

Notre Dame Student Senate

MEETING MINUTES

28 April 1998

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairperson Andrea Selak called the Student Senate meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- B. Philip Donner, Senate Chaplain, led the invocation.
- C. Absent: Senator Pat Foy, Carroll Hall, and Senator Bridget Tomes, Cavanaugh Hall
- D. The minutes from the April 22, 1998 meeting were approved unanimously.

II. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro
 - Next week, I will be giving my State of the Student Union Address as is required by the Constitution. We have decided that since Washington Hall or the Library Auditorium was not available, we would have the address in Montgomery Theater. It is possible that these two venues will be used for the address in September.
2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak
 - The State of the Student Union Address is next Tuesday, April 28, 1998 in Montgomery Theater. The address will follow the Senate meeting that will be held on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
 - As you can see, the results of last week's "Would You Rather" question are given on the agenda. B won by a 16 to 14 to 3 margin. I am passing around the sheet to vote on this week's question: "Would you rather be able to communicate with the dead, but have to converse solely in jive, or, have a "save game" function in your life?"
 - In addition, I am sending around sheets that are to be used for nameplates.
 - One last thing, please if there is any Senate Dirt out there, bring it in to Mark or myself. Since no one turned any into Mary or myself, we will save Ryan Costantini's story for next week.
3. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo
 - I just wanted to make sure that all of your Senate list servers were working fine.

B. Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs (Co-Chairperson Ryan Costantini)
 - We had our first meeting last Thursday, April 16, 1998 where we discussed the DART registration issue, the class evaluation book, improving Teacher Course Evaluations, bettering class sites as far as buildings are concerned and establishing guidelines for section tests.
2. Ethics (Kevin Shannon)
 - We talked about cutting down our committee size to allow members to serve on other committees. Former Ethics Chairperson A.J. Boyd predicted that the numbers usually filter out on this committee since the workload is light. So, we pledged to monitor the situation to see if this comes true.
3. Gender Relations (Co-Chairperson Sophie Fortin)
 - We decided not to change our name from Gender Relations to Gender Issues

- Kim Gibson, Student Government Gender Relations Executive Coordinator, attended our last meeting. We will invite all Residence Hall Gender Commissioners to attend meetings, in order to brainstorm about topics like brother and sister dorms. For example, Carroll and Badin are simply not compatible and the relationship does not work well. Our committee will try to remedy this situation and establish a better system.
- Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 28, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.
- 4. Multicultural Affairs (Co-Chairperson Karen Boselli)
 - We met last Thursday, April 16, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. with Alicia Cornas, Student Life Executive Coordinator, in order to accomplish more. We talked about the possibility of mandatory multicultural classes here at Notre Dame.
 - (Senator Foster): The president of La Alianza, the Diversity Executive Coordinator, the Club Coordination Council Diversity Coordinator, and Andrea planned an idea together: a Latino Heritage Week as a part of Black History Month.
 - I would love if more senators would join the Multicultural Affairs Committee.
 - I am asking all senators to go back to their dorms and to make sure that you have a Multicultural Affairs Commissioner; if not, please report back to us.
- 5. Residence Life (Chairperson Matt Mamak)
 - The Residence Life Committee met on Monday, April 20, 1998, to arrange the agenda for next year. Some of the topics that we will be discussing next year will be Food Services, security, social space and construction on campus, landscaping, Library repavement, more services with ID access, look into television cable at Saint Mary's College.
 - These are some of the topics that we are interested in for the upcoming year.
 - We look forward to meeting as we have already done with Peter, Andrea, and their staffs who coordinate the particular areas of our concern.
 - We hope that we address many of the pertinent issues that are brought up at Hall Council meetings and other such forums.
 - This committee will give weekly updates as to the proceedings and progress of committee work.
 - (Senator Esenwein): She reads the Residence Life Committee's Mission Statement: To address all pertinent issues of residence and campus life in a matter that will lead to appropriate policy recommendations.
- 6. Oversight (Chairperson Brian O'Donoghue)
 - We decided that we would meet on Thursdays and Sunday for committee meetings.
 - I will read our mission statement to the entire Senate: To serve the University of Notre Dame student body by monitoring the transition and internal review of the Student Union.
 - This committee worked very hard with the redefinition of the secretarial bill. It is our hope that this work will help you of the budget.
 - This committee is short on membership; there are eleven different organizations from which we request representatives to speak out on the idea.

