matt LaFratta took the opportunity to invite all to the Alumni Wake on Friday, which includes the procession, a concert, and more. Matt Parsons publicized Knott on the Knoll, an event to take place Saturday, April 7, 2001 from 4-8PM. President Brooke Norton asked for volunteers to serve on the Freshmen Orientation Advising Committee and the Bookstore Committee after reminding the senators to sign up for at least two committees after the meeting. Chairman Brian Moscona reminded everyone that it was tradition for the senators to assemble for dinner at South Dining Hall after adjournment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Matt LaFratta moved for adjournment and this motion was approved unanimously. The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 11, 2001 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tai Romero

Tai Romero
Student Union Secretary
April 04, 2001