

Notre Dame Student Senate  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

September 6, 2000

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

A. Call or Order

Chairperson Brook Norton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. Invocation

Mr. Mark Leaheey led the invocation

C. Roll Call

Mr. Grant Gholson, Mr. Seth Whetzel, and Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb were absent.

D. Approval of the August 30, 2000 Executive Summary

The August 30, 2000 Executive Summary was approved unanimously.

**II. REPORTS**

A. Officer Reports

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

President O'Donoghue noted that he would also speak on behalf of the Office of the President since Meredith Sonnycalb was absent. Mr. O'Donoghue reported that the CLC was currently forming four task forces to study 1) the Mission and Purpose of the CLC, 2) an Examination of Service, Tenure, & Promotion, 3) the Disparity between men's and women's residence halls, and 4) Underage Drinking in South Bend. President O'Donoghue then announced that the Executive Cabinet is also examining weekend programming, specifically the culture that encourages alcohol use on the weekend. Finally, the Office of the President is continuing to work on providing absentee ballots for students and will make face paint available to students at all concession stands this Saturday.

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

Ms. Norton noted how impressed she was with the Senate and how well everyone was working together. Brooke also reported that Grant Gholson will not be able to serve on the Senate and a new election will be conducted in Keenan Hall. Finally, Brooke announced that the Office of the President was planning a few large weekend programs and that anyone with ideas should feel free to contact her.

3) Mr. Trip Foley, Student Union Secretary

Mr. Foley had nothing new to report

4) Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb, Assistant Chief of Staff, Office of the President

The Office of the President report was presented by Mr. O'Donoghue during his address. However, Mr. Paul Sladek announced that a softball league has been created within the Student Union. All are encouraged to participate.

5) Mr. Chris Andersen, HPC Liaison

Mr. Andersen had announced that this week's pep rally will be in the Stadium with doors opening at 5:30 p.m.

6) Ms. Veronica Kessenich, St. Mary's Representative

Ms. Kessenich announced that St. Mary's was currently debating whether they would allow the Keenan Review to take place on their campus this year. Though there will be a forum to discuss this, the final decision will be up to the Board of Governors.

B. Committee Reports

1) Committee on Academic Affairs

Co-Chairman Melissa Rauch will speak for the Academic Affairs Committee during Podium.

2) Committee on Diversity

Co-Chairman Nikki McCord reported that she had spoken with Todd Callaway in the Office of the President regarding a survey on diversity.

3) Committee on Ethics

Co-Chairman Dan Barabas had nothing new to report

4) Committee on Gender Issues

Co-Chairman Maggie Clarke reported that the Gender Issues Committee had just met and discussed five projects for the year including 1) 24-Hour Space, 2) Freshman Orientation, 3) Improving awareness about Sexual Assault, 4) The Gay & Lesbian Student voice, and 5) Creating a Healthy Living Packet. Additionally, Committee meetings will now take place at 5:15 on Wednesday nights.

5) Committee on Oversight

Co-Chairman Audra Hagan reported that the Committee had met for an hour and a half last night and discussed the election process.

6) Committee on Residence Life

Co-Chairman Ryan Becker announced that he and Kevin Berchou will speak with Mr. Bill Kirk and Jeff Shoup next week. They will also meet with foodservice personnel next Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

7) Committee on University Affairs

Ms. Bethany Barker reported that the University Affairs Committee is still investigating Broadwing long-distance, a centralized scholarship office, and will meet with Stuart Green regarding the Honor Code.

### III. PODIUM

A. Ms. Melissa Rauch

Re: Fall 2001 Finals Schedule

Ms. Rauch reported that next year's fall finals schedule will be very different, including exams on Saturday, one less study day, and a dismissal just a few days before Christmas. Melissa explained that the reasoning behind this change is that the Faculty Senate resolved that classes cannot start before August 22 and thus next year classes will start a week late. Though the possibility of changing enrollment was discussed, this would be very difficult. Moreover, senators noted that with the late dismissal, it could be very difficult for students to get home for Christmas if there was inclement weather. Brendan Harris recommended sending this topic back to committee and Melissa will speak again with Dr. Pace, University Registrar.

B. Ms. Luciana Reali

Re: 24-Hour Space in Residence Halls

Ms. Reali reported that the Gender Issues Committee was working on evaluating the 24-Hour space in residence halls. Luciana announced that at the end of last year the CLC took a survey of rector's opinions on this issue. However, because no student input had been collected, Luciana presented the Senate with an informal survey for them to discuss in hall councils. Completed surveys should be put in either the Lewis or Lyons mailboxes in the Student Government office.

C. Ms. Katie Bufalino

Re: Faculty Representation on the Student Senate

Ms. Bufalino reported that she had been approached by Professor Stuart Green, a member of the Faculty Senate, about the possibility of sitting on the Student Senate. Katie also reported that though there is a student who sits on the Faculty Senate, she does not have speaking or voting privileges. Consequently, if a faculty member were to serve on the Student Senate, a similar plan would probably be followed. Ms. Nikki McCord then asked if the faculty representative would be elected. However, since the student representative is already appointed, the faculty representative would probably also be appointed. Chairperson Norton then noted that no final decision had been reached and this issue may come up in the future.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

Formal approval of Ms. Veronica Kessenich as 2000-2001 St. Mary's College Representative  
Ms Kessenich was unanimously approved to serve as a representative to both the Student Senate and Executive Cabinet.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

SS0001-09: Amendment – Removal of ND Video

Ms. Audra Hagan presented a resolution created by the Oversight Committee to remove ND video from the Constitution. Ms. Hagan explained that this step was necessary because ND Video no longer exists. Ms. Hagan also made a friendly amendment to the resolution, which now reads as follows:

Docket# SS0001-09

Amendment  
-REMOVAL OF N.D. VIDEO-

Drafted 9/6/00

Strike "N.D. Video" of Article V, Section III, #2.

Strike "the N.D. Video Manager" of Article V, Section III, #3A.

Strike "N.D. Video" of Article V, Section III, #3,e,iii.

This resolution will be voted on at next week's meeting because Senators have not yet had the opportunity to consider it for three days.

#### VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Mr. John Osborn, Student Senate Parliamentarian, passed out a quick reference guide to Robert's Rules of Order. If anyone has any questions regarding this procedure, please feel free to contact Mr. Osborn.
- B. Chairperson Norton asked anyone not receiving the email and voicemail announcements to please advise her so she could add them to the lists.
- C. The Liturgical Choir will be holding a concession stand this weekend outside Crowley Hall to raise money for their tour. Any support will be greatly appreciated.
- D. Mr. Mark Leaheey, Student Senate Chaplain, thanked everyone for making him and his fellow Old College residents for feeling welcome at residence hall masses. In order to return the favor, Mark invited anyone interested to attend Old College mass, which takes place at 5:15 on Friday nights in the log chapel, Thursday night prayer at 9:30 at Moreau Seminary, or Monday night mass & dinner.

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

Michael Pfaff moved for adjournment at 6:45 p.m. and this passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place on September 13, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trip Foley  
Student Senate Secretary  
9/8/00

