

# Notre Dame Student Senate

## MEETING MINUTES

22 April 1998

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

### I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairperson Selak called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- B. Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. Absent: P.J. DuWors and Michelle Mendoza
- D. The minutes from the April 15, 1998 were unanimously approved.

### II. REPORTS

- A. Officer Reports
  1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro
    - I have prepared the budget for the Office of the President for the 1998-1999 year. All the various departments in the Office of the President have submitted their reports and budgets, which we have compiled into one master budget.
    - There is a special Executive Cabinet meeting tomorrow, April 16, 1998, to discuss with Student Union Treasurer T.J. Wolfe the various aspects of the budgets submitted by all of the organizations, classes, and councils.
    - The Financial Management Board will be meeting this Sunday, April 19, 1998 to work out the specific allocations for the 1998-1999 Student Union Budget.
    - I have also been preparing my State of the Student Union Address that I am required to present before the end of this year.
  2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak
    - I am passing around a Senate Birthday List. For all of those who did not sign the list last week, please do so at this time.
    - At this time would you please answer the "Would you rather" question that we forgot to do last week on the sheet of paper going around. The results will be announced next week.
    - Mission statements are due in my mailbox for all those who have not yet submitted one by the next meeting.
    - As you can see, our first edition of Senate Dirt has been published. Mark and I hope that you will continue to help make this as interesting as possible.
    - Senator Stefko is passing around some parliamentary procedure information.
  3. Secretary Michael Palumbo
    - I would like to explain the List Serv message that you received recently from me. The List Serv works directly from your e-mail server, Eudora Pro. You can access the Senate or Senate Committees' List Serve by typing in the Internet addresses that I gave you in the e-mail. I recommend bookmarking those for quicker access. Since many are first time subscribers, you would double click on Post to the List. On this screen, you should see three boxes: one for your e-mail address, one for your password, and one to verify your password. What you need to do is to double-click on the italicized phrase above these three boxes that says "first time users" or "needs a password." This will allow you to type in your e-mail address, password, and password again for verification. Then click on the button to submit this address. In a few minutes, you should receive an e-mail saying that your password has been saved. Please respond to this e-mail by typing the work "ok." After that, you should be fine. Any questions?

- (Senator): Yeah, I tried that, and it did not work.
- (Secretary Palumbo): You followed the instructions exactly?
- (Senator): Yeah.
- (Secretary Palumbo): Did anyone else have a similar problem? (Almost all senators raised their hands). Well, I will call the OIT people who setup the list tomorrow. Sorry for any inconveniences, but I will send you a message when they are back up and running.

## B. Committee Reports

### 1. Residence Life (Chairman Matt Mamak)

- The Residence Life Committee met yesterday where we discussed old business left over from last year. In our discussion, we outlined some of the areas that we would like to target for this year: campus security, dining halls, campus space, living conditions, and inconsistencies in the residence halls.
- If there are anymore ideas for this committee, please turn them into Andrea, so that she can place them on the master goals' list.
- Our committee has twenty-one members.
- One of our goals is to improve communication with the Office of the President and the relevant committees.
- Another goal is to improve relationships with other organizations.
- Senators must attend their Hall Council meetings, so that student voices and ideas can be heard, and that this committee can act upon them.
- Next week, we can take ten minutes to talk more about this.

### 2. Academic Affairs (Co-Chairman Ryan Costantini)

- We have not had our first full meeting yet. I sent an e-mail out to all committee members for a meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Government office.
- I gave Andrea the committee's mission statement.
- (Chairperson Selak): Reads the committee mission statement.

### 3. Ethics (Chairman Jason Linster)

- The committee has decided to meet at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.
- We made our mission statement.
- One of the issues that we discussed was the size of our committee. A.J. Boyd recommended to us that nine members are a large enough committee. Presently, our committee has seventeen members.

### 4. Gender Relations (Chairwoman Sophie Fortin)

- We formed our mission statement.
- We are going to work together with the Gender Relations Committee in Student Government to jointly discuss and solve pertinent issues.

