

Notre Dame Student Senate

MEETING MINUTES

08 April 1998

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Selak at 6:15 p.m.
- B. Philip Donner, Senate Chaplain-designate, led the invocation.
- C. Absent: Russell Ernst, Pat Foy, Jason Linster, Kelly Starman and Spencer Stefko
- D. The minutes from the April 01, 1998 meeting were approved with correction. Senator Mamak noted that the 1997-1998 Student Senate had approved J.P. Cooney as the 1998-1999 Judicial Council President.

II. REPORTS

A. Position Nominations

1. Andrea Selak, Senate Chairperson

- Nominated Michael Palumbo to serve as Secretary to the Senate. Michael served on the Judicial Council as a member of the Committee of Elections. I feel he is very qualified and will do an excellent job.
- Nominated Mark Higgins to serve as Senate Parliamentarian. Mark served as Senate and CLC Secretary for the 1997-1998 term. He possesses considerable knowledge of both the Student Union and of parliamentary procedure.
- Nominated Philip Donner to serve as Chaplain of the Senate. For as it is written in the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body of the University of Notre Dame, "A representative of Old College shall serve as chaplain of the Senate."

2. Peter Cesaro, Student Body President

- Nominated Deanette Weiss to serve as Chief of Staff. Deanette served as Chief of Staff under the Miller-Murray administration.
- Nominated Frank Law to serve as Academic Delegate. Frank "has the perseverance and creativity to represent the undergraduate student body on the University's Academic Council."
- Nominated Dave Rogero to serve as Controller. "Dave's experience as Controller for other campus organizations has certainly qualified himself to maintain the accurate and timely records of all expenses for the Office of the President."
- Nominated Executive Coordinators for the various departments in the Office of the President: Carrie Hedin, Relations; Brett Smith, Student Resources; Alicia Coronas, Student Life; Jackie Faherty, Student Computing; Maria Alevras; Kim Gibson, Gender Relations; Todd Callais, Transportation; and Andrea Kavooosi, Administrative Relations.
- The Student Senate will review these nominations and vote on their approval before the Easter recess.

3. Andrea Selak

- In proxy of Jennifer Dovidio, I nominate Brian Meihaus for the position of Judicial Council Vice-President of Advocacy.
- In proxy of Jennifer Dovidio, I nominate Nicole Borda for the position of Judicial Council Vice-President of Elections.
- The motion to vote on these appointments was tabled until next week to allow senators time to review these appointments. The Brian Meihaus sheet was excluded from the original packet, but the letter from Jennifer Dovidio was passed around to all senators for their consideration.

B. Officer Reports

1. President Cesaro

- A main task of the Office of the President is to improve student life on campus. One of the ways to accomplish this goal is extending SafeRide from Friday and Saturday nights to Thursday night as well. I also plan to attend Hall Council meetings with Andrea in order to listen to the concerns of the students and to talk about solutions to problems on campus.

2. Vice-President Selak

- I am passing around information cards in order for all senators to please write their name, residence hall address, residence hall phone number, and e-mail address.
- If ever the time arises, feel free to get up and go to the bathroom, or get some pop.
- Since we are just starting out, please say your name every time you speak so that the other senators and I will learn your name quickly.
- Please do not let parliamentary procedure scare you or anything, we are all getting use to it. We will try to stick to Robert's Rules of Order to get through agenda, to allow all voices to be heard and to allow all ideas to be expressed.
- I am very excited about being here, and I feel that we are going to have a great Senate.

3. Secretary-designate Palumbo

- I am very happy to be here as well. I thank Peter and Andrea for the appointment, and I pledge my service to this body.

C. Committee Transition Reports

1. Ethics Committee, 1997-1998 Chairmen A.J. Boyd

- I will have a transition report for the new committee sometime soon.
- I like to think of the Ethics Committee as the Internal Affairs of the Student Government. This committee investigates positional misconduct, mismanagement of fund, and other various topics.
- The ideal Ethics Committee would meet only once, to elect a chairperson or chairperson and set its meeting dates and times but never discuss any matters.
- If you want to be Mr. or Mrs. Popularity, well then this committee is not for you.

