

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

November 1, 2000
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Call to Order
Chairperson Brooke Norton called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- B. Invocation
Dave Halm led the invocation.
- C. Roll Call
There were no Senators absent.
- D. Approval of the October 25, 2000 Executive Summary
The October 25, 2000 Executive Summary was approved unanimously.

II. REPORTS

- A. Officer Reports
 - 1) Mr. Brian O'Donoghue, Student Body President
Mr. Brian O'Donoghue encouraged the Senate to attend the Campus Life Council meeting on Monday, November 6 at 4:30 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.
 - 2) Ms. Brooke Norton, Student Body Vice-President
Chairperson Norton complimented the Senate on their hard work. Additionally, any resolutions should be emailed to both Brooke (Norton.17) and Trip Foley (jfoley). Finally, this week's Steering Committee meeting will take place during the lunch break of Sunday's seminar.
 - 3) Mr. Trip Foley, Student Union Secretary
Mr. Trip Foley had nothing new to report.
 - 4) Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb, Assistant Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Ms. Meredith Sonnycalb reported that the information session for those involved in the Finnigan's raid was successful. The Office of the President will also be considering SafeRide this week. Next Tuesday there will be an election watch in LaFortune and during the week academic lunches will take place in the South Dining Hall. Meredith also reminded the Senate about Katie Kessner's speech on November 14 at 7:00 in the Library Auditorium. Finally, the Orange Crush will take place this Thursday and Friday in the Dining Halls and there will be a major fair on Sunday in the LaFortune ballroom.
 - 5) Mr. Chris Andersen, HPC Liaison
Mr. Chris Andersen was not in attendance.
 - 6) Ms. Veronica Kessenich, St. Mary's Representative
Ms. Veronica Kessenich was not in attendance.
 - B. Committee Reports
 - 1) Committee on Academic Affairs
The Academic Affairs Committee reported that they are nearly finished with resolutions regarding the exam schedule for next fall. Additionally, the Committee is investigating the subject of faculty mentoring for sophomores and a central scholarship office. Finally, Melissa Rauch noted that this year's move toward a computer based DART is an improvement and should go smoothly in the basement of the Library. All sophomores will also register on Monday and Tuesday so that there are not conflicts with travel for Thanksgiving.
 - 2) Committee on Diversity
The Celebrating Diversity workshop will take place this Sunday from 9 until 4:30 in the CSC. Additionally, the Committee is looking into TCE forms and experiential learning classes.
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- 3) Committee on Ethics
The Ethics Committee had nothing new to report.
- 4) Committee on Gender Issues
Maggie Clarke thanked Luciana, Kevin Berchou & Ryan Becker for their help in working on the resolutions being discussed today. Additionally, the Committee is still working on a Freshman Orientation review, looking into the women's resource center & the University alcohol policy, and working with the student wellness board to provide a wellness packet for freshmen.
- 5) Committee on Oversight
The Oversight Committee will meet next Tuesday at 8:15.
- 6) Committee on Residence Life
The Residence Life Committee is still working with security to provide lights around the lake. Furthermore, after Audra Hagan's discussion it appear that facilities will be installing clocks and a study lounge in O'Shaughnessy Hall. Additionally, any suggestions for classroom improvements should be directed to Audra.
- 7) Committee on University Affairs
The University Affairs Committee is discussing the alcohol policy and is working to put a student on the Student Affairs Committee discussing this topic.
- 8) Financial Management Board
The FMB will meet later tonight regarding the Rector's Endowment Fund.

III. PODIUM

A. Ms. Bethany Barker

Re: Sophomore Signature Event Update

- Bethany Barker reported that since there will be no Sophomore Sibling's weekend the Sophomore Class Council is currently planning an off-campus formal for March 31 at the Century Center. The evening will have a seated dinner, dancing, and perhaps a late night party at Senior Bar.

B. Mr. Ryan Becker, Mr. Kevin Berchou, Ms. Maggie Clarke & Ms. Lucian Reali

Re: 24 Hour Space

Luciana Reali announced that the Gender Committee and the Residence Life Committee have both been working on improving 24 Hour space. Luciana then explained the results of several surveys on this topic, calling the Senate's attention to the problem arising from security monitors leaving and not allowing students to congregate in 24 Hour space. In order to solve this problem, there are three resolutions being presented today, two dealing with a posted policy and the other being a letter addressed to rectors.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SS0001-15: Resolution Regarding Policy To Be Posted in Residence Hall 24-Hour Space

Kevin Berchou explained that the primary problem arising in 24 Hour space is one of communication and that this resolution is designed to create a more uniform policy throughout the campus. Kevin also noted that Mr. Shoup and Mr. Kirk from the Office of Student Affairs have already expressed their support for these measures. Maggie Clark then asked any action has been taken to improve the situation and Kevin reported that Mr. Kirk has tried to address these issues in Security Monitor training sessions. Mr. Curt Roberts then made a friendly amendment to the resolution and it now reads:

Docket Number: SS0001-15

Resolution Regarding Policy To Be Posted in Residence Hall 24-Hour Space

Drafted on 22 October 2000

WHEREAS duLac defines 24-Hour Space as: "Common areas of the residence halls which accommodate visits by the opposite gender and are available all 24 hours of the day for these visits."

WHEREAS rectors and students have affirmed that 24-Hour Space according to this definition does not exist in some residence halls.

WHEREAS rectors and students have affirmed that rules governing behavior in 24-Hour Space exist in some residence halls that are not specified in duLac and are not posted in the 24-Hour Space.

