

Notre Dame Student Senate

Executive Summary

September 20, 2000

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Brooke Norton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. Invocation

Mr. Mark Leaheey led the invocation.

C. Roll Call

Mr. Grant Gholson, Mr. Chris Jackson, and Mr. Philip Dittmar were absent

D. Approval of the September 13, 2000 Executive Summary

The Executive Summary for September 13, 2000 was approved with a minor change.

II. PODIUM

A. Ms. Sally Derengowski

Re: Recreational Facilities at Rockne Memorial

Ms. Derengowski began her address by thanking Brooke Norton for her service on the Rec Sports Advisory Board. Ms. Derengowski then highlighted her office's work following a Student Senate resolution asking for improved equipment at the Rockne Memorial. Ms. Derengowski explained that her office took this recommendation very seriously and soon began to talk to facilities about the infrastructure of the Rockne Memorial. After other investigations and considerations, Ms. Derengowski announced that Rec Sports will renovate the lower level fitness room over fall break. This renovation will add \$70,000 in new cardiovascular equipment, as well as an audio/visual system similar to the one in Rolfs. Moreover, Ms. Derengowski emphasized that she would like to stay involved with the Senate, perhaps coming for a discussion once a semester or once a year. Mr. Michael Pfaff then asked what Rec Sports will do with the old equipment from the Rock and Ms. Derengowski explained that once it is approved by risk management it can be distributed to student groups. Seth Whetzel then asked when Rec Sports intends to renovate the upstairs weightroom in the Rock. In response, Ms. Derengowski announced that her office is currently researching the possibility of renovating this room but they will wait until they have sufficient funding to begin. Following a question from Mr. Clay Cosse, Ms. Derengowski also explained that the abbreviated schedule of Rockne facilities is currently under review. Finally, Brooke Norton asked about the possibility of adding air-conditioning to the basement. In response, Ms. Derengowski said that this plan is currently being investigated by the Athletic Department Master Plan and not Rec Sports.

B. Mr. Mike Connelly

Re: *Observer* Accountability

Mr. Connelly explained that he had come to address the Senate and to bring them information, just as he tries to do each day in *The Observer*. According to Mr. Connelly, *The Observer's* credibility is currently in jeopardy because a committee will soon issue a report that might recommend that the University bring *The Observer* under its control. In doing so, salary payments to students might then be considered a University job, consequently hurting students on financial aid. Moreover, if *The Observer* begins to lose its student staff, its credibility among students could be seriously damaged. Mr. Connelly then told the Senate that in the past the University had tried to close *Scholastic* for publishing a controversial picture. As a result, Mr. Connelly believes that such an action could happen if the University begins to control *The Observer*. Ms. Nikki McCord then asked about the subscription fee that students are charged each year on their student account. Mr. Connelly then explained that this fee was approved in a student referendum and that the University

simply acts as a collector on behalf of *The Observer*. Mr. Curt Roberts then asked if *The Observer* could ever be a self-sustaining publication. In response, Mr. Connelly explained that right now 85% of *The Observer's* funding comes from advertisements, though in order to increase this revenue the paper might not be able to offer the same number of articles or add-free sections. Ms. Audra Hagan then asked about the timeline regarding the committee's report, and Mr. Connelly explained that he expects a decision from the University committee within the next two weeks. Ms. Veronica Kessenich asked who actually prints *The Observer* and Mr. Connelly explained that it is done by The Papers, a company 40 miles south of South Bend. Mr. Brendan Dowdall then asked where *The Observer* currently stands on advertising policy. In response, Mr. Connelly noted that his policy is to accept any ads designed to inform, and not to inflame, the Notre Dame community. Moreover, Mr. Connelly explained while *The Observer* might legally be able to continue publication as a separate entity from the University, such a scenario would be extremely inconvenient. Finally, Mr. Mark Leaheey asked if this was really a fight worth fighting for *The Observer*. In response, Mr. Connelly noted that he viewed any University control as a slippery slope leading to a loss of independence.

III. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

- 1) Mr. Brian O'Donoghue, Student Body President
Mr. Brian O'Donoghue announced that he had recently been appointed to serve on the University's Anti-Sweatshop Taskforce. Additionally, he reported that the Executive Cabinet has finally approved a new collaboration fund form and discussed the Founder's Day Celebration.
- 2) Ms. Brooke Norton, Student Body Vice-President
Ms. Brooke Norton encouraged all Senators to attend their committee meetings and to check with their respective Chairs if they are unsure as to the time of their meeting. Ms. Norton reported that the election for a new Keenan Hall Senator will take place tonight and a new representative should be at next week's meeting. Finally, ads are being run this week in *The Observer* about the new off-campus election and anyone interested in running must speak to the Judicial Council by Thursday evening.
- 3) Mr. Trip Foley, Student Union Secretary
Mr. Trip Foley requested that Senators please advise him of any new business by Sunday evening and that all amendments be sent to him in Word format.
- 4) Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb, Assistant Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Ms. Sonnycalb announced that the Office of the President will be conducting a voter registration drive in the Dining Halls next week.
- 5) Mr. Chris Andersen, HPC Liaison
Mr. Chris Andersen announced that HPC would like the Senate to look into placing a mailbox in the LaFortune Student Center.
- 6) Ms. Veronica Kessenich, St. Mary's Representative
Ms. Veronica Kessenich reported that the Keenan Review will take place at St. Mary's this year. However, the Board of Governance will attend the show to determine if it is degrading toward women.

B. Committee Reports

- 1) Committee on Academic Affairs
The Academic Affairs Committee will present two resolutions later in the meeting.
- 2) Committee on Diversity
The Diversity Committee had nothing new to report.
- 3) Committee on Ethics
The Ethics Committee had nothing new to report.
- 4) Committee on Gender Issues

Luciana Reali explained that the members of the Gender Issues Committee recently attended a workshop on Sexual Harassment. The Committee then met with Mr. Jeff Shoup about creating similar programs to be presented in residence halls. For the remainder of this year, these presentations may be requested by rectors, though in the future they may be required by the Student Affairs Office. Additionally, the Office of Student Affairs is currently forming a committee to look into sexual assault on campus and Ms. Luciana Reali will serve on this committee.

5) Committee on Oversight

The Oversight Committee is still reviewing the election procedure.

6) Committee on Residence Life

The Residence Life Committee met with Mr. Bill Kirk and Mr. Jeff Shoup of the Office of Student Affairs. As a result of this meeting, the Committee will work to increase awareness of DuLac's rules regarding 24-Hour Space. Additionally, the Committee is still working with Food Services and hopes to create a discount weekend pass for visiting students.

7) Committee on University Affairs

The University Affairs Committee nominated Kathleen Brogan as its Co-Chairman. Additionally, members of the committee met today with a telecommunications consultant and a report should be issued in approximately three weeks.

8) Financial Management Board

The FMB is still working on approval of funding for the Founder's Day Celebration.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Formation of a joint Academic Affairs and University Affairs subcommittee to examine the Honor Code

Mr. Ryan Becker moved to create a subcommittee to investigate Honor Code reform and ways to increase awareness about it. This motion then passed unanimously.

B. Letter of Nomination for Mr. Brian Moscona to serve as Sophomore Class Advisor to Freshman Class Council

Mr. Brian O'Donoghue formally recommended the appointment of Mr. Brian Moscona to serve as the Sophomore Class Advisor to the Freshman Class Council based on his extensive service. The Senate will formally consider this nomination at its next meeting.

C. SS0001-10: Amendment adding Faculty Senate liaison to the Student Senate

Ms. Katie Bufalino announced that Professor Greene of the Faculty Senate has expressed his desire to sit on the Student Senate. Ms. Bufalino then made a friendly amendment and the resolution now reads:

Docket # SS0001-10

Amendment
- Appointment of Faculty Senate Liaison -

Drafted 9/19/00

Insert: Bylaws, Section 1, Clause 5:

"5. Faculty Senate Representative

- a. The Faculty Senate shall nominate one faculty member to serve as non-voting member of the Student Union Senate.
- b. The Student Union Senate shall review and approve this nomination.
- c. The representative must be elected by Faculty Senate and approved each year by Student Senate and can serve no more than two consecutive terms at a time.
- d. The representative shall attend weekly Student Union Senate

meetings and serve as a liaison between the Student Senate and Faculty Senate.
e. The representative will also, in turn, serve as a member on the Academic Affairs Committee."