III. PODIUM

A. Registration Revisions: Harold L. Pace, Ph.D., University Registrar

- Beginning this summer, the University will begin work on a new registration system. The DART system was introduced in 1989. Yet, technology today has provided us with some new opportunities.

- What I am going to give you is my e-mail address so that you will be able to write suggestions and comments about an ideal registration system, what it would look like. When you e-mail me a message, please title it "New Registration."
 - We kickoff this endeavor on May 21, 1998. You are all personally invited, if you are still around, to attend this meeting at the Center for Continuing Education. At that meeting, I will take all of your comments and introduce them to the College Deans. On May 21st, we will also brainstorm with them to attain their viewpoints about the strengths and weaknesses of DART. Next, we will design a blueprint, and then try to have something in place by the end of the summer.
 - (Peter Cesaro): When will this new system be in place?
 - (Dr. Pace): Since we do not know the ideas about this new registration system, I cannot answer that question.
 - (Senator O'Donoghue): Will this new registration system be connected to Irish Links?
 - (Dr. Pace): Yes, but to one of them.
 - (Senator Olejnik): Do all of the dorms have Irish Links?
 - (Dr. Pace): I am not sure how stable the system is. Irish Links is a relatively new system. It would have to be tested by taking several 1000s hits to see how it holds up. We will work on a loop for Irish Links to add to its stability.
 - (Senator Boselli): What is Irish Links?
 - (Dr. Pace): It is a delivery system for students. The Registrar is the only thing on it presently; we put closed classes, classes that will reopen, etc. on it.
 - (Senate Advisor Joe Cassidy): Will registration just be handled in this new system?
 - (Dr. Pace): We are also considering redesigning enrollment. Since enrollment and registration are two separate processes here at Notre Dame, maybe we could do something via the computer. All enrollment tells us is if you are here, and if you plan to graduate. Enrollment would be easy to put on computer, registration a little more difficult. Please look into other universities and college to see their WebPages. Call your friends and ask them about their registration system: strengths and weaknesses. Then e-mail them to me. Thank you very much for your time and participation.
- B. 1998 Commencement Speaker: Senior Mark Councilman
- I just came back this semester, amidst all the controversy surrounding Joseph Kernan, Lieutenant Governor of Indiana, as 1998 Commencement Speaker. I am here tonight to speak in opposition of S9899-03 and S9899-09. I object to these resolutions for two main reasons. First, it is the nature of Commencement. Commencement is a University exercise; they do not pay they speaker. There is no democratic process; the University confers the degrees upon the speakers and graduates. Last Thursday, I read that the University had asked the Senior Class for a list of potential speakers, but the officers lost the list and proceeded to hand it in late. The lack of input on the part of the students was due to a mistake on the part of the class officers. During Commencement time, people talk about Notre Dame being a national university. That is an abstraction. One cannot define what a national, Catholic university is. All that one can know is that it is a community of people, and these resolutions and newspaper articles protesting Kernan do not help the community. Student Government is the voice of the students. In the future, it will be up to you leaders to remedy the process, but for now, Kernan is invited. He is coming, bottom line. The immediate results of protests and newspaper articles are insulting for the Notre Dame family. I mean to speak at a university Commencement is a major honor, one that if I had, I know I would gladly accept the offer. Second, I object to these resolutions because of the Notre Dame image. The intention here are noble, I mean we want more student involvement in the process, but the press shows that outsiders consider us arrogant. Furthermore, news and radio convey the same feelings toward us Domers. These

resolutions are a bad idea; maybe start next year to fix that process. As for now, I think we all need to show a little humility towards Kernan. We are only in our twenties, and he has had a very fruitful, service-oriented life. We should learn from him.

- (Senator O'Donoghue): Are you familiar with the Resolution S9899-09 on the table. It makes no mention of Joseph Kernan or money.
- (Mr. Councilman): No, I was familiar with Resolution S9899-03, and I heard that it contained remarks about Kernan and money.

