

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

November 15, 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

Mark Leaheey led the invocation.

C. Roll Call

Christopher ^{Jackson} Clement and Ryan Becker were absent.

D. Approval of the November 8, 2000 Executive Summary

The November 8, 2000 Executive Summary was approved with one grammatical change.

II. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

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

Mr. Brian O'Donoghue reported that Notre Dame has won back the Ireland Trophy following its victory over Boston College. The trophy is now on display on the first floor of LaFortune.

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

Ms. Brooke Norton explained that since Jay Smith was unable to attend the meeting on account of a class, she would give the mid-term report. Brooke said that she was please to announce that students will ^{not} be allowed to attend the winter meeting of the Board of Trustees, a large accomplishment which comes directly on the heels of a successful fall presentation where students for the first time had access to the agenda and discussed sexual assault, the counseling center, and alcohol use with the Trustees. Brooke was also please to report the successful creation of the Rectors' Endowment fund to assist students and create a stronger Notre Dame community. Brooke also reported that a new Shirt will be created this year for the basketball season to benefit the American Cancer Society and the Greatness Grant. Brooke then noted that the Office of the President had successfully arranged the Opening of School Year Mass, Founder's Day, Vice-Presidential Candidate Lieberman's visit and many other events to bring students together. Moreover, the Office of the President sponsored the Congressional Debates, a debate TV watch in LaFortune and an election watch. Furthermore, over 1,000 students were registered to vote and over 1,500 absentee ballot request forms were distributed. The Office of the President has also been involved with service projects including the Crush to benefit the Special Olympics, Irish Elves & Project Warmth. Additionally, the Office of the President has reacted to unforeseen events, such as conducting an information session for those students cited at Finnigan's. Finally, the Office has been involved in a major fair, academic lunches, sponsored Katie Koessner's speech, and will be bringing 850 middle school students to campus for a conference in February.

3) Mr. Trip Foley, Student Union Secretary

Mr. Trip Foley had no new business to report.

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

Ms. Meredith Sonnyalb was not in attendance.

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 will present a resolution regarding Study Days later in the meeting.

2) Committee on Diversity

The Diversity Committee met yesterday to discuss upcoming projects.

3) Committee on Ethics

The Ethics Committee had no new business to report.

4) Committee on Gender Issues

The Gender Issues Committee is currently researching support services offered for Gay and Lesbian students. Moreover, the paperwork for the Freshman Orientation seminars was presented to the Freshman Class Council on Sunday and should be concluded by Dec. 4.

5) Committee on Oversight

The Oversight Committee met and had received a few suggestions following the resolution presented at the last meeting. Additionally, Audra Hagan said that she hoped to present all the election changes to the Senate at the next meeting and requested that all Senators look over the materials as soon as they receive them.

6) Committee on Residence Life

The Residence Life Committee met with Mr. Kirk recently regarding the document to be posted about 24-Hour Space. The Office of Student Affairs will then take the Committee's list of what to include and write a draft with input from students. Finally, Mr. Kirk said he would personally make sure that security monitors understand the new spirit of 24-Hour Space.

7) Financial Management Board

The FMB met and discussed the candidates for The Shirt Project, unanimously supporting Scott Palko.

*University
Affairs* →

III. PODIUM

Luciana Reali

Re: Sexual Assault Programs in Residence Halls

Luciana Reali thanked the Office of the President for sponsoring Katie Koessner's talk. After that talk, Luciana said that she and Maggie decided that they shouldn't wait until next year to have sexual assault programs in each residence hall. Noting that Katie drove home the point that assaults happen all the time, the Gender Issues Committee has drafted a letter for Senators to bring back to their halls asking for each hall to plan a program on this topic. Included in the letter are groups and individuals interested in helping to put on information sessions.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Formal Approval of Professor Stuart Greene as Faculty Senate Liaison

Because a letter of nomination had not been received and since Professor Greene was absent, his approval will be delayed until the next Senate meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SS0001-21: Letter Regarding 24-Hour Space Improvements in Residence Halls

Luciana Reali explained that this letter was the final version of a letter which had been tabled earlier. Among the significant changes since then, the letter will not be directed to the Director of Student Residences. Additionally, instead of listing minor improvements the letter simply asks for major support and that student residences evaluate possible new 24-Hour space in certain dorms. The Senate then voted unanimously to approve resolution SS0001-21.

B. SS0001-22: Exam Days Resolution

- Melissa Rauch apologized for the confusing nature of the supplemental schedule page and explained that the second scenario should have exam days straight through Friday in the last week. Melissa also noted that this resolution simply calls for 4 continuous study days and does not discuss starting or ending days of the calendar. Katie Bufalino then read the resolution and highlighted some of the key points. Melissa next reported that she had spoken to Professor Bill Daley who had been involved in creating study days at Notre Dame. According to Professor Daley, the reasoning for creating study days was to show that Notre Dame's exams were of the same difficulty as their peer institutions (which already granted study days). Consequently, Professor Daley noted that by eliminating a study day it implies that exams are viewed in a frivolous manner. Kevin Berrill then said that he thought the Committee had done a great job but wondered if it was necessary to call for 4 consecutive days in the resolution. In response, Melissa noted that calling for 4 consecutive days maintained the thinking of ensuring the consistency of the exam period. The Senate then voted unanimously to approve resolution SS0001-22.
- C. Letter of Nomination for The Shirt Coordinator
Katie Reicher, Student Union Treasurer, presented a letter of nomination for Mr. Scott Palko as the coordinator for The Shirt Project. Katie noted that she believed Scott would work hard and recommended his approval. Jamie Sablich then asked for an update of the selection process and Katie explained that there were only two candidates to apply for the position.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Brooke Norton reported that the Senate will not meet next Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- B. Kathleen Brogan asked those members of the Honor Code Committee to stay after the meeting. She also reminded the Senators to promote the Honor Code focus groups to take place in the Dooley Room this Thursday, the Notre Dame Room on Monday, and the Sorin Room on Tuesday.
- C. Brendan Dowdall invited all of the Senate to join him for dinner.
- D. Kevin Berrill announced that Acoustic O'Neill would take place on Thursday from 7 until 10.
- E. Clay Cosse announced that Manor Unplugged was this Friday at 7:00.
- F. Brian O'Donoghue asked any male Senators that attended Katie Koessner's talk to speak to him.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Melissa Rauch moved for adjournment at 6:45 and this passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place on Wednesday, November 29 at 6:00 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trip Foley
Student Union Secretary
11/16/00