2. Gender Issues, 1997-1998 Chairwoman Katie Harness

- This year, the committee had a small group of senators numbering around 8.
- We joined forces with the Gender Issues Committee in the Office of the President. The reason we merged was to avoid overlap.
- I submitted a report of transition that addressed the various topics considered and acted upon.
- I recommend for next year's committee that attendance be good. This year it was hard to get people to a meeting. Also build on the mistakes of last year's Gender Issues Committee not make the same ones. I am confident though that through organization goals can be accomplished.

3. Multicultural Affairs, 1997-1998 Chairmen Matt Tomko

- I submitted a transition report to you.
- I believe that this committee should be a large one because it needs people to do the work.
- I recommend all senators attend a Prejudice Reduction Workshop on this committee early in the term.
- We presented a resolution and it passed to request a multicultural relations presentation during Freshmen Orientation.
- I recommend that a senator from this committee attend a Coalition Council meeting. Please make the CCC members aware that you can voice their concerns and will be eager to listen to their input.

4. Academic affairs, 1997-1998 Chairman Bob Chapski
 - Bob is unable to attend tonight's meeting, so I will speak on the committee's behalf (Matt Szabo).
 - This committee discussed various issues including testing in the Stepan Building and Teacher Course Evaluations.
 - This committee has a lot of potential to work with the administration and faculty.
 - (Lauren Herring): I agree with what has been said. Also academic advising needs to be augmented to include all levels, free of charge, and to encourage teachers to do more of it.
5. Residence Life, 1997-1998 Chairman Matt Szabo
 - I have one thing to say I was offended by The Oberver's comments that a fight between Bill Kirk and myself would end in a draw.
 - Residence Life Committee was the largest one last year. It can be whatever the senators make of it.
 - Everyday issues that were discussed were dining hall improvements, parking, and bookstore prices.
 - You need to be motivated to attend these meetings.
 - Some of the things that were worked on were: a non-discrimination clause, expanding lunch hours, improvements of the basketball courts, expansion of the shuttle service, and bookstore prices.
 - We passed a resolution urging Fr. Malloy to destroy the Stepan Center.
6. Oversight Committee, 1997-1998 Chairman Matt Mamak
 - The purpose of this committee is two-fold: policy and overseeing bills and amendments especially writing a transition report.
 - This committee is busy, boring, and dry. I recommend that all perspective committee members read the constitution.
 - The purpose is to make recommendations to the Senate. Also to internally review the Constitution, each organ recommending amendments
 - I recommend that this be a small committee
 - There are left over issues from the last Oversight Committee

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution S9798-24: Redefinition of Secretarial Position

- Tabled until next week so that the Oversight Committee can look over it.
- Opportunity to offer amendments by tabling it
- (Senator Mamak) This will give the Senate and the Oversight Committee time to make recommendations on it.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Formal Approval of Positions

1. Secretary of the Senate
 - (Chairwoman Selak): Need motion to approve this nominee.
 - (Senator Mamak): I move that we wait until next week so that all senators can read this letter and consider these recommendations.
 - (Tim Keller): These are internal Senate positions, so the Senate can approve of these appointments whenever it chooses.
 - (Chairwoman Selak): Need motion to approve this nominee
 - Motion made for approval of Secretary of the Senate. Seconded.
 - Secretary-designate Michael Palumbo unanimously approved as Secretary of the Senate
2. Chaplain of the Senate
 - (Chairwoman Selak): Need motion to approve this nominee.
 - Motion made for approval of Chaplain of the Senate. Seconded.
 - Chaplain-designate Philip Donner unanimously approved as Chaplain of the Senate.