C. 1998-1999 Student Union Budget Student Union Treasurer T.J. Wolfe

- I left each of you a copy of the budget in your mailbox. I hope that you picked yours up before the meeting. The Financial Management Board met on Sunday, April 20, 1998 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Minutes are available from this meeting if you want them, taken by one of the Assistant Treasurers. If you look at the fourth column, where it says the total money allocated, you can see that \$580,000.00 was the amount we had to work with this year. This amount is up from last year's amount of \$477,000.00, which is mainly due to the tremendous success of The Shirt Project and the increase of the Student Activities Fee. I am happy to announce that all groups and organizations received an increase in money. Members of the Financial Management Board, the Student Union Board, and the Club Coordination Council are here to answer any questions that you may have. One important note is under the Office of the President, under Transportation, the FMB approved the salary of one of the dispatchers: five hours a day, three days a week, thirty-three weeks a year, at \$5.95 an hour.
- (Senator Balchunas): Under SUB, what does Ideas and Issues do?
- (Ryan Stecz, Student Union Board Manager): They are responsible for bringing in speakers to Notre Dame. This year, they brought in James Earl Jones; in the past years, they have brought in Elizabeth Dole. Next year, we are trying to bring former President Carter to Notre Dame.
- (Senator O'Donoghue): I see that Club Coordination Council received \$17,000.00. A substantial increase from the amount they requested in 1997-1998. Why is that, why does a sixteen-member body need that much money?
- (Treasurer Wolfe): Well, The Observer is moving out of their offices next year, and the Treasurer's Office and CCC are moving into the space.
- (Ryan Harding, Club Coordination Council Coordinator): The money will be used to supplement the facility for the clubs. We have been asked to pay for a portion of the space, so that is in the budget this year.
- (Senator Foster): Why did the Office of the President receive a significantly lower percentage wise increase? Do you think that that money allotted to SafeRide is sufficient for the program, I mean SafeRide is a crucial service to the students?
- (Treasurer Wolfe): Out of the approximately \$40,000.00 that they asked for, money was allotted for employees' salaries, a two-year lease for a van, and a lease for Center for Social Concerns van. We could only accommodate so much, and the rest will have to be worked on throughout the year and into the future years. The Office of the President, though, can ask for additional funds.
- (Senator Penton): The Freshmen Class asked for \$3,500.00, the Sophomore Class asked for \$17,000.00, but got only \$8,500.00, whereas the Senior Class got more. Why?
- (Treasurer Wolfe): Seniors traditionally are allotted more money with the Juniors and Sophomores and Freshmen typically receiving less than what they asked for. The freshmen class was allotted \$500.00 for work in organizations. The historical trend has always been that the Senior Class receive more

