

Notre Dame Student Senate  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
May 3, 2000  
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

- A. Call to Order  
Chairman Brooke Norton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- B. Invocation  
Mr. Brian O'Donoghue led the invocation.
- C. Roll Call  
Mr. Kevin Berrill, Mr. Tim Kinatukara, Mr. Ryan Becker, Mr. Mark Leaheey, and Mr. Chris Anderson were absent. Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb served as proxy for Mr. Jay Smith.
- D. Approval of the April 26, 2000 Executive Summary  
The April 26, 2000 Executive Summary was approved unanimously with two amendments.

**II. REPORTS**

- A. Officer Reports
  - 1. Mr. Brian O'Donoghue, Student Body President  
Mr. O'Donoghue began his remarks by requesting that Mr. Brendan Dowdall give a CLC update to the Senate. Mr. Dowdall reported that the CLC had recently received a report from the Academic Council Ad Hoc Committee, which was created to investigate academic and social life following controversy surrounding the WRC probation, calling for the creation of a new body that would be similar to the CLC, possibly chaired by Fr. Mark Poorman, Vice-President for Student Affairs, and deal with issues where the Academic Council leaves off. Though there was much debate since this new body might replace the CLC, there was not sufficient time to review the Ad Hoc Committee's report. However, a final decision will probably be made by the University over the summer. Mr. Dowdall then reported that a second resolution dealing with the WRC was presented, and after much discussion this resolution was rejected. Mr. O'Donoghue then continued his report, noting that the Executive Cabinet had met Monday and discussed topics including their budget for next year, the State of the Student Union speech, and allocated \$300 from the Collaboration Fund to the Medieval Club for an event that took place during An Tostal. Finally, Mr. O'Donoghue announced that he intended to nominate Ms. Andrea Mechenbier to serve on a University Committee that nominates and approves the faculty service award.
  - 2. Ms. Brooke Norton, Student Body Vice-President  
Ms. Norton reported that she and Mr. Brian O'Donoghue had recently met with Fr. Edward Malloy, University President, and Fr. Mark Poorman, Vice-President for Student Affairs. In their discussion with Fr. Malloy, it was suggested that the Student Union address the alcohol policy, the relationship with Saint Mary's and Holy Cross, gender relations (especially the quality of dorm life), multicultural relations, and work to create a more supportive environment for homosexual students. Fr. Poorman made similar suggestions, including a focus on more creative programming, improved gender relations due to a universal Detex card, and a desire to work for results and think outside the box. Ms. Norton also noted that because there was some confusion with Parliamentary Procedure at the last Senate meeting, Mr. John Osborn, Senate Parliamentarian, would prepare a sheet with certain hints about procedure. Finally, Ms. Norton presented a suggestion from Mr. Joe Cassidy, Student Senate Advisor, to move Senate meetings to Monday. It was discussed that while such a move might let the Senate lead the week in the *Observer*, it would also force the Senate to directly compete with the CLC for coverage. This topic was then further discussed under New Business.
  - 3. Mr. Trip Foley, Student Union Secretary  
Mr. Trip Foley had no new business to report.
  - 4. Mr. Jay Smith, Chief of Staff, Office of the President  
Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb, Assistant Chief of Staff, reported that the Office of the President was planning fun events surrounding finals week including a balloon clown in the Library, a paper shredder on North Quad, and a mariachi band in LaFortune. In

addition, planning for the Opening School Year Mass is progressing well and the event should include bands, celebrations, fireworks, and a special honoring for Fr. Theodore M. Hesburgh, President Emeritus. Finally, nutritional information for food served in the dining halls should be available on the web next fall.

5. Mr. Chris Anderson, Hall President's Council Liaison

There was no new business to report.

B. Committee Reports

1. Committee on Academic Affairs

Ms. Melissa Rauch, Co-Chairman of the Committee on Academic Affairs, reported that the committee had recently had a short meeting and discussed a request from Dr. Pace in the Registrar's Office about how to assign DART times for the planned web based registration.

2. Committee on Diversity

Mr. Brendan Dowdall, Co-Chairman of the Committee on Diversity, reported that the committee had met last Thursday to discuss Outreach ND and will probably present a letter next year.

3. Committee on Ethics

The Committee on Ethics had no new business to report.

4. Committee on Gender Issues

Ms. Luciana Reali, Co-Chairman of the Committee on Gender Issues, announced that Mr. Jeff Shoup had spoken at Lewis Hall last week and discussed Student Affairs procedures for rape cases. Mr. Shoup reported that he will look into incorporating victim's rights in DuLac and is interested in creating a better way to educate students on sexual assault, either through programs in residence halls or as a part of the Concepts of Wellness Freshman PE class. Finally, the committee is also looking into 24-hour space and a publication of the nutritional information of dining hall food.

