

Notre Dame Student Senate

Executive Summary

April 19, 2000

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

Chairwoman Brooke Norton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. Invocation

Mr. Mark Leaheey led the Senate in prayer.

C. Acting Officials

1. Mr. Brendan Harris was unanimously approved to act as Senate Secretary in place of Mr. Trip Foley.
2. Mr. Dan Peate was unanimously approved to act as Senate Parliamentarian in place of Mr. John Osborne.

D. Roll Call

Mr. Chris Clement and Mr. Curt Roberts were absent. Ms. Kate McCarthy served as a proxy for Ms. Alison Lasseter. Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb served as a proxy for Mr. Jay Smith.

E. Approval of the April 12, 2000 Executive Summary

The Executive Summary for April 12, 2000, was approved, as amended by Ms. Luciana Reali, by unanimous consent.

II. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

1. Mr. Brian O'Donoghue, Student Body President

Mr. O'Donoghue distributed his weekly President's Report. He drew attention to the Campus Life Council's passage of a resolution on residence hall 24-hour space that had originated in the last term of the Senate. He reported that CLC had also interpreted its bylaws to stipulate that Senators sitting on the CLC must be members of the Student Senate for the entire academic year. Mr. O'Donoghue announced the appointment of Senator Brendan Dowdall as a representative of the Student Body President on the University Committee on Cultural Diversity. Finally, Mr. O'Donoghue solicited ideas for the Fall 2000 Board of Trustees Report.

2. Ms. Brooke Norton, Student Body Vice-President

Chairwoman Norton distributed the membership roster of 2000-2001 Senate committees and the 2000-2001 Steering Committee. She stressed the importance of rising to a point of information if any Senator did not clearly understand the procedure at any time during Senate proceedings. She also noted that the Board of Trustees Report had been stricken from the day's agenda in the interests of time, and would be presented to the Senate during the April 26 meeting. Finally, Chairwoman Norton wished the Senators a happy Easter season.

3. Mr. Brendan Harris, Acting Student Senate Secretary

Mr. Harris explained that due to the Easter holiday, minutes for the meeting would be available for review on Monday, April 24, 2000.

4. Mr. Jay Smith, Chief of Staff, Office of the President

Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb, Assistant Chief of Staff, presented an update from the Office of the President on Mr. Smith's behalf. Ms. Sonnycalb reported that Mr. Brendan Harris, Spiritual Division Head, had spoken to the Hall Presidents' Council at their April 18 meeting regarding the Opening School Year Mass. Mr. Harris explained that the Opening School Year Mass Planning Committee has requested that each hall council select two student ushers and two hall representatives to join the academic procession. He also stipulated that halls that wish to have pictures taken in the Stadium must fill out the form given to the Hall Presidents and return it to him in the Student Government Office no later than Wednesday, April 26.

5. Mr. Chris Anderson, Hall Presidents' Council Liaison

Mr. Anderson took note of the recent CLC decision to discontinue the "graffiti" element of the annual Freshman Orientation Dance. He expressed the disapproval of a group of hall presidents with this decision, and encouraged debate regarding the CLC resolution on the Senate floor.

B. Committee Reports

1. Committee on Academic Affairs

Co-chairwomen Melissa Rauch and Katie Bufalino reported that the committee had held its first meeting and had tentatively set an agenda for the year. The committee had also spoken to Dr. Harold Pace, University Registrar, regarding online registration, DART Book revision, Teacher Course Evaluations, and old test protocol.

2. Committee on Diversity

Co-chairman Brendan Dowdall had no new business to report. The next meeting of the committee is tentatively set for Thursday, April 27, 2000, at 7 p.m. in the Student Government Office.

3. Committee on Ethics

Co-chairwoman Kelly Bush had no new business to report.

4. Committee on Gender Issues

Co-chairwoman Maggie Clarke reported that the committee had met to set the year's agenda. Topics that it will cover include increasing 24-hour space, revision of parietals, and eating disorders.

5. Committee on Oversight

Co-chairwoman Audra Hagan reported that the committee had drafted two resolutions regarding amendments to the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Undergraduate Student Body that will be put to the Senate at the April 26 meeting.

6. Committee on Residence Life

Co-chairman Ryan Becker reported that the committee had held its first meeting on April 17 to discuss the agenda. Topics that the committee will address include parking and security, dining hall reform and innovation, problems on West Quad, and LaFortune renovation/replacement ideas.