D. 1998-1999 Clubs and Organizations' Budget: Club Coordination Council Coordinator Ryan Harding

- The Club Coordination Council's Budget and the Clubs and Organizations' Budget are extensive.
 - (Senator Fortin): Experience learning was awarded \$14,000, why is that?
 - (Mr. Harding): That money goes towards seminars.
 - (Chairperson Selak): What is the purpose of this budget proposal?
 - (Mr. Harding): I am submitting this for approval by the Student Senate; it is contingent upon T.J.'s budget.
 - (Senator Mamak): The allocations that were awarded by the FMB are pieces of the budget that can be amended. There is a procedure for that, so if senators have a problem with a particular monetary value, then we can attempt to fix that.
 - (Senator O'Donoghue): I received a Financial Management Board packet, and inside, you submitted graphs illustrating requests and actual receipts of money. Normally, you lost approximately \$175,000.00. So why did you ask for so high a figure when you probably knew that you would not receive that amount?
 - (Mr. Harding): The clubs asked for \$400,000.00 and they were allocated \$198,000.00, the minimum amount possible.
 - (Senator O'Donoghue): And \$17,000.00 was allocated towards the office? When you normally lose approximately \$200,000.00?
 - (Mr. Harding): This office space will benefit the clubs for a very long time. I echo my sympathies for not truly been given the proper funding, yet it is important to establish this priority for clubs.
 - (Chairperson Selak): I find it difficult to imagine that you needed approximately \$420,000.00?
 - (Mr. Harding): We planned a budget. The CCC conducted interviews about the money requested by each individual organization and club. Once we receive the FMB numbers, then we reduce our number accordingly. I mean, the Division Representatives and I asked for \$251,000.00 because we thought that was appropriate funding. Of course, they are never satisfied, but that is something you have to deal with.
 - (Mr. Harding): T.J. wanted me to mention that \$198,000.00 was the lowest number that clubs and organizations could receive under the Student Activities Fee increase.
- E. Senator Brian O'Donoghue and Letter:
- (Senator O'Donoghue): Notre Dame has made the national news recently, and this time it was not for something good. As you probably all know Senior Class President made some comments in the *South Bend Tribune* concerning Joe Kernan as the Graduation Speaker. Let me preface this article by reading the title of a similar article in the *Indianapolis Star*: "Notre Dame Believes Too Good for Kernan." (He reads the article that appeared in the *South Bend Tribune*). This letter was sent to most colleges and universities across the United States. I have a response from my English professor, Paul Rathburn, who wrote this letter. (He reads the Rathburn letter). The reason that I bring this to the Senate is that Notre Dame nationally has a good reputation, but people think that we are too good for Kernan, a man whom my professor says is on tract to be the next governor of Indiana. I suggest a letter from the Senate, sent to the AP Newswire, the *South Bend Tribune*, and the *Indianapolis Star*. I want to say that we are proud to have Kernan as our Commencement Speaker and that we support this guy.
 - (Senator Penton): This letter will not be effective since we will not be here. The issue is not about Kernan but the lack of student involvement. We are honored to have him. The issue is the lack of student voice in the process.
 - (Senator Stefko): Will we lose quorum if we go to write the letter?
 - (Chairperson Selak): No!

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Order S9899-05 Robert's Rules of Order

- (Senator Balchunas): I motion to take from the table.
- (Vote was held to take S9899-05 from the table. The results were 19 to 6 to 0. The motion was approved and S9899-05 is now on the table).
- (Senator Balchunas): Upon approval of the Student Union Budget, I believe that buying Robert's Rules of Order books are frivolous spending.
- (Senator O'Donoghue): I do not want to spend a lot of time on this order, since we have other business to consider. We could limit the number of copies, but let me remind the Senate that our budget increased approximately \$850.00. I think we could afford a \$5.00 book.
- (Senator Stefko): Cannot we all just print out what we need, as we need it. I mean we can all go to the computer cluster to print. I just do not think that we should be taking away from someone else who could use the money better than we could.
- (Senator Esenwein): How much would it cost to reorder the book, Robert's Rules of Order?
- (Parliamentarian Higgins): It depends on how many copies?
- (Senator O'Donoghue): How about getting the abbreviated version, that Tim or Mark has? I mean I think we could use a copy of Robert's Rules of Order because we break a lot of parliamentary procedure. *Refer to committee*
- (Senator Shannon): I do not think we deviate from parliamentary procedure too much, and if we do, it does not cause any chaos or the like.
- (Chairperson Selak): As long as we are accomplishing what needs to be done, I said in the beginning, we would learn parliamentary procedure together.
- (Senator Mamak): What is the status of this bill?
- (Parliamentarian Higgins): We have had a Friendly Amendment proposed, but we are still waiting for a second.
- (Senator Mendoza): I move to previous question.
- (Senator Stefko): I second that.
- (Chairperson Selak): We will vote on whether to vote on this order.
- (Parliamentarian Higgins): We cannot proceed with a vote.
- (Chairperson Selak): Is there a second to that Friendly Amendment? Hearing none, we will vote on whether to vote on the order as is. (The results were 13 yeas, 11 nays, and 0 abstentions). The motion fails since it requires a two-thirds majority.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1998-1999 Student Union Budget

- (Chairperson Selak): We need a motion to bring this on the table.
- (Senator Costantini): I motion to bring the Student Union Budget on the table.
- (Senator Mamak): I second.
- (Chairperson Selak): The bill is now on the table and open to debate.
- (Senator Mamak): We worked on this budget for about a month. More money is available. This budget reflects the priorities of the FMB. It was clear from the meeting that SUB, who received an increase of \$40,000.00, is the primary programming body of the Student Union. Any questions?
- (Senator O'Donoghue): I move for unanimous consent of the Student Union Budget.
- (Chairperson Selak): Any objections? Then, the 1998-1999 Student Union Budget is passed.