### 5. Multicultural Affairs (Co-Chairwoman Stephany Foster)

- We setup our meeting times for Mondays at 6:00 p.m. and formed a mission statement.
- (Senator): I was just wondering if you were going to have a committee representative meeting with or attending multicultural groups' meetings?
- (Senator): That is a good idea, yet there are so many groups on campus. We hear those ideas by attending Club Coordination Council meetings, so I think that we will send a representative there to listen and report to us.
- (Senator Foster): That is very important to keep the communication open with these groups, so that we are aware of the problems.
- (Senator): If any of the Ethics Committee members would like to switch over to Multicultural Affairs, we would love to have you. Our committee has only seven members, and the more people we have the easier it is to accomplish more.

6. Oversight (Chairman Brian O'Donoghue)
  - We have not held our first meeting yet; that is at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow.
  - Talk about a small committee, we have only four members.
  - Oversight Committee has a large job: reviewing bylaws and resolutions, the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body, etc.

### III. PODIUM

- A. Gate Committee: Captain Joseph Araman, University Security
  - The Director of Security in 1997 presented a plan that included quality control of the gate, the entrances and exits on and off campus. The criterion that he used to judge this quality was reduction of complaints by 50%.
  - He formed a committee, and since May, working with the assistance of Bill Holbing, a community bank manager, security officers have handed out surveys for seven days continuously. We got 800 survey back, 102 from students and of that 22 were negative. Many people were not happy with the way the gate was being handled.
  - The Director of Security felt that we needed your assistance and input.
  - Students do not understand the rules of the gate, and I know there are reasons behind that. We are willing to change our services to make it friendlier to the students and people of Notre Dame. Do you have anything to add Mr. Holbing?
  - (Mr. Bill Holbing): I think it was well said. I am glad to be here and to hear your opinions.
  - (Senator): Girls are not allowed to be picked up on the weekends, they have to walk which is unsafe for them and truthfully all of the people. Why?
  - (Capt. Araman): There is limited access to this campus. This limited access gives joggers the right to jog in the middle of the road. On this campus, there is a mixture of pedestrians, drivers, and bicyclists. Parking is limited on campus, which prevents everyone who wants to drive on campus from doing so. This means that some drivers might be told that they are not allowed to enter campus.
  - (Senator): I think education is a big thing for students...
  - (Capt. Araman): To answer the question about safety on campus, we offer escorts; officers are willing to transport women from one side of campus to another when asked.
  - (Senator): What are the rules, I mean I do not know what they are. I think if students knew what they were, they would not blatantly violate them.
  - (Capt. Araman): Students can drive on campus for cumbersome items. What a common person would consider heavy and awkward is how we define "cumbersome". I mean you should not need a car to walk from Carroll Hall to O'Shaughnessy. We do make exceptions for move-in days and move-out days, formal dances, and off-campus students coming on for Mass.
  - (Senator): There appears to be a discrepancy between when parents visit a son or daughter and the security officer waives them, and when there is a kid dropping off another kid, the guard says no. I would not have a problem if there were no differences in the rules, yet there is. I do not know how the guard can tell who is a parent and who is a stranger.
  - (Capt. Araman): We do not interrogate parents; it is our job to welcome them. We extend to them the courtesy given to us for the great good that they have given this university, their children. Sure, some strangers sneak by, but by in large, they do not.
  - (Senator): My main problem is just consistency. You can have the same people and the same situation, and you are told no at East Gate but allowed entrance through the Main Gate. Different gates have different workers, yes. However, the problem is that there is no consistency in their judgments.

