

Notre Dame Student Senate  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
April 26, 2000  
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

- A. Call to Order  
Chairman Brooke Norton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- B. Invocation  
Mr. Mark Leaheey, Student Senate Chaplain, led the Senate in prayer.
- C. Roll Call  
Mr. Christopher Clement and Mr. Philip Dittmar were absent. Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb served as proxy for Mr. Jay Smith
- D. Approval of the April 19, 2000 Executive Summary  
The Executive Summary for April 19, 2000 was approved, as amended by Ms. Melissa Rauch, by unanimous consent.

**II. REPORTS**

- A. Officer Reports
  - 1. Mr. Brian O'Donoghue, Student Body President  
Mr. Brian O'Donoghue had no new business to report.
  - 2. Ms. Brooke Norton, Student Body Vice-President  
Chairman Norton advised the Senate that there will be a meeting next Wednesday, even though this is the last day of class. Should this present a problem for any Senators, please inform Ms. Norton. Also, Chairman Norton announced that the Steering Committee would meet on Sunday night at 6:30 to discuss meeting times for next year.
  - 3. Mr. Trip Foley, Student Union Secretary  
Mr. Trip Foley requested that Senators please attempt to submit resolutions or any other business they intend to discuss by Monday night.
  - 4. Mr. Jay Smith, Chief of Staff, Office of the President  
Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb, Assistant Chief of Staff, stated that she had no new business to report.
  - 5. Mr. Chris Anderson, Hall Presidents' Council Liaison  
Mr. Chris Anderson had no new business to report.
- B. Committee Reports
  - 1. Committee on Academic Affairs  
Ms. Katie Buffalino, Co-Chairman of the Committee on Academic Affairs, announced that she had met with Dr. Pace today regarding the possibility of a web based DART system.
  - 2. Committee on Diversity  
Ms. Nikki McCord, Co-Chairman of the Committee on Diversity, announced that the committee would meet Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 in the Student Government Office.
  - 3. Committee on Ethics  
The Committee on Ethics had no new business to report.
  - 4. Committee on Gender Issues  
Co-Chairman Luciana Reali announced that the Committee on Gender Issues would meet on Sunday, April 30 at 5:30 in the Board Room. Also, at 8:00 tonight Mr. Jeff ~~Shap~~ <sup>Shoup</sup> will discuss issues related to rape in Lewis Hall. Ms. Reali also reported that she had learned from Ms. Peggy Hnatusko that due to student feedback, the Student Activities Office will try to incorporate some sort of graffiti element into the freshman orientation dance.
  - 5. Committee on Oversight

Ms. Audra Hagan, Co-Chairman of the Committee on Oversight, stated that she will present four resolutions later in the meeting. The next Committee on Oversight meeting will be Monday, May 1 at 6:00 in the Student Government Office.

6. Committee on Residence Life

Mr. Ryan Becker, Co-Chairman of the Committee on Residence Life, reported that the committee had just met and will try to make some contacts before the year is over. The Committee is also investigating the reasoning behind the seemingly high costs of renting the JACC. The next Committee on Residence Life meeting will be Monday, May 30 at 8:00 in the second floor elevator lounge of LaFortune.

7. Committee on University Affairs

The Committee on University Affairs had no new business to report.

### III. PODIUM

A. Mr. John Osborn, Mr. Mark Donahey, Mr. Mike Heinz – Board of Trustees Report

Mr. John Osborn stated that their report, *Student Involvement in University Governance*, will be presented to the Board of Trustees next Thursday, May 4. Mr. Osborn said that their report tried to focus on the role of students in a wide range of University decision making. Mr. Donahey also noted that they hope their report helps to both bridge the gap between administrators and students and to increase transparency in decision making. Mr. Osborn then highlighted eight recommendations that would be made to the Board. Mr. Heinz also added that through their research they discovered that students often felt that they did not have influence in decision making while administrators often did not think that students were interested. As a result, Mr. Heinz hoped that this report would lead to a compromise that would work for both parties. Mr. Ryan Becker then questioned if students currently served on individual College Councils. Mr. Osborn explained that while some colleges do have student representation, it was his intention to make such a policy uniform. Mr. Osborn also said that if anyone is interested in seeing a full report, please get in touch with him next week. Mr. Heinz then highlighted possible topics for next fall's report:

