

Notre Dame Student Senate  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

November 29, 2000  
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Brooke Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Invocation

Mark Leaheey led the invocation.

C. Roll Call

Dan Barabas, Nikki McCord and Alison Lasseter were absent.

D. Approval of the November 15, 2000 Executive Summary

The November 15, 2000 Executive Summary was approved with some minor changes.

**II. REPORTS**

A. Officer Reports

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

Mr. Brian O'Donoghue announced that he will give his State of the Student Union address at the end of the meeting.

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

Ms. Brooke Norton said that she hoped all of the Senate had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and asked that if those people giving reports today could be brief because there is so much on the agenda. Additionally, Brooke explained that the University will announce how it intends to distribute bowl tickets on Monday or Tuesday.

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 encouraged the Senate to ask their dorms to participate in the Christmas decoration contest. Meredith also announced that Finals Fun will take place this year.

5) Mr. Chris Andersen, HPC Liaison

Mr. Chris Andersen asked for an update on the mailbox in LaFortune and Ryan Becker will discuss this later.

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

Ms. Veronica Kessenich was not present.

B. Committee Reports

1) Committee on Academic Affairs

The Committee on Academic Affairs will meet this week with members of the Academic Council before their meeting on Monday to discuss next year's schedule.

2) Committee on Diversity

The Committee on Diversity will meet Tuesday at 6 pm.

3) Committee on Ethics

The Committee on Ethics had nothing new to report.

4) Committee on Gender Issues

The Committee on Gender Issues talked with Dean Koleman regarding the Healthy Living Packet and is currently working on the new policy to be posted in 24 Hour Space.

5) Committee on Oversight

The Committee on Oversight will present Election Reform proposals later.

6) Committee on Residence Life

The Committee on Residence Life will meet with Food Services Monday, Seth is looking into the snow removal process and Bill will consider dorm improvements next semester.

Regarding the LaFortune mailbox, mail will now be accepted at the LaFortune Information Desk and will be sent out the next morning with the Student Activities Office mail.

7) Committee on University Affairs

The Committee on University Affairs will present a letter regarding the Office of Student Affairs Alcohol Policy at the next meeting.

8) Financial Management Board

The FMB met yesterday and things are going well.

### III. PODIUM

Diana Simpson

Re: Women's Resource Center

Diana Simpson explained that the Women's Resource Center, which is located in 300 LaFortune, acts as an information source, a coordinator for resources on campus & in South Bend, and works to increase awareness during the year. Events in which the Women's Resource Center participates include the Gender Issues presentations to freshmen, sponsoring speakers, last year's special section on rape in the *Observer* and a series on women in sports. Shannon Bennett then asked how the Senate can help the Center and Diana said either by co-sponsoring or by helping to increase their funding. Professor Greene then asked how the Center was affected by its probation and Diana said that they now try to stay away from controversial material and monitor what they include in their library.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Formal Approval of Professor Stuart Greene as Faculty Senate Liaison

The Senate unanimously moved to approve Professor Stuart Greene as the Faculty Senate Liaison.

B. Formal Approval of Scott Palko as The Shirt Coordinator

The Senate unanimously moved to approve Scott Palko as the Shirt Coordinator.

### V. NEW BUSINESS

A. SS0001-23: Letter Regarding a Healthy Living Guide for Incoming First-Year Students

Luciana Reali explained that the purpose of this resolution was to get the support of Dean Koleman and Mr. Kirk regarding the Healthy Living Guide for freshmen. Luciana and Maggie also reported that in their meeting with Dean Koleman she suggested making a planner and including the information in the back so students will actually use the guide. Brendan Dowdall then asked what the ideal situation for this packet would be and Luciana said that after getting the administration's support she hoped to receive financial support from the Alumni Association and allow the Student Wellness Board to create the planner. Michael Pfaff then moved for pq and this passed unanimously. The Senate then approved resolution SS0001-23 unanimously.

B. Ms. Audra Hagan – Revisions to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Union: Elections

Audra Hagan explained that these reforms have been in the works for a long time, have received outside input, and are intended to make the election process run smoother. Jessie Flores then highlighted new structures and other changes including the Election Committee, hearings of appeals, campaigning (spending & time period), the use of listerves and email, the fact that new ByLaws cannot be created during the election period, re-elections, debates, and candidate websites. Michael Pfaff then asked about the timeline for an appeal and Audra explained that there was now to be a statute of limitations of 48 Hours. Luciana Reali then asked about the debate schedule and Audra explained that under this plan debates will not be centralized. Rather, candidates can call their own debates and invite whomever they wish. Brooke Norton then asked

for a clarification of how the Election Committee liaison to the Senate will be selected. The Senate then vigorously discussed many other aspects of these reforms including debates, the dates when elections will take place, campaigning limits, the use of email, and endorsements. Amendments that were accepted were made by Jessie, Kaitlyn Dudley, Curt Roberts, Audra Hagan, and Seth Whetzel. Finally, after much debate Michael Pfaff called pq and this passed unanimously. The Senate then voted to approve the entire revisions 22-0-0.

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Katie Bufalino asked if abroad students are allowed to run for Student Body President and though this would technically not be allowed, Brooke recommended that anyone interested talk to the Judicial Council.
- B. Ryan Becker thanked Kathleen, Katie and Melissa for their work on the Honor Code focus group project. Ryan also announced that Zahm hall will have a new election to decide who will serve as their Senator for the spring semester.
- C. An Advent Celebration will take place on Sunday at 6:30 in the Basilica.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Michael Pfaff moved for adjournment at 9:02 and this passed unanimously. The next meeting of the Student Senate will take place December 6 at 6:00 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trip Foley  
Student Union Secretary  
12/2/00