- (Capt. Araman): I recognize the problem, which I am sure creates a lot of confusion. The guards are given discretion; yet, there are exceptions to every case. You might be denied around noon on a busy day, but allowed on campus around 7:00. Policies are not laws; the officers have discretion to make judgments.
- (Senator): Why aren't the regulations published?
- (Capt. Araman): They exist in office memos and office bulletins...
- (Senator): So how is it possible for students to know the regulations?
- (Capt. Araman): If anyone has the time or is willing, they can come by my office and I will show them the rules and answer any questions.
- (Mr. Holbing): Maybe we could publish them to reduce student complaints?
- (Senator): Many students just want to know why they are turned back when their friends were admitted? Unsure of the reasons? When they can be admitted and when they cannot be admitted?
- (Mr. Holbing): We could decrease the confusion if we just publish the rules?
- (Senator) You could eliminate a whole host of problems and confusion if you would just publish the rules. Tell students what they can and cannot do.
- (Mr. Holbing): I am not familiar with the rules, but I think it makes sense that the rules be published to all students for more clarity.
- (Senator): My boyfriend went to purchase some groceries. He went to the gate, and he was allowed to drive on. Yet I tried it a couple days later but was denied. If there is a rule, then be consistent.
- (Capt. Araman): If groceries are cumbersome, you should be let on. You should have been let on campus.
- (Senator): I think another problem is in the way one is rejected. It is as if you are automatically suspected and talked to in a third degree manner. Each guard has his own policy. Some resent kids, some do not.
- (Capt. Araman): We are all human. We might not have eaten yet and be hungry. That is no defense, but your point is well taken.
- (Senator): The regulations should be published, or at least the general guidelines, which could become general knowledge. Then, students will know what to expect, and when people try to get on, there will not be much discrepancy. I think you can cut down so many complaints if you just do this.
- (Capt. Araman): I will pass that on.
- (Senator): It would be nice to put the policies in DuLac, where students can have access to it. Another option would be a pamphlet during the summer explaining the guidelines of security and gate policies.
- (Capt. Araman): I think that is a great idea.
- (Senator): It would be nice to pick up The Observer and know the rules. You could know what to expect.
- (Beth Nolan): If we educate the general population, I think we can save a lot of confusion. If I knew the guidelines, I would make sure that my story fit into those guidelines if I went to the gate and tried to come onto campus.
- (Senator): DuLac governs us as students of Notre Dame. We take pride in our honesty. If we know the rules, a majority of us are not going to lie to the officer to come onto campus. Since, however, we do not know, we try to come on campus.
- (Capt. Araman): I was a student here in 1975 and even then, parking was contentious. Everyone likes convenience. A car close to you is convenient, yet there is simply not enough space.

- (Chairperson Selak): We only have the room until 7:30 p.m. tonight, so I think we need to move this debate along. So please, if your idea has been said, let someone else speak with a new idea.
  - (Senator): What is the alcohol policy on this campus? Does it have to be concealed in order to be brought on campus? Are you allowed to transport it when you are twenty-one years old?
  - (Capt. Araman): You are not allowed to transport it in a vehicle even if you are twenty-one!
  - (Senator): Why do people in Golf Quad have to park in D2, and then not be allowed to transport an armful of items by car to the residence halls?
  - (Capt. Araman): Notre Dame is building a new parking lot by the ND Golf Course, on the third hole, which should solve the problem considerably.
  - (Chairperson Selak): If you have any comments, feel free to e-mail Capt. Araman at <araman.1>.
  - (A.J. Boyd): If you would also like to speak to anyone on the committee, we will be here, too to answer any additional questions.
  - (Capt. Araman): If you have any more problems or concerns, I will be here after this meeting to discuss with you the situation and possible solutions. Please though, feel free to write or stop by the Security Office to voice concerns or discuss possible solutions.
- B. Commencement Speaker: 1997-1998 Senior Class President Beth Nolan
- It is not clear to me why you need me here.
  - (Senator): We need you to rehash the selection process and how the student input was received by the administration.
  - (Beth Nolan): At the beginning of last year, January 1997, I was secretary that year of my class. Our class was issued a letter by the University asking our opinion about honorary degree recipients and possible commencement speakers. I will admit this letter got lost in the shuffle, and we responded too it a little late. Junior Class President Matt Griffin submitted two names for honorary degrees. The University called Matt into their office, saying that they truly valued student input. Our opinions would be taken seriously, although, someone like David Letterman would be out of the question since the speaker must uphold Notre Dame character and be recognizable by the parents. We submitted six names, which included Madeline Albright, Nelson Mandela, Andrew Young, and Bruce Babbitt. Three of those names were possible since people in the office had ins with people in their officers. Yet after that, the University said they would take it from here. They did not even notify us of the speaker until we caught sight of the press release to The Observer.
  - (Chairperson Selak): I contacted Matt Conlin, but he had a prior engagement. He said that he would answer any questions that we had in writing or that he would talk to me personally. He said that he could not appear this year before the Senate because his schedule was hectic.
  - (Beth Nolan): What would you like to know?
  - (Senator): Did you feel that your suggestions were given much consideration?
  - (Beth Nolan): I do not know. We shot for some big name people. Maybe we were too late in inquiring about the selection process. Possibly, we started too late to acquire a commencement speaker. Nevertheless, the University went with people that they had ties with whether they were alumni, political or sports figures, theologians, etc. This resolution is well written and well intended. I think students definitely need to be more involved in the process. I think that Mr. Kernan is a good speaker and will deliver a fine address. Yet, I believe that a class of 1,800 people who spent \$100,000.00 over four years should be able to get a good commencement speaker, more who they would like.
  - (Senator): We are able to attain good quality speakers at Notre Dame Pep Rallies or attract James Earl Jones to come and speak on campus. This past week, I received a lot of input from the residence halls. Seniors do not like this resolution, since they feel that their input or voice