3. Parliamentarian of the Senate

- (Chairwoman Selak): Need motion to approve this nominee.
- Motion made for approval of Parliamentarian of the Senate. Seconded
- Motion made to table this appointment by Brian O'Donoghue
- (Senator O'Donoghue): I do not feel like I know him. I mean the parliamentarian is a powerful position since it interprets the constitution for the Senate and advises the Chair on these procedural matters.
- (Chairwoman Selak): Is there a second for the motion to table the appointment of Parliamentarian of the Senate?
- (Senator O'Donoghue): If a parliamentarian is not approved tonight who will teach Robert's Rules of Order at the Senate Retreat for all senators? Will you Tim?
- (Parliamentarian-designate Mark Higgins): Who can teach it if you do not approve of this position tonight?
- (Mark Higgins): I just do not feel there is any justification for this motion. I mean I know the constitution. I was Secretary of the Senate last year and am familiar with Robert's Rules of Order.
- (Senator O'Donoghue): There is nothing against you personally, I just felt that I am not ready to vote on this matter.
- (Chairwoman Selak): Is there a second for the motion to table?
- (Parliamentarian-designate Mark Higgins): Remember to table is to postpone indefinitely.
- (Chairwoman Selak): Mark is definitely qualified. I mean he was Secretary of the Senate last year and is very familiar with Robert's Rules of Order.
- (Senator): Where does it define what the parliamentarian does in the constitution?
- Senators look in the Constitution. (Article III, Section III, #5)
- (Senator): What do we learn if Mark is not appointed tonight?
- (Chairwoman Selak) Who is in favor of tabling this motion?
- (Senator): Point of order...Does any senator from last year have any other additional comments that could help us decide on this matter?
- (Senator Mamak): Mark was a good secretary; he is well-versed in parliamentary procedure and his knowledge would be pretty strong in procedural matters.
- (Parliamentarian-designate Mark Higgins): I served on the Constitution bylaws committee.
- (Tim Keller): Mark was approved by the Judicial Council who does the background checks
- (A.J. Boyd): These are very wise concerns that this body is bringing up. The parliamentarian is a non-voting, not participating officer. Even though the Judicial Council did the background check, you could wait a week to review this nomination. You should wait to consider it.
- (Senator Mamak): According to the Constitution, this is an internal senate position, which could be tabled until next week for future consideration. The Senate should not serve as a stamp for the Office of the President or the Chair.
- (Tim Keller): You have two options: either you can table this appointment until next week to allow consideration, or you can vote now and approve this appointment.
- (Senator): I move to previous question. Seconded.
- Parliamentarian-designate Mark Higgins is unanimously approved as the Parliamentarian of the Senate.

B. Financial Management Board Appointments

- (Chairwoman Selak): On this board there will be two senators and one alternate in case that *one senator cannot attend the meetings. For the Campus Life Council, there will be one off-campus senator, 3 at-large senators, and one alternate senator.*
- (Senator Mamak): The FMB meets when clubs need more money or have expenditure over \$5,000.00. The Senate serves as an appeal for the clubs who needs more money. This process also involves the approval of the budget, who overspends, or who spends appropriately by the Senate.
- (Point of information): I thought that that nine senators served on the CLC instead of six?
- (A.J. Boyd): The CLC sent the new bylaws to Professor O'Hara's office for her approval. There will be three senators plus one alternate, and the off-campus senator, the HPC Co-chairs, an OMSA representative, etc...
- (Senator): The CLC is a great opportunity to get more in depth on the issue with the administration and faculty. It is a very representative body. A benefit of the Council is that you know what is going on on this campus. If a Senate resolution goes to the CLC for their approval, and they approve it, it goes to Professor Patty O'Hara's office. There are four committee on the CLC, and they are Diversity, Academic Affairs, Community Life, and Alcohol.
- (A.J. Boyd): I am a member of the CLC Bylaws Reform Committee, and I think that the changes on the CLC bylaws are temporary. I encourage anyone who is interested to take part in this committee. I am looking for experience on this project.
- (Chairwoman Selak): For the FMB there will be two senators and one alternate. I now open the floor for nominations. We will take nominations and then we will go around and have everyone explain why they are interested. Next we will vote, with the top three senators winning. I would like to recommend that senators do not apply for both the FMB and the CLC in order to allow more people to serve on these boards and councils.
- Three nominees: Melissa Balchunas, Rhea Gertken, and Bridget Tomes. Melissa and Rhea win the vote with Bridget serving as the alternate
- (Chairwomen Selak): I will now open the floor for nominations for the Campus Life Council. The off-campus senator, Senator Mickey Doyle, is already assigned to this Council. We will vote on three senators and one alternate. The top three vote-receivers will become the Senate representatives on this Council ad the fourth will serve as an alternate if one cannot make the meeting.
- Nine nominees: Elizabeth Rompf, Drew Olejnik, Brian O'Donoghue, Susan Roberts, Ryan Costantini, Michelle Mendoza, Matt Mamak, Sophie Fortin, and Susan Gloss. Matt Mamak, Brian O'Donoghue, and Susan Roberts will be the Senate representatives on the CLC with Drew Olejnik serving as the alternate.