5. Committee on Oversight

The Committee on Oversight had no new business to report.

6. Committee on Residence Life

Mr. Kevin Berchou, Co-Chairman of the Committee on Residence Life, reported that the committee had met briefly on Monday and will continue to work on their ongoing projects.

7. Committee on University Affairs

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

### III. PODIUM

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

### V. NEW BUSINESS

A. S0001-06: Resolution Bestowing Emeritus Title on Micah D. Murphy and Michael J. Palumbo  
Mr. Brendan Dowdall moved to bring resolution S0001-06 to the floor and this was approved unanimously. Mr. Dowdall then explained that such a resolution had been adopted for past outgoing officers and recommended that the Senate support this resolution. Mr. Seth Whetzel moved to approve by unanimous consent, and seeing no objection resolution S0001-06 was approved unanimously.

B. S0001-07: Resolution Ordering all Student Union senators to Have a Good Summer  
Mr. Brendan Dowdall moved to bring resolution S0001-07 to the floor and this was approved unanimously. Mr. Brendan Dowdall then made two minor grammatical amendments to the resolution. Mr. Michael Pfaff moved to approve by unanimous consent, and seeing no objection resolution S0001-07 was approved unanimously.

C. Change of Senate meeting day

Mr. Grant Gholson moved to reschedule Senate meetings on Monday nights at 6:00. In the discussion that followed, Mr. Brendan Dowdall noted his desire to keep Senate meetings on Wednesday nights because he believed that the argument that all important events happen during the weekend was not true. In addition, Mr. Dowdall noted that if the Senate met on Mondays it would have to compete with the CLC for media coverage, it's most important method to spread information to the public. Following a question from Ms. Colleen Clarke, Mr. Joe Cassidy, faculty advisor, explained that while the Senate had originally hoped that the *Observer* give prior coverage to its meetings, this had not been the case. Mr. Grant Gholson

then questioned if the CLC could possibly reschedule its meetings and Mr. Brian O'Donoghue, Chairman of the CLC, responded that such a change could not be made. Ms. Luciana Reali noted that the recommendations of Mr. Joe Cassidy should be taken into account due to his extensive experience on the Senate. Ms. Reali also noted that she believed that it might be helpful for Senators to bring finished business back to hall council meetings for review. Mr. Trip Foley noted that moving Senate meetings to Monday nights might lead the Senate to move too hastily concerning events that transpired over the weekend, as had been the case in the Denny's Restaurant incident. Mr. Foley also noted that he believed it would be more helpful to discuss pending resolutions in hall councils and receive feedback, rather than resolutions that had already been adopted. Mr. Michael Pfaff then moved for previous question and this passed by a majority. After an inconclusive verbal vote Mr. Brendan Dowdall moved to suspend the rules and this passed unanimously. Further discussion then followed, including possibly pushing back Monday Senate meetings to 6:30, the fact that most Senators ran under the assumption that they would have Wednesday night meetings, the way such a change would adversely affect Steering Committee meetings and creating a Saturday night due date for resolutions, that with Monday meetings Senators would not be able to bring proposed resolutions to their hall councils and as a result would be voting before receiving their hall's opinion, and finally that since students often complain that they have no input in decision making it would not be wise for the Senate to adopt resolutions without feedback from residence halls. Ms. Kaitlyn Dudley motioned to reinstate the rules and this passed unanimously. Voting then immediately took place on the proposal to move Senate meetings to Mondays and this was defeated, 2-20-2.

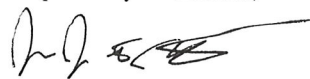
## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Mr. Brendan Dowdall reminded Senators that due to resolution S0001-07 they were required to have a good summer.
- B. Mr. Christopher Clement announced that due to his recent acceptance into the London Program he would no longer be able to serve in the Senate. Mr. Clement then wished the Senate success over the next year.
- C. Ms. Colleen Ziemba also announced that due to her acceptance in the year long Dublin Program she would no longer be able to serve in the Senate. Ms. Ziemba echoed Mr. Clement's sentiments, wishing the Senate continued success.
- D. Mr. Brendan Dowdall reported that Habitat for Humanity's Jail n' Bail was a success, grossing over \$800.
- E. Mr. John Osborn invited any interested Senators to attend the Board of Trustees Report meeting on Thursday, May 4 at 1:30 in the Notre Dame Room.
- F. Mr. Brian O'Donoghue encouraged all Senators to attend the Team ND retreat to improve next year's group dynamic. Mr. O'Donoghue also announced that if anyone would be at school over the summer and had an interest to work on student government matters, to please speak to him.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grant Gholson moved to adjournment at 6:57 and this was approved unanimously. The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place on August 23, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,



Trip Foley  
Student Union Secretary  
5/4/00