- 1) Tuition & Financial Aid - as well as merit scholarships, and reasons behind tuition increases
- 2) The Rectors' Endowment Fund
- 3) Social Space – explore needs for increased space as well as a new student center
- 4) A topic requested by the Board of Trustees

In response to a question from Mr. Kevin Berrill, Mr. Brian O'Donoghue that the Rectors' Endowment Fund would be composed of a principle of \$25,000 per dorm, with the interest being available to the rector to spend to help meet students' needs. Additionally, Mr. O'Donoghue hoped to create an Academic Grant to allow students to travel to academic conferences, as well as a Greatness Grant, to be administered by Campus Ministry, which would allow students to participate in acts of charity.

B. Mr. Brian O'Donoghue, Student Body President – Spring 2000 State of the Student Union Address

Mr. Brian O'Donoghue will present the Spring 2000 State of the Student Union Address following the adjournment of the Senate meeting.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Allison Henisey, Club Coordination Council Coordinator presented the 2000-2001 CCC budget proposal. Ms. Henisey noted that though \$323,000 was requested, her office was allocated only \$223,000 from the FMB, of which \$17,500 will be reserved for a contingency fund and \$5,000 used for capital improvements, namely new computers for the clubs' use. As a result, Ms. Henisey's office had to cut back on some clubs' funding. However, while some clubs may not actually receive cash funding, Ms. Henisey's office did allocate a concession stand, which gives the club the opportunity to meet their funding needs. In response to a question from Ms. Nikki McCord, Ms. Henisey explained that differences found in sections of the enclosed budget packet represent the discrepancy between what was requested and what was actually allocated, though past funding and future needs were taken into account by the CCC. Following a question from Mr. Jeffrey Stuffings, Ms. Henisey also clarified that planned capital improvements were different from the FMB's rotating Technology Fund. Mr.



Brendan Dowdall then motioned to close debate on the CCC budget and this was passed unanimously. Mr. Dowdall then called for final approval and the 2000-2001 CCC Budget was then approved unanimously, 26-0-0.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Mr. Seth Whetzel moved to discuss the fall 2001 Board of Trustees Report Topics and this was passed unanimously. Following a question from Mr. Michael Pfaff, Mr. Mike Heinz explained that the financial aid topic would address merit scholarships as well as who receives what types of aid. At this point Mr. Brian O'Donoghue then clarified that the Senate was currently just approving possible report topics and would not select a specific one to present. Mr. Brendan Dowdall then moved to end debate and move into final approval, and these both passed unanimously. Mr. Dowdall then motioned to approve of all four Board of Trustees Report Topics, and this was also passed unanimously, 26-0-0.
- B. Ms. Audra Hagan presented resolution S0001-02 regarding the removal to a duplicated sentence in the Student Union Constitution. Mr. Brendan Dowdall motioned to bring this topic to the floor, and this was passed unanimously. Mr. Seth Whetzel then motioned to end debate and move to final approval and this was passed unanimously. Mr. Brendan Dowdall then motioned for approval by unanimous consent, and hearing no objection resolution S0001-02 was adopted unanimously.
- C. Mr. Audra Hagan motioned to bring S0001-03 to the floor and this was approved unanimously. Ms. Hagan then highlighted this resolution which lengthened the committee formation period. Mr. Kevin Berrill then asked when the two-week period would start and Ms. Hagan replied that it referred to two weeks following April 1. Mr. Seth Whetzel moved to end debate and more to final approval and this passed unanimously. Mr. Brendan Dowdall then moved to approve by unanimous consent, and hearing no objection resolution S0001-03 was adopted unanimously.
- D. Mr. Michael Pfaff moved to bring S0001-04 to the floor and this passed unanimously. Ms. Audra Hagan then explained that this resolution would give official status to the Steering Committee. Mr. Brendan Dowdall then introduced a friendly amendment, which was accepted by Ms. Hagan and Mr. Pfaff. The text of the resolution now reads as:

