

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

09 September 1998

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- B. Chaplain Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. The following senator was absent P.J. DuWors (Sorin Hall).
- D. The minutes from the 02 September 1998 meeting were approved unanimously.

II. REPORTS

A. Officers

1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro

- The Office of the President is working on the budget issue as we await the Financial Management Board Emergency Deficit Reallocation Proposal.
- The Student Government Board of Trustees Committee is looking into possible topics, which will be submitted to you next week for your approval.
- Thank you for approving Jerry Olinger as Student Government Executive Coordinator of the Department of Relations.
- The Student Government Open House for freshmen is scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 1998 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Student Government Office.
- Finally, our Academic Delegate Frank Law is working hard to improve faculty-student relations as he meets with Faculty Senate members.

2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak

- The nameplates that you have in front of you were made by Student Government Executive Coordinator of
- Student Computing Jackie Faherty. Senate originally discussed metal nameplates. But due to budgetary problems, we chose not to purchase them and save the \$175.00.
- Some senators still have not turned in a list of dorm events to me.
- Peter and I will be starting to attend Hall Council Meetings in order to discuss better campus issues and events.
- The Senate Question Box is now located in the Student Government Office. Please if anyone has any suggestions, or would like a committee to investigate a particular issue, place a piece of paper inside, and I will assign it to the proper committee.
- The first Senate Question Box suggestion concerns backpacks in the bookstore. I have sent this issue to the Residence Life Committee.
- Senator Fortin asked why was Senate going to discuss this issue? I have always brought my backpack inside the bookstore.

3. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo

- Nothing to report!

B. Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs (Ryan Costantini and Drew Olejnik, Co-Chairmen)

- Senator Costantini stated that the Academic Affairs Committee met before the Residence Life Committee on Monday, September 07, 1998.
- The committee is attempting to setup a meeting with Dr. Pace, University Registrar, to air concerns with the Direct Access Registration by Telephone System

- Senator Olejnik discussed the clock problem in DeBartolo: the clocks at DeBartolo Hall do not reflect the same time. The maintenance staff decided to wait until the beginning of next semester to set back the clocks since that might throw a lot of people off schedule.
 - Senator Olejnik is meeting with Academic Delegate Frank Law to discuss Academic Council and Faculty Senate.
2. Ethics (Jason Linster, Chairman)
 - Senator Linster has failed to get a designer for the Student Senate T-shirt, according to Senator Shannon.
 3. Gender Relations (Sophie Fortin, Chairwoman)
 - The Gender Relations Committee discussed what they did last week. One big issue is D-Tex, which the Senate Residence Life Committee handed over to them. Mr. Stefko talked with people in the Security Office, but they were completely ignorant.
 - Senator Stefko talked with the D-Tex Company regarding the technology inside of D-Tex. Then, he talked with Assistant Vice-President for Student Affairs William Kirk to learn what the rules are concerning D-Tex.
 - Senator Fortin reminded the Senate that the committee has a resolution on the floor tonight, S9899-14 Non-Discrimination Resolution.
 4. Multicultural Affairs (Stephany Foster, Chairwoman):
 - The Multicultural Affairs Committee will meet with the Student Government committee tomorrow.
 - Soon, a letter will be sent to The Observer concerning the Prejudice Reduction Workshop and their participation.
 - Also, work is continuing in the Student Leadership Retreat
 - On the Prejudice Reduction Workshop, Senator Stefko met with an Office of Multicultural Student Affairs representative to ask her for dates of the workshop. He wanted to make sure that The Observer would attend. So what he thought is if the Senate would attend the workshop, The Observer would want to cover the event, thus attending.
 - Senator Mamak noted that there was a bylaw passed requiring Student Senators to attend the Prejudice Workshop.
 - Senator Stefko felt that the Senate should pick two dates probably dates of two far away football games (October 10 and sometime in November were mentioned as possibilities).
 5. Residence Life (Matt Mamak, Chairman)
 - Today the committee is submitting a resolution, S9899-15 South Dining Hall Backpack Policy.
 - This committee has worked hard to compile a list of dorm concerns which will be distributed next week.
 - Senator Esenwein and Erin Wysong are meeting with Food Service representatives to look at this backpack policy.
 6. Oversight (Brian O'Donoghue, Chairman)
 - The committee has a bill on the floor, S9899-16: Presenter Speakership Rights Bylaw.
 - Senator O'Donoghue met with Mr. Joseph Cassidy to discuss the oversight function of this committee.
 - Senator O'Donoghue talked with Financial Management Board members and Student Union Treasurer T.J. Wolfe to discuss ways to prevent this deficit from happening again.