7. Committee on University Affairs

Co-chairman Phil Dittmar reported that the committee had met on April 16 with Student Body President Brian O'Donoghue to discuss the upcoming year. He stressed the importance of attendance to committee members.

III. PODIUM

A. Mr. Kevin White, Director of Athletics

Mr. White introduced himself to the Senate as Notre Dame's new Director of Athletics. He stressed his excitement to be here at Notre Dame and offered his support for any Senate action to which he might be an asset. He reiterated that the most important element in a successful athletic program is the students with which it interacts. He promised to return to the Senate at a later date to give an update on the department's progress.

B. Mr. Mark Donahey and Mr. Mike Heinz, Board of Trustees Report Committee

The presentation of the Spring 2000 Board of Trustees Report and potential topics for the Fall 2000 Board of Trustees Report was stricken from the agenda in the interest of time and will be moved to the Orders of the Day for the April 26, 2000 meeting of the Senate.

C. Ms. Katie Reicher, Student Union Treasurer – 2000-2001 Student Union Budget

1. Presentation of Budget

Ms. Reicher presented the 2000-2001 Student Union Budget to the Senate. She began with an overview of the budgetary discernment process undertaken by the Financial Management Board. This process involved interviews with each of the 11 organizations that requested money for the academic year, as well as a five-hour closed discussion among members of the FMB. The Board had a total of \$605,000 to allocate, an increase of \$20,000 from last year due to increased profits from "The Shirt" Project. The FMB then deducted \$5000 from this amount to create the FMB Contingency Fund for emergency organizational use, \$5000 to raise club allocations to the constitutional level of 36.75%, and \$10,000 to create a

new Technology Fund. Ms. Reicher explained that this Technology Fund would be used to update and replace the computers used by the various student organizations and clubs under the auspices of the FMB on a three-year rotating cycle. This left the FMB with \$585,000 to allocate between the 11 petitioning organizations. Ms. Reicher explained that allocation decisions were based on the financial feasibility and the practical plausibility of the proposals outlined by the respective petitioners.

2. Question Period

- a. Mr. Phil Dittmar raised a question regarding debt management funds in the proposed budget. Ms. Reicher explained that funds to reduce the debt are taken off of the gross allocation amount before the FMB receives its total funding data.
- b. Mr. Dan Barabas raised a question regarding the cut in Student Union Board funding between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. Ms. Reicher responded that this was not a punishment of SUB; rather, the SUB had only spent \$122,000 of its allocated \$173,000 this year, so the FMB felt that the excess money could be better placed in other areas. The SUB lack of spending was explained by the Jerry Springer and Oliver Stone engagements that fell through this year. FMB member Mr. Matt Closer used Welcome Week as an example of how SUB can compensate for its budget cut by collaborating with other organizations.
- c. Mr. Dan Peate posed a question regarding the reasoning behind the increase in FMB allocation from \$4000 to \$5300 in the upcoming year. Ms. Reicher explained that the current year's FMB has spent \$5000, which does not include budget printing expenses or the phone and fax expenses for the end of the current academic year.
- d. Mr. Grant Gholson questioned the cut in the SUB concert budget from \$47,000 to \$20,000. He stressed that if Notre Dame wanted to bring big names to campus, the University has to be willing to pay the money that will bring them here. FMB representative Mr. Mark Higgins responded that SUB could save money by bringing acts in on non-weekend dates. He also informed the Senate that SUB had decided that other areas of their budget were more important than the concert funds. Finally, he asked the Senate to consider working with the Department of Athletics to make the JACC rental fee of \$25,000 more affordable for events sponsored by University organizations.
- e. Ms. Nikki McCord posed a question regarding the \$1500 allocations to the Diversity and Gender Issues divisions of the Office of the Student Body President. Ms. Reicher explained that the FMB expected the Office of the President to work with organizations such as the Women's Resource Center and the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs to facilitate its efforts in these areas. President O'Donoghue commented that organizations do have the right to reallocate funds after the FMB budget is passed, and informed the Senators that his office would be financially solvent with the allocation given by FMB.
- f. Mr. Seth Whetzel noted with alarm that the budget for Transfer Orientation had been cut in half by FMB. Ms. Reicher noted that there were numerous reasons for the cut. She explained that Transfer Orientation could gain funds by charging the families of spring transfer students for meals, just as the parents of fall transfers are charged currently. She also felt that the Office of Undergraduate Admissions should cover the costs of Transfer Orientation, just as it helps to cover expenses associated with Freshman Orientation. Mr. Joseph Cassidy, Director of Student Activities, added that the University decided not to increase the operating budgets this year, for the second year in a row. He informed the Senate that he expected Transfer Orientation to be in the Admissions budget for the coming year; however, with the zero-percent increase in budgets, the