Submitted by the Committee on Academic Affairs

Ms. Nikki McCord then announced that she could not approve this amendment because the Faculty liaison is speaking privileges on the Student Senate. Ms. McCord emphasized that she did not find this appropriate since the business of the Student Senate is concerned with students, and not with Faculty opinion. Mr. Ryan Becker then expressed his belief that it is important to open the lines of communication between faculty and students, and in his opinion this amendment would go a long way toward this goal. Many other Senators then expressed their support for this amendment. Finally the Senate voted 23-1 to bring Resolution SS0001-10 to a vote and then 20-1 to adopt this resolution.

D. SS0001-11: Amendment regarding appointment time of Faculty Senate liaison

Ms. Katie Bufalino explained that the amendment regarding the appointment time of the Faculty Senate liaison allowed the outgoing Senate to approve the appointment since they might be more likely to properly exercise their right of review. However, it was noted that under such a plan a representative could be approved who then lost their position on the Faculty Senate. As a result, Mr. Brendan Dowdall made a friendly amendment and the resolution now reads:

Docket # SS0001-11

Amendment
- Timeframe for Faculty Senate Liaison Appointment -

Drafted 9/19/00

Insert Bylaws, Section 6, Clause 12:

"The Senate shall review and approve the nomination of the Faculty Senate Representative prior to September 10th of each year.

Submitted by the Committee on Academic Affairs

The Senate then voted to approve Resolution SS0001-11 by a vote of 23-0-0.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Ms. Brooke Norton announced that the Office of the President is currently awaiting final approval for the Founder's Day Celebration, which should be given tomorrow. If the approval is given, Founder's Day will be a campus-wide celebration with carnival rides on October 5 from 3-10 p.m. by Rolfs. If any groups would like to work with the Office of the President on this issue, please speak to Brooke as soon as possible.
- B. Ms. Brooke Norton apologized for the confusion regarding Parliamentary Procedure. From this point on if an item is on the Agenda the Senate will not have to formally move to bring it to the floor.
- C. If anyone is interested in playing Volleyball this weekend, please talk to Kaitlyn Dudley.
- D. Mr. John Osborn announced that Health Services is currently forming a Student Advisory Board. Anyone interested should speak to John.
- E. The Board of Trustees Report Committee is interviewing focus groups on the University's Alcohol policy immediately following this meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend and free pizza will be served.
- F. All dorms are encouraged to participate in the Keough Hall Chariot Race.
- G. Ms. Audra Hagan encouraged the Senate to limit side conversations and requested that Senators stand when they speak.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kevin Berchou moved to adjourn at 7:45. The next meeting of the Student Senate will be on September 27 at 6:00 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trip Foley
Student Union Secretary
9/27/00

Resolution Regarding Sexual Assault Presentations in Residence Halls

Drafted on 22 September 2000

WHEREAS, it is stated in *duLac*: "Rape and sexual assault, in any form, are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the Notre Dame community. All members of the community share responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment which promotes the safety and mutual respect of each individual;" (54)

WHEREAS, it is stated in *duLac*: "the University recognizes that it is in the community's best interest that victims feel supported and encouraged to report sexual assaults or misconduct;" (56)

WHEREAS college-age students are more likely to be raped than any other age group, and nationally, the majority of reported victims and offenders are of college-age. The rate of rape victimization is highest among 16 to 19 year olds and the second highest victimization group is women between 20 and 24 years of age;

WHEREAS many victims of rape or sexual assault on college campuses are assaulted by an acquaintance;

WHEREAS approximately 10 percent of reported rapes involve male victims;

WHEREAS Notre Dame students publicly raised concerns last Spring about the manner in which sexual assault cases are handled on campus;

WHEREAS the University is interested in making changes designed to raise awareness of sexual assault and to help student victims;

WHEREAS Notre Dame officials announced that a committee will be established to advise administrators on issues and procedures related to sexual assault cases. The committee will include representatives from the student body, the faculty, the University Counseling Center, the Office of Student Affairs, Sex Offense Services, Saint Mary's College, the Notre Dame Security Police and others;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Union Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac on behalf of the student body express gratitude to all those University officials who are making efforts to expand services for victims of sexual assault and to raise awareness of sexual assault on this campus;

THEREFORE BE IT RECOMMENDED that the Office of Residence Life further their efforts to raise awareness of sexual assault by offering educational presentations in the Residence Halls on topics related to the issue of sexual assault, University policy and disciplinary procedures, and services available for victims of sexual assault, tailored to the specific needs of male and female students.

Submitted by the Student Senate Committee on Gender Issues.