V. PODIUM

A. Cheryl Igini, 302 Walsh Hall, 634-2649

- I am here to voice my concerns about The Observer's article concerning Kimberly Ann Dunbar. Ms. Dunbar is charged with embezzlement and has allegedly given jewelry, clothing, and trips to 12 former and current Notre Dame football players from 1993-1998.
- The Observer's use of the picture of former Irish free safety Jarvis Edison was wrong since he has not been charged. Edison has a child with Dunbar. This use of the picture put Edison in a negative light will making it seem the Dunbar was innocent of much wrongdoing.
- I am concerned where my money goes. I pay six dollars every semester for this paper. I am offended by something that was printed in which I paid for it. The Observer, as an independent newspaper, is not accountable to anyone in the administration, and thus students have no recourse when they are offended by its contents.

- I am not here for blood, but I come to voice my concern. The staff of The Observer is educated, how would you feel if they talked that way about people close to you. They should be accountable for their racist remarks.
- The Observer hides behind its neat disclaimer of independence, how independent can you be if I am paying for your existence.
- I suggest that some action be taken by this body in the form of a resolution, or require that The Observer staff attend a diversity sensitivity seminar or training session.
- (Chairwoman Selak): when we form committees on Sunday, we will take up this issue.
- (Senator): Do we hold funding over The Observer?
- (Senator Mamak): We have no jurisdiction over The Observer. We could send a resolution or a letter to the Campus Life Council and to Professor O'Hara's office on how we should respond. We can only make recommendations; we have no control over The Observer.
- (Cheryl): They need to have accountability.
- (Senator): Maybe we could set up a Sensitivity Board within The Observer to voice complaints.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. There will be a Senate Retreat on Sunday, April 05, 1998 at Walsh Hall from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. There we will form committees and take pictures for the Senate DogBook.
- B. All senators should have received in their packet a copy of the entire 1998-1999 schedule
- C. All senators should have received in their packet a copy of the Constitution
- D. Each senator has a mailbox inside the Student Government Office
- E. Senators will receive the copy machine code soon and the door code for right now is 245.
- F. The parliamentary procedure session at the retreat is mandatory. Be there on Sunday.
- G. To submit a resolution, you must present two typed copies by Tuesday at 5:00pm. To submit an amendment, you must present two typed copies by Sunday at 12:00pm.
- H. We will try to attempt to have the agenda out before the meetings on the Webpage. So check it soon'
- I. Homework: Read the Constitution, in particular Article III.
- J. (Peggy): Hi, I am not the Senate advisor. Joe Cassidy is the advisor, but he could not make it here today. He is at a conference. Student Activities purchased the food and beverages for you guys. I will invite you to Team ND, a retreat in August.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. (Chairwoman Selak): Do I have a motion to adjourn?
- B. (Senator): I make a motion to adjourn. Seconded.
- C. The Student Senate adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on Wednesday, April 01, 1998. Its next meeting is Wednesday, April 08, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Palumbo
Student Senate Secretary