B. Kernan Letter

- (Senator O'Donoghue): I motion to consider the Kernan Letter with Right of Agenda, placing the Kernan Letter ahead of the other New Business topics.
- (Senator Mamak): I second.
- (Chairperson Selak): We will vote on whether or not to place the Kernan Letter ahead of the other things in New Business. (The vote was 23 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions). (Discussion about whether or not the CCC Budget requires Senate approval). I move to approve the CCC Budget.
- (Senator Mamak): I second.
- (Senator Doyle): I move to previous question.
- (Senator Dittmar): I second.
- (Chairperson Selak): We will vote on the Club Coordination Council Budget for 1998-1999. (The vote was 23 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstention). The CCC Budget is passed.
- (Senator O'Donoghue): I motion to consider a letter from the Student Senate.
- (Senator Stefko): I second.
- (Parliamentarian Higgins): Are you staking the Senate's position?
(Senator O'Donoghue): Yes.
- (Chairperson Selak): This is open to debate.
- (Senator Shannon): I would like to see the letter before I decide my vote.
- (Senator O'Donoghue): Due to the fact that I want to continue with the Senate business, I was planning to write the letter afterwards.
- (Chairperson Selak): You could write a Friendly Amendment.
- (Senator Mamak): The past procedure of the Senate has been to have the vote on whether to draft the letter. Then commission a person to draft the letter. Following this, then when that has been done, if any Senator wishes to see the letter, he or she can come by the Student Government Office. I agree with Brian, this needs to be done.
- (Parliamentarian Higgins): You can suspend the Robert's Rules of Order.
- (Senator Stefko): I move to suspend Robert's Rules of Order.
- (Senator Mamak): I second.
- (Chairperson Selak): we will vote on whether to suspend the rules. (The vote was unanimous).
- (Senator Stefko): maybe if we just change a few words, we can get in into The Observer for tomorrow.
- (Senator Mamak): I move for a ten-minute recess.
- (Senator O'Donoghue): I move for a five-minute recess.
- (Senators): Second.
- (Chairperson Selak): All those in favor of a five-minute recess say I... (The vote was unanimous).

RECESS AT 7:10 p.m.

- (Chairperson Selak): I call the Senate back to order. (Time was 7:20 p.m.)
- (Senator O'Donoghue): Reads the revised letter.
- (Senator Guzic): I wanted to know what everyone thought about the letter.
- (Senator Dittmar): I am OK with the Kernan part, but the celebrity part, I am not sure of now?
- (Senator Stefko): I left the allusion in because we are trying to repair our rapport with him. I thought that might help.
- (I left out the debate of the letter due to time constraints.)

- (Chairperson Selak): We will now vote on the letter to Joe Kernan. (The vote was 20 yeas, 2 nays, and 2 abstentions).
 - (Senator O'Donoghue): We will fax this letter over to the Lieutenant Governor this evening.
- C. Resolution S9899-09: Increased Student Involvement in the Selection of Commencement Speakers at Notre Dame
- This Resolution was postponed until August 26, 1998 by a vote of 16 to 5 to 2.
- D. Amendment S9899-10: Oversight Committee's Redefinition of Secretarial Position
- This Amendment was passed 20 to 4 to 0.
- E. Bylaw S9899-11: Closed Meeting Minutes
- This Bylaw passed by a vote of 18 to 4 to 3.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (Senator Mamak): If any members of the Residence Life Committee are staying in this area over the summer, please let me know.
- (President Cesaro): I would like to thank all that served on the FMB. I really appreciate all of the hard work.
- (Senator Mamak): I would like to wish Michael Palumbo a Happy Secretary's Day for all of the wonderful work that he has done.
- (Senator O'Donoghue): There is a meeting at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow, April 23, 1998 in the Student Government Office for the Oversight Committee.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The Student Senate adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 1998. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 28, 1998 at 5:30 p.m. in the Montgomery Theater.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Palumbo

Michael J. Palumbo
Student Union Secretary