was not expressed and that it is really too late to do anything. They want to be kept abreast of what is going on here, not just told what is going to happen.

- (Beth Nolan): We had a poll being done during Registration in the JACC. There, people could write down names of people that they wanted for commencement speakers. People also e-mailed me some lists of possible candidates.
- (Senator): Do you feel that we can still get someone else, or is there anyway that we can protest Mr. Kernan as Commencement speaker.
- (Beth Nolan): I do not think that the University is going to rescind their offer.
- (Senator): I think that it is very important to receive student input, possibly opening up the selection process to any senior, to help students understand who we can get to speak at commencement and to teach them the rules of the game.
- (Beth Nolan): I do not think that it would be wise to open the selection process to too many people. Then, if we did get a bad speaker at commencement, people would say, why did you not listen to me.
- (Senator): I think that the Senior Class needs more substance next year. Put on record the list of candidates whom the students recommended. However, let us use this resolution as a stepping stone. This resolution should be done while it is timely.
- (Senator): I feel that the University has to start working more with the student community.
- (Beth Nolan): It is unclear if they will.
- (Senator): Almost create a more nagging effect.
- (Beth Nolan): It is necessary to get the ball rolling early because it takes a long time to secure a commencement speaker. Would student involvement help, yes? However, the University will continue to do what it wants anyway.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

##### A. Student Union Board Programmers Approval

- (Chairperson Selak): Do I have a motion for approval of the Student Union Board Programmers?
- (Senator): I motion for unanimous consent.
- (Senator): Second.
- (Chairperson Selak): Any objections? Hearing none, the motion is approved.

##### B. Amendment S9798-24: Redefinition of Secretarial Position

- (Chairperson Selak): Is there a motion to bring S9798-24 off the table? None, O.K., it remains on the table.

##### C. Resolution S9899-03: Protesting the Choice of Indiana Lieutenant Governor Joe Kernan as the University of Notre Dame's 1998 Commencement Speaker

- (Senator): I motion to bring S9899-03 up, but table it until next year.
- (Parliamentarian Higgins): You mean postpone it until a specific date?
- (Senator): Yes, it is an embarrassment to Mr. Kernan, and the matter could be better taken care of next year when no feeling will be hurt.
- (Chairperson Selak): Is there a second?
- (Senator): Second.
- (Parliamentarian Higgins): O.K. we need a date now.
- (Senator): How about August 26?
- (Senator): Is this the same process as tabling, does it mean the same thing as tabling?
- (Parliamentarian Higgins): No.