necessary monies are neither in the Student Activities nor the Admissions budget. President O'Donoghue stated that the Office of the President has been working in close contact with Ms. Susan Joyce, Associate Director of Admissions, to coordinate the transfer of the program to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. He reiterated that there is simply no funding in the current Admissions budget to cover the costs of Transfer Orientation. Mr. Dan Peate commented that as a transfer student, he found orientation to be a valuable experience, and expressed his concern that the orientation budget would be cut without a firm monetary commitment from Admissions. In response, Mr. Rich Six of the FMB stressed the Board's commitment to the Transfer Orientation program, and expressed his hope that Admissions could find the monies to cover the necessary expenses. He also stressed the ability of the mid-year spending review to use contingency fund monies in the event of a Transfer Orientation budget deficit. Ms. Reicher reiterated that she was informed that the current year's orientation programs would be the last under the financial auspices of Student Activities. She stressed that she wished to force the issue and make it clear that the Office of Undergraduate Admissions should honor its financial commitments. Mr. Peate expressed his dissatisfaction and uncertainty with contingency fund measures and a "chicken game" with important orientation programs. Mr. Whetzel called for a possible cut in the contingency fund to bring Transfer Orientation up to solvency, but Ms. Reicher explained that this action would set a bad precedent for other club applications to the contingency fund. Mr. Barabas then reminded the Senate that unlike other organizations, the Transfer Orientation Committee has no means to raise its own funding, so it is contingent upon the University to fund its activities. Mr. Berrill then inquired whether the total allocations increase each year, and Ms. Reicher explained that the allocation monies came from the \$65 Student Activities fee charged as a part of tuition to each student, half of the monies from "The Shirt" Project, and a minimal contribution made by Saint Mary's College to defray the expenses of SMC students' participation in Notre Dame events. She added that this funding, although higher this year due to increased profits from "The Shirt" Project, generally stays at a stable level from year to year. Mr. Cassidy added that the only way to ensure an increase in FMB allocations would be for the students to decide to voluntarily increase their activities fees.

- g. Mr. Ryan Becker questioned the FMB's decision to raise the allocation for the Freshman Class from the requested \$3000 to \$4000. Ms. Reicher responded that Mr. Cassidy had expressed his desire to help the freshmen get off to a good start considering their inexperience in planning activities and fundraising. Mr. Cassidy added that he felt that \$3000 was manageable for a class only if they were able to produce a successful T-shirt, and he did not want to make the ultimate success or failure of a class contingent on a T-shirt.
- h. Mr. Phil Dittmar asked Ms. Reicher why the class funding was streamlined this year at \$6000 for each of the upper classes, instead of staggering the funding with seniority. Ms. Reicher pointed out that Senior Week activities had been taken out of the Senior Class allocation and given a higher separate allocation. She also stressed that classes had rollover funds available and expressed her hope that classes would collaborate with SUB and other organizations to achieve their programming goals.

3. Appeals

a. Student Union Board

Ms. Becky Hagelin, speaking on behalf of the Student Union Board, expressed her understanding of the tight budgetary position

that the FMB had to deal with. She asked that no further monies be taken from SUB's budget during any Senate reallocation process.