S0001-04

BYLAW  
-ADDITION OF STEERING COMMITTEE-

Drafted on April 25, 2000

Change the Numbering of the Senate Bylaws:

Section III, #10, shall become Section III, #11.  
Section III, #9, shall become Section III, #10.

Insert new Senate Bylaws, Section III, #9.

Insert:

"9. Those Senators elected as chairpersons of the seven standing Senate committees shall also be members of the Steering Committee. The Vice-President shall serve as chairperson of this committee. The Steering Committee shall discuss the business of and set the goals of the Student Senate. Chairpersons of ad-hoc committees can be added to the Steering committee per the Vice-President's discretion."

Change Section III, #11.

It currently reads:

"The Gender Relations, Diversity Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Residence Life Committees shall meet at least once every two weeks during the regular academic year."

Change it to read:

"The Academic Affairs, Diversity Affairs, Gender Relations, Residence Life, and Steering Committees shall meet at least once every two weeks during the regular academic year."

Strike Section IV, #11.

"All Committee chairs and the Vice-President shall meet as often as determined by the group but at least once every two weeks to discuss the business and set goals of the Student Senate."

Change the Numbering of the Senate Bylaws:

Section IV, #12, shall become Section III, #11.  
Section IV, #13, shall become Section III, #12.

Submitted by the Senate Committee on Oversight

It was also discussed adding the University Affairs Committee to Section III, #11, though Ms. Hagan did not think that this addition would be appropriate. Mr. Pfaff then moved to end debate and move to final approval and this was passed unanimously. Ms. Hagan then moved to approve by unanimous consent, and hearing no objection resolution S0001-04 was adopted unanimously in its amended form.

- E. Ms. Audra Hagan moved to bring S0001-05 to the floor and this was approved unanimously. Ms. Hagan also explained that this resolution regarding the chairpersons of committees would not limit a single person from chairing both a standing committee and an ad hoc committee in which they might have a special interest. Ms. Audra Hagan then moved to end debate and move to final approval and this was approved unanimously. Mr. Kevin Berchou then moved to approve by unanimous consent, and hearing no objection resolution S0001-05 was adopted unanimously.

#### VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Chairman Brooke Norton announced that the Sophomore Signature Planning Committee met tonight and elected Mr. Brian Moscona, Class of 20003 President, as it's chairman. Ms. Norton also reported that while Sophomore Siblings Weekend will be difficult to replace, the committee will consider many different possibilities and is looking for any other suggestions.
- B. Mr. Brendan Dowdall announced that Habitat for Humanity would be having a Jail and Bail Program on Friday, April 28. Mr. Dowdall encouraged Senators to sign up and publicize this fundraiser in which NDSP will arrest and bring to jail members of the Notre Dame community.
- C. Mr. Kevin Berrill announced that Sunday, April 30 at 12:00 p.m. the Notre Dame Baseball team would be playing St. John's in a Breast Cancer Awareness game complete with prizes and other attractions. Mr. Berrill encouraged everyone to show their support by attending the game.
- D. Mr. Dan Barabas reminded the Senate that events surrounding the Fisher Regatta would begin on Friday, April 28 at 4:00 with bands performing on South Quad, followed later in the night by the Fisher Zoo. The actual regatta will be Saturday at noon.

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Michael Pfaff moved for adjournment at 7:07 p.m. and this was passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Student Senate will be May 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,



Trip Foley  
Student Union Secretary  
4/26/00