- (Senator): This might be offensive. I do not mind if the resolution is postponed, but I worry about the timeliness for the 1999 Commencement speaker. Is it timely to pass it now, or then?
  - (Chairperson Selak): We need to limit debate to five minutes. Are there any objections to this? O.K.
  - (Senator): Who goes to Matt Conlin? Is there a way to limit who goes to see him?
  - (Senator): Has someone been contacted about the Commencement speaker for 1999 yet?
  - (Senator): Would it be Jim Farrell?
  - (President Cesaro): The Junior Class President submits candidates for honorary doctrines and possible commencement speakers. Therefore, that would be Frank Law whom you could contact about 1999 Commencement speakers.
  - (Senator): I move that we postpone this resolution until August. We can put this resolution in committee, and take the resolution from there. In addition, we can talk to Matt Conlin to get his side of the story, and pursue more student input in the meantime.
  - (Chairperson Selak): We can find out Conlin's side of the story.
  - (Senator): Point of order, will he only meet with you?
  - (Chairperson Selak): He is more than happy to meet with the Student Senate, but this year he is very busy. I can see if he could come in next year.
  - (Senator): The problem is that we want to be informed but also to let the University know that we are not pleased with the process.
  - (Senator): I think tabling or postponing this is a big mistake. This bill has created attention to act, yet if we send it to committee, they might become apprehensive and not do anything. We need action now.
  - (Parliamentarian Higgins): The time of debate is up.
  - (Senator): Point of information, what exactly are we debating? Are we debating to postpone or to table?
  - (Chairperson Selak): We are voting to postpone until the first meeting in the Fall.
  - (Senator): I move to extend debate for thirty more seconds.
  - (Chairperson Selak): Any objections? None.
  - (Senator): I think this resolution establishes the awareness for the student body.
  - (Senator): Yes, this bill has established awareness in the student body, something that a private letter would not do.
  - (Senator): An open letter is almost definitely going to be printed in The Observer.
  - (Senator): Should not this bill go automatically to committee?
  - (Senator): This bill was presented before that bylaw was passed.
  - (Chairperson Selak): So we can vote on the motion to postpone until August 26, 1998. The vote was 5 yeas, 19 nays, and 1 abstention. Motion fails.
  - (Senator): I motion to send this resolution to committee.
  - (Chairperson Selak): Which one?
  - (Senator): Academic Affairs.
  - (Senator): Second.
  - (Chairperson Selak): All those in favor of the motion please say "aye," all those opposed, any abstentions? The vote was 22 yeas, 1, nay, and 2 abstentions. The resolution now goes to the Academic Affairs Committee.
- D. Order S9899-05: Robert's Rules of Order
- (Chairperson Selak): Is there a motion to bring this off the table? No, O.K. it remains there.
- E. Amendment S9899-08: Hall Presidents' Council

- (Chairperson Selak): This amendment was presented last week, and do I have a motion to consider it?
- (Senator): I motion to consider.
- (Senator): Second.
- (Senator): This bill affects the Residence Life Committee and the possibility of a Hall Presidents' Council Representative on that committee. Matt asked me to say that he supports this amendment. The Co-Chairs of HPC would select a representative to attend the meetings, and then we could become even more aware of what students are feeling.
- (Senator): I move to previous question.
- (Senator): Second.
- (Chairperson Selak): All those in favor of the motion to previous question, say "aye," all those opposed, any abstentions? The motion passes unanimously. O.K. we will vote on this amendment; this will be a hand vote. All those in favor of Amendment S9899-08 say "aye," all those opposed, any abstentions? The amendment passed 26 to 0 to 0. The amendment now goes to President Cesaro for his signature.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (Senator): My band, "Who's Your Daddy" is playing this week.
- (Senator): The Academic Affairs Committee is meeting at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow.
- (President Cesaro): There is the Leadership Summit this week.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

- (Chairperson Selak): Is there a motion to adjourn?
- (Senator): I motion to adjourn.
- (Senator): Second.
- The Student Senate adjourned at 7:09 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 1998. Its next meeting is Wednesday, April 22, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Palumbo  
Student Senate Secretary