III. PODIUM

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution S9899-14: Non-Discrimination Clause Resolution

- Senator Stefko motioned to bring this resolution to the floor of the Student Senate; Senator Linster seconded that motion.
- Senator Fortin explained that at the end of last year the Faculty Senate passed a resolution that added sexual orientation to the Non-Discrimination Clause. She talked to the Chair of the Faculty Senate, who said that it was important to pass this resolution as soon as possible. The resolution would eventually head to the Board of Trustees.
- The Academic Council is composed of approximately forty members: President of University (ex officio); Vice-President of University (ex officio); Deans of Colleges (ex officio); faculty members from the College of Arts and Letters, College of Science, College of Engineering, College of Business Administration, School of Law, and School of Architecture; Hesburgh librarians; student members.
- Senator Fortin noted that by passing this resolution again, the Student Senate would be agreeing with past student bodies who have supported this issue. Furthermore, the Senate would be reaffirming the action taken by the Faculty Senate.
- Senator Fortin read the University of Notre Dame's Non-Discrimination Policy as stated on page four of *duLac*.
- Senator Penton hoped that the Student Senate could say to the Academic Council that we support the resolution that they passed last year.
- Senator Linster agreed that something needed to be done concerning this matter. Notre Dame is still discriminating against homosexuals and other sexual orientations. This was just bad press, and Notre Dame does not need this at this time. The Senate and the University need to move on this issue.
- Senator Dittmar asked that "The Spirit of Inclusion at Notre Dame" as stated on page twenty-one of *duLac* be read.
- Mr. Joseph Cassidy stated the difference between the Spirit of Inclusion and the University's Non-Discrimination Clause was that the Spirit of Inclusion was not legally binding. Notre Dame did not wish the courts to interpret how the University practiced religion.
- Senator Olejnik pointed out that senators needed time to go back to their respective residence halls and discuss this issue with residents.
- Senator Foster motioned to postpone S9899-14 until September 16, 1998; Senator Olejnik seconded the motion.
- The motion passed with 12 votes in the affirmative, 11 votes in the negative and 4 abstentions.

B. Resolution S9899-15: Resolution on South Dining Hall Policy Change Regarding Backpacks

- Senator Mamak motioned to bring this resolution to the floor of the Student Senate; Senator Dittmar seconded that motion.
- Senator Mamak read a letter that was in conjunction with the South Dining Hall Backpack Policy.
- Senator Mamak amended the resolution submitted by the Residence Life Committee. First amendment was to move the fourth Whereas Clause to the spot of the third Whereas Clause and renumber where appropriate. Second amendment was to strike the seventh Whereas Clause and replace it with the following, "Whereas, campus Security advises that students not leave personal items unsecure and the current system in South Dining Hall clearly leaves them as such." Third amendment was to strike the clause "by any means necessary" in the Therefore Clause.
- Senator Gertken motioned to pass the three amendments to S9899-15; Senator Balchunas seconded this motion.
- Senator Mamak noted that security was the biggest threat to this resolution's success with Food Administrators in the South Dining Hall.

- Senator Herlihy wondered if there were other options to the congestion that could occur in the dining hall.
 - Senator Mamak listened to the concerns and said he would bring the concern up at the meeting with South Dining Hall officials on Friday.
 - Senator Linster motioned for previous question; Senator Shannon seconded that motion.
 - Senator O'Donoghue motioned to suspend Robert's Rules of Order; Senator Mamak seconded that motion.
 - Senator Ernst offered a friendly amendment to Senator Mamak. It read as follows: "Whereas, students are supposed to use the lockers and shelves, but there are not enough lockers to serve the large amount of students during certain periods of the day, and the shelves do nothing to prevent being stolen or being taken mistakenly;
 - Senator Mamak accepted the friendly amendment.
 - Senator Dittmar motioned to return to Robert's Rules of Order; Senator Linster seconded the motion.
 - The vote of S9899-15 was 25 votes in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and 0 abstentions.
- C. Bylaw S9899-16: Presenter Speakership Rights Bylaw
- Senator Gertken motioned to bring this resolution to the floor of the Student Senate; Senator O'Donoghue seconded that motion.
 - Senator O'Donoghue explained the purpose of this bylaw and motioned for unanimous consent.
 - Senator Linster seconded the O'Donoghue motion.
 - The bylaw was approved by unanimous consent.

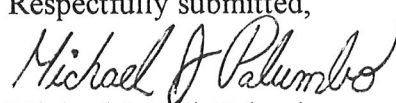
VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senator Olejnik wanted to note that he would like South Dining Hall card swipers to be nicer.
- Senator O'Donoghue noted that the Oversight Committee was meeting tomorrow, September 10, 1998 in the Student Government office.
- Senator Foy thanked all senators and officers who attended his 21st Birthday Party.
- Senator Costantini announced that the Academic Affairs Committee was going to meet on Monday, September 11, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in O'Shaughnessy Hall 105.
- Senator Fortin asked all senators to be sincere and go back to the dorm to discuss the Non-Discrimination Clause with their constituents.
- Senator Stefko apologized to all Alumni and Dillon hall residents for what Zahm did to their dorm.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- Senator Shannon motioned to adjourn; Senator Ogorzalek seconded the motion.
- The Student Senate adjourned at 7:21 p.m. on Wednesday, September 09, 1998. Its next meeting is Wednesday, September 16, 1998 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Joseph Palumbo
Student Union Secretary