

# Notre Dame Student Senate

## MEETING MINUTES

26 August 1998

Montgomery Theater, LaFortune

### I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairperson Selak called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
- B. Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. Absent: Senator Pat Foy, Senator Brian O'Donoghue and Senator Kevin Shannon
- D. The minutes from the April 22, 1998 were unanimously approved.

### II. OFFICER REPORTS

#### A. Officer Reports

1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro
  - We will continue doing research and work over the summer on the various Student Government projects already started with more to come in the State of the Student Union Address.
2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak
  - Unfortunately, Mark Higgins is not here tonight, so please bear with me as we proceed under Robert's Rules of Order.
  - Did all the senators receive their personal invitation for the Student Leadership Retreat in August? It is a time for all groups involved to set goals and to have a fun time before classes begin. The retreat runs from Wednesday until Friday of the week before classes begin. You will be allowed to move in on that Wednesday.
  - (Senator Olejnik): Are we going to be getting any information over the summer about this retreat?
  - (Chairperson Selak): Yes, we will be sending out more information as the time comes closer. A few other things, senators please check your mailboxes before you leave for break because there might be information in there concerning Freshmen Orientation activities, and Committee Chairs return all goals and agenda items to me before you leave.
3. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo
  - Nothing to report, just have a great summer.

#### B. Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs (Senator Costantini and Senator Olejnik)
  - We met on Thursday of last week.
  - We decided not to introduce Resolution 9899-09 at this meeting but to instead wait until the first meeting of next year. This is a very serious issue to which we should devote a lot of time for consideration.
  - Another thing that we are working on is for teachers to turn in book forms early into the bookstore
  - (Senator Mamak): Last year, the Residence Life Committee handled this issue. We sent a letter to all the deans who in turn passed the letter on to professors.
  - (Senator Olejnik): Do we know if they turned the forms in already?
  - (Senator Mamak): We could check on that before we leave for vacation.

- (Senator Olejnik): I would like to see last year's letter that was sent to the deans concerning this matter.
- 2. Ethics (Senator Linster)
  - We met last Tuesday. During the meeting we decided who wants to stay on this committee and who does not. Presently, we have fifteen members; we want to keep that odd number in case of a tie.
- 3. Gender Issues (Senator Fortin)
  - We will meet next year.
- 4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Boselli and Senator Fortin)
  - We talked about the petition and will meet with Maria Alevras tomorrow.
  - We are going to send letters to the multicultural groups on campus.
  - We talked with Pricilla Wong in the attempt to arrange a Learning to Talk on Race Seminar for the Student Leadership Retreat.
- 5. Residence Life (Senator Mamak and Senator Esenwein)
  - At our last meeting, we went through our agenda for the upcoming year.
  - (Senator Doyle): Is the administration going to deal with the laundry issue during the summer, or have they already decided who will receive the laundry facilities.
  - (Senator Mamak): I am not sure of the schedule. We will have to ask Mr. Kirk.
  - (Mr. William Kirk, Assistant Vice-President for Residence Life): We are hopeful that one male residence hall will receive laundry facilities over the summer. As to the name of that dorm, it has not been selected as of yet.
- 6. Oversight (Senator O'Donoghue):
  - Nothing much to report yet pertaining to that Order under New Business, we found out those five copies can be purchased for \$25.00. Each of those copies is the complete edition.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Order S9899-12: An Order to Purchase Robert's Rules of Order

- (Senator Olejnik): I motion for bill S9899-12 to be brought before the Senate.
- (Senator Esenwein) I second.
- (Senator Foy): I move to previous question
- (Senators): Second
- (Chairperson Selak): All those in favor please raise their hands...all those opposed...any abstentions? O.K. the order is passed with seventeen voting in the affirmative, four in the negative, and four abstentions.

### V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (Senator Foy): What do we do if we do not like The Shirts?
- (Chairperson Selak): Nothing for this year, but you can talk to John Moss and let him know how you feel.
- (Joseph Cassidy): That matter goes before the Financial Management Board
- (Senator Foy): I need a copy of the letter to Kernan
- (Secretary Palumbo): I will get you one.

### VI. PODIUM

**STATE OF THE STUDENT UNION ADDRESS  
BY STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT PETER JOSEPH CESARO**



As we meet tonight, the year comes to a close and our experiences in the Notre Dame community lasting in our memories. Memories that will be retold time and time again during the summer to our friends and families. Despite the year's end, we are representatives who are beginning our terms. As Student Body President, it is my honor and duty, to explain the State of our Student Union. As you have already seen in the month of April, the state of our Student Union is strong.

Since April 1, the Office of the President has reformed its composition by eliminating wasteful areas and creating new departments to quickly address student concerns. The first 100 days in office will set the precedent for a focus on student services and academics, Next year, under the auspices of our new Transportation Department, SafeRide will be available on Thursday nights, and we will also have paid coordinator positions. SafeRide will be more reliable, respectable, and responsive because the student body deserves a dependable service that improves student life here at Notre Dame. Administrative Relations will coordinate the du Lac research and organize the Board of Trustees Reports. Our Administrative Relations department is organizing an effort to improve student-faculty relationships. We are creating a monthly lunch program between faculty and students to ensure the environment and opportunity for the faculty and students to meet outside of the classroom. We will also be reviving the Hall Fellows program at Notre Dame.

The Office of the President will be a resource for other organizations. We will foster well-publicized tutoring in all colleges. There will be more actions taken to improve gender and diversity programming at Notre Dame. We are also working on the development of off-campus meal plans through the revision of Food Services. To accomplish our aggressive goals, communication among students is essential. Andrea and I will also be visiting all of the Hall Councils during next year to explain what student government is doing and to listen to the concerns of students.

A branch of the Student Union that requires perfect communication is the Executive Cabinet. Next year the Executive Cabinet will serve dual purposes. The members of Executive Cabinet will advise the Student Body President on policy issues being discussed in the Student Senate that affect our Notre Dame community. The Executive Cabinet will also serve as a vehicle where different organizations can pool their resources to work together on programming activities. The Executive Cabinet will be providing a weekly listing in The Observer on Thursdays to update students on different events from the organizations. To ensure the success of our weekly listing, all organizations are participating in its development. We will learn from the experiences of the pioneers under the new Student Union Constitution.

During our terms this next year, we will all be working on similar issues. Since we are all working for the betterment of Notre Dame, the only way to achieve campus-wide support and success is by working together. We need to make overtures to other organizations so that we will work together. For instance, the Club Coordination Council and SUB should participate in certain activities, as the Office of the President should work with the classes.

We all want to make a lasting impression on the Notre Dame community; together we can participate in the new vision of cooperation for the students here at Notre Dame. We must work together on all issues, whether it be planning a barbecue or establishing an off-campus meal plan. This lasting impression will be shared within the community but also retold at Notre Dame through generations.

Thank you and God Bless Notre Dame.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

- (Senator Mamak): I motion to adjourn.
- (Senators): Second
- The Student Senate adjourned at 5:55 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 1998. Its next meeting is Wednesday, August 26, 1998 in the Notre Dame Room.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael J. Palumbo*

Michael Palumbo  
Student Union Secretary