b. Transfer Orientation

1. Ms. Heather McDonald, 2000-2001 Transfer Orientation Co-Coordinator, expressed her disappointment in the fact that the Transfer Orientation budget was cut from \$5000 to \$2500 this year. She stated that the Office of Undergraduate Admissions was under the impression that the transfer of orientation control would be a gradual multi-year process, not a sudden shift of power. She added that Admissions had pledged an unbudgeted \$1000 to this point. She also responded to the call to charge spring transfers' families by saying that even that measure would likely not net the needed \$2500. Finally, she stressed the importance of Transfer Orientation to these new students, mostly living off-campus, who deserve a positive "first connection" with the University. In response, President O'Donoghue offered \$500 from the Office of the President General Fund to help offset the cost of Transfer Orientation. Mr. Dittmar then suggested a budget amendment that would take \$500 from the General Fund of the Office of the President, \$500 from the Hall Presidents' Council, and \$1000 from the Technology Fund, raising the allocation for Transfer Orientation from \$2500 to \$4500. Ms. Reicher strongly objected to any deduction from the Technology fund. Ms. Kate McCarthy suggested that any deductions made this year to the Technology Fund might be made up with increases in the 2001-2002 budget. Ms. Audra Hagan suggested deducting an additional \$500 from the Freshman Class to bring the Transfer Orientation allocation to \$5000. Mr. Becker stated that his experience as a former Freshman Class President supported Ms. Hagan's suggestion that a loss of \$500 would not hinder the efforts of the Freshman Class. Concern was then expressed that if the Senate were too hasty to reallocate funds to Transfer Orientation, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions might never budget for the program and force students to pay for orientation programming indefinitely. Mr. Dittmar stated that the Senate University Affairs Committee would investigate the control transfer issue at its next meeting.

2. Mr. Brendan Dowdall moved to amend the Student Union Budget. Mr. Ryan Becker offered a friendly amendment to the motion that Mr. Dowdall accepted. The amendment to the Student Union Budget, as amended, reads as follows:

- a. Deduct \$500 from the Office of the President General Fund, decreasing it from \$8,000 to \$7500,
- b. Deduct \$500 from the Hall Presidents' Council allocation, decreasing it from \$43,000 to \$42,500,
- c. Deduct \$875 from the Technology Fund, decreasing it from \$10,000 to \$9125,
- d. Deduct \$500 from the Freshman Class allocation, decreasing it from \$4000 to \$3500,
- e. Add \$2375 to the Transfer Orientation allocation, increasing it from \$2500 to \$4875.

Mr. Phil Dittmar motioned to close debate on the Student Union Budget at this point. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dowdall and passed unanimously. Mr. Dowdall's motion to amend the Student Union Budget, as amended by Mr. Becker, was passed unanimously. Mr. Dittmar then called for final approval of the Student Union Budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Becker and passed unanimously.

- D. Ms. Allision Henisey, Club Coordination Council Coordinator – 2000-2001 CCC Budget
Ms. Kate Sherlock presented the 2000-2001 CCC Budget for Senate consideration on behalf of Ms. Henisey. She asked any Senator with questions regarding the budget to contact her via email at Sherlock.3@nd.edu. The Senate will debate the CCC budget at the April 26, 2000 meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Formal Approval of 2000-2001 Class Representative to the Financial Management Board
Mr. Ryan Becker motioned to approve Mr. Taylor McWilliams, Class of 2002 Treasurer, as the 2000-2001 Class Representative to the Financial Management Board. Mr. Brendan Dowdall seconded the motion, and the motion passed under unanimous consent.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Election of 2000-2001 Senate Representatives to the Campus Life Council
Chairwoman Brooke Norton reminded the Senate of the fact that CLC Senate Representative seats would only be made available to full-year Senators. She also announced that Mr. Phil Dittmar would have an automatic seat on the CLC in his capacity as Off-Campus Senator. Mr. Dan Barabas, Ms. Katie Bufalino, Mr. Brendan Dowdall, and Ms. Luciana Reali announced their candidacy for the three Senate Representative seats and the one alternate position. Senate closed-ballot voting elected Mr. Barabas, Mr. Dowdall, and Ms. Reali to the three Representative seats and Ms. Bufalino to the alternate position.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Ms. Audra Hagan asked that Senators number their Constitutional Bylaws from B1 onwards in order to facilitate debate on two amendment resolutions to be presented by the Committee on Oversight at the April 26, 2000 session.
- B. Chairwoman Brooke Norton announced a possible meeting of the Senate Steering Committee on Tuesday, April 25, 2000.
- C. Mr. Dan Barabas announced the plans for Fisher Regatta festivities. These will include a concert on the night of Friday, April 28, 2000, on South Quad outside of the Rockne Memorial.
- D. Ms. Luciana Reali announced that the Sexual Assault Presentation will be rescheduled after its cancellation due to conflict with the Campus-Wide Stations of the Cross on April 18, 2000. She stated that the tentative reschedule date is Wednesday, April 26, 2000. The event will take place in Lewis Hall. Ms. Reali will contact the Senate via email with further details.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kate McCarthy made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brendan Dowdall and was passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Student Senate is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2000, at 6 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brendan P. Harris
Acting Student Senate Secretary
19 April 2000