WHEREAS the Notre Dame Security/Police Department assigns security monitors during the academic year to undergraduate women's residence halls during certain hours each night. These monitors are in place for the safety and security of the hall residents, not to close down the space when their night shift is completed.

WHEREAS disputes about interpretation and enforcement of the rules governing behavior in 24-Hour Space have arisen between students and security monitors.

WHEREAS it has been a challenge to enforce a uniform 24-Hour Space policy in all of the residence halls.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a uniform policy drafted by the Student Senate and approved by the Office of Student Affairs be posted in common areas designated 24-Hour Space in the residence halls.

Respectfully submitted by the Student Senate Committee on Gender Issues
and the Student Senate Committee on Residence Life.

Brendan Dowdall then questioned the logic of the resolution and Audra and Luciana explained its purpose. There was a movement to pass which passed unanimously and the Senate then approved Resolution SS0001-15 by a vote of 27-0-0

B. SS0001-16: Resolution Regarding Suggested Policy to be Posted in Residence Halls

Ryan Becker explained that in order to fix confusion associated with 24 Hour Space this resolution calls for the posting of this policy. Jeff Stuffings then asked what if a rector changed rules regarding 24 Hour space. In response, Ryan noted that although rectors will still have that right it was his hope that the broad definition would generally apply and that rectors would be reasonable in any changes they made. Michael Pfaff then proposed an amendment and the resolution now reads:

Docket No: SS0001-16

Resolution Regarding Suggested Policy to be Posted in Residence Halls

Drafted on 23 October 2000

WHEREAS the Student Senate, on behalf of the Student Body of the University of Notre Dame, believes that a policy issued by the Office of Student Affairs should be posted in common areas designated 24-Hour Space in the residence halls.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Senate suggests that the following policy be posted in common areas designated 24-Hour Space in the residence halls upon consideration and review by the Office of Student Affairs:

"24-Hour Space is defined as common areas designated in each Residence Hall, available for the use of all residents, to accommodate both male and female students and their guests. This space must be available to residents and their guests at all times with absolutely no exceptions. Conduct in the 24-Hour Space is governed by the rules specifically stated in duLac. All rules regarding 24-Hour Space should be applied equally in all University Residence Halls. Any amendments to these rules made by Residence Halls must be approved by the Office of Student Affairs, clearly posted in the 24-Hour Space, and communicated to hall residents.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a reasonable and appropriate manner, exercising good judgment, and showing respect for Hall Staff members and fellow students."

Respectfully submitted by the Student Senate Committee on Gender Issues
and the Student Senate Committee on Residence Life.

Brian O'Donoghue then advised the Senate that a similar resolution had been introduced by the Senate last year but died in committee in the CLC. Odie then read both the resolution and the minutes of that meeting for the Senate. In conclusion, Odie suggested that perhaps the Senate might be more effective if they worked through the system. Luciana Reali noted, however, that last year the CLC didn't think adequate research had been done and that more research had been done for this resolution. Moreover, last year's resolution had a more specific definition of 24 Hour space which is not found in this resolution. Ryan then noted that the purpose of these resolutions is different. It was then the general consensus of the Senate that if they attended the CLC meeting and

showed their support, perhaps the rectors will adopt this resolution. Kevin Berill then called previous question and this passed unanimously. The Senate then voted to approve Resolution SS0001-16 by a vote of 26-0-0.

- C. SS0001-17: By Law on Senator Residency Requirements
Audra Hagan introduced Resolution SS0001-17 and explained the reasoning behind it. Senator Hagan then called pq, which passed unanimously. The Senate then voted to approve Resolution SS0001-17 by a vote of 26-0-0.
- D. SS0001-18: By Law on Approval of Letters of Nomination
Audra Hagan explained that there is currently no mention of the vote count needed to approve a letter of nomination and urged the Senate to approve this resolution. Brian O'Donoghue then noted that the Senate has faced confusion over this requirement in the past. Brendan Dowdall called pq which passed unanimously. The Senate then voted to approve Resolution SS0001-18 by a vote of 26-0-0.
- E. SS0001-19: Letter
Luciana Reali presented a letter calling for physical improvements and an expansion of 24 Hour space in certain dorms based on responses to the Gender Issues Committee's survey. Tim Kinatukara noted that the second part of the letter might be an issue better handled by hall councils rather than the Office of Student Affairs. Luciana agreed with this point, though she noted that some of these proposed changes were major renovations which the University would have to fund. Tim then made an amendment to the resolution removing any requests for renovation and this was approved unanimously. However, the Senate then discussed how to include dorms that do need renovation and also how effective such a letter would be. As a result, Melissa Rauch moved to send this resolution back to committee and this passed unanimously.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The Honor Code Subcommittee will meet in the South Dining Hall for dinner.
- B. Lyons hall is sponsoring the Mara Fox run this Saturday.
- C. The Student Affairs Committee discussing sexual awareness is looking into hiring a resource person and any suggestions on this topic should be directed to Luciana.
- D. Ryan Becker will be having a "meeting" this Saturday night beginning at 10:00 in room 157 Zahm.
- E. Brendan Dowdall is looking for a friend to eat dinner with.
- F. Brooke Norton announced that she intends to meet with each Senator individually over the next few weeks.
- G. John McCain will be appearing in South Bend this Saturday. A bus will bring students to the airport from Main Circle at 12:45.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Michael Pfaff moved for adjournment at 7:41 and this was approved unanimously. The next meeting of the Student Senate will be November 8 at 6:00 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trip Foley
Student Union Secretary
11/3/00