

Notre Dame Student Senate  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

November 8, 2000  
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Brooke Norton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Invocation

Mr. Dave Halm led the invocation.

C. Roll Call

Melissa Rauch was absent.

D. Approval of the November 1, 2000 Executive Summary

The November 1, 2000 Executive Summary was approved with one change.

**II. REPORTS**

A. Officer Reports

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

President Brian O'Donoghue thanked those Senators who attended the CLC meeting and noted that their presence was helpful in passing resolution CLC0001-02 regarding 24-Hour Space regulations. Now the Gender Issues Committee will work with the Office of Student Affairs to write an appropriate policy to be posed in each residence hall. Brian also reported that the Executive Cabinet voted to approve \$900 for a joint effort of the Campus Alliance for Rape Elimination and the Office of the President to bring Katie Koessner to campus. The Cabinet also discussed granting the Student Union Treasurer a vote and will look into this at future meetings.

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

Chairperson Norton thanked the Senate for their hard work and noted how impressed she was by the attendance at the CLC meeting. Brooke also announced that the Steering Committee will meet this Sunday and she thanked Brendan Dowdall and Nikki McCord for overseeing the Diversity Seminar.

3) Mr. Trip Foley, Student Union Secretary

Mr. Trip Foley had nothing new to report.

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

Ms. Meredith Sonnyalb reported that the Orange Crush and Major Fair programs were very successful. Additionally, academic lunches continue this week and Katie Koessner will speak on November 14 at 7:30 in the Hesburgh Auditorium.

5) Mr. Chris Andersen, HPC Liaison

Mr. Chris Andersen had nothing new to report.

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 did not meet due to the Diversity Seminar.

2) Committee on Diversity

The Diversity Committee will meet next Tuesday at 6:00. Additionally, Nikki & Brendan expressed their thanks to all those who attended the workshop and announced that there will be a makeup session in the spring.

- 3) Committee on Ethics  
The Ethics Committee had nothing new to report.
- 4) Committee on Gender Issues  
The Gender Issues Committee just met and will continue to work with Mr. Bill Kirk to discuss the rules to be posed in residence halls. Additionally, a representative of the Women's Resource Center spoke to the committee tonight and this group will probably address the Senate in the future. Finally, next week is Sexual Assault Awareness Week and this past Sunday was Solidarity Sunday.
- 5) Committee on Oversight  
If anyone has any ideas regarding resolution SS0001-20, please speak to Audra Hagan.
- 6) Committee on Residence Life  
The Residence Life Committee reported that Audra Hagan will meet with OIT this week. Also, the committee is beginning to work on lowering the rental fee associated with the JAAC. Finally, the Committee will look into the use of sacred spaces and the rules surrounding female interhall football.
- 7) Committee on University Affairs  
The University Affairs Committee will meet on Sunday at 5:30. Additionally today Bethany Barker spoke to the Assistant to the Vice President about the focus groups discussing the University's Alcohol Policy. Bethany reported that these groups will probably look into funding and programming of non-alcoholic events on campus.
- 8) Financial Management Board  
The FMB met last week. Additionally, Michael Pfaff reminded the Senate that the Rector's Endowment fund exists to help students in need and so far only \$906 of over \$34,000 has been used.

### III. PODIUM

#### A. Luciana Reali

Re: Gender Issues Committee Projects for Freshmen: Healthy Living Guide and Freshman Orientation Focus Groups

Luciana Reali presented two projects which the Gender Issues Committee has been working on. The first, a Healthy Living Packet for Freshmen, is intended to help incoming students and will include information from the University nutritionist, RecSports, and many other groups. The Student Health Advisory Council will also assist in this program. The second project, Freshman Orientation Focus Groups, will be conducted with the help of the Freshman Class Council in individual residence halls. It is the Committee's hope that this program will help to make a more effective and welcoming orientation.

#### B. Katie Bufalino

Re: Study Days Resolution

Katie Bufalino announced that the Academic Affairs Committee will present a study days resolution at the next meeting after receiving suggestions from Professor Greene. Following a question of whether the schedule can really be changed, Professor Greene noted that while the decision might be arbitrary he thought students could be successful if they made a strong case for consistency. Audra Hagan also noted that under the current schedule students who take a class in the fall semester might have less time to study for their exam than students in the spring.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

### V. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. SS0001-20: Eligibility Requirements to Hold Office

Audra Hagan presented resolution SS0001-20, noting that this is a topic on which she feels very strongly and has recently caused a great deal of confusion. Audra urged the Senate to not consider

this topic personally but rather to think how students can be elected and represent their constituents to the best of their ability. Audra also suggested that the Senate consider if groups are helped or hurt by members that join halfway through a term. Elizabeth Efta and Becky Hagelin, Co-Chairmen of SUB, noted that this resolution had many implications beyond the Senate since at least one of the 5 executive members of SUB is abroad in the spring. Elizabeth & Becky then urged the Senate to consider the removing the enumerated office clause if the resolution is adopted. Seth Whetzel then asked what prompted this resolution and Audra explained that it was brought about by the high number of split Senate representatives. Following a question from Michael Pfaff, Audra explained that while there are not past examples of problems like this arising, she did expect problems to arise in the coming year. Audra then read a letter in support of the resolution from the Judicial Council. Luciana Reali suggested that the resolution consider certain specific offices to which this rule might apply. Curt Roberts explained that while he thought this was an issue that the Senate should discuss, he did not personally agree with it because the resolution might limit the ways in which people can be active in the University. The Senate then voted to move into a Committee of the Whole and this passed 25-1. At this point Audra moved for a straw poll on the resolution and the general consensus of the Senate was against supporting the resolution. Senators then discussed many other aspects of the resolution. The Senate then moved back to a regular meeting and this passed by a majority. Finally, the Senate moved to send the resolution back to Committee and this passed by a majority.

**B. Approval of Stuart Greene as Faculty Senate Representative**

Brooke Norton reported that Stuart Green has been elected as the liaison by the Faculty Senate and the Student Senate will vote on his approval next week.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Seth Whetzel announced that anyone interested in BC football tickets should talk to him immediately.
- B. Ryan Becker announced that the Honor Code Committee will meet on Sunday at 5:00.
- C. Brendan Dowdall will have a small meeting next to Senior Bar this Saturday before the football game.
- D. Brooke Norton invited anyone interested in attending a meeting on the Library renovation to speak to her after the meeting.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Nikki McCord moved for adjournment at 7:12 and this was approved unanimously. The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place on November 15 at 6:00 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trip Foley  
Student Union Secretary  
11/14/00