

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

08 October 1998

Foster Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
- B. Chaplain Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. The following senators were absent: Mickey Doyle (Off-Campus), Michelle Mendoza (Farley Hall), and Kevin Shannon (O'Neill Hall).
- D. The Meeting Minutes from 30 September 1998 were approved with corrections
 - (Senator Dittmar): Can we have her stand up and say hi? (*Ms. Folks stood and said hello*).
 - (Senator Dittmar and Senator Costantini): Damon Michael Abaray, 218 Stanford Hall, 634-2082; Ann Elizabeth Abbott, 339 Howard Hall, 634-2484; Erin Elizabeth Abbott, 420 Pasquerilla West, 634-1308; Jason Edward Abbott, 1841 East Ewing Avenue, 234-0637; *Dennis John Abdelnour, 203 Sorin Hall, 634-2285; Awai Abdulai...*
 - (Acting Chairman Mamak): This is bull#\$*&! Point of privilege: if certain senators continue this, we will remove them from this meeting by the Sergeant-at-Arms, A.J. *Boyd (Acting Chairman takes control)*.
 - **NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE VERBATIM FROM A TAPE RECORDER!!!**

II. OFFICER REPORTS

- A. Officer Reports
 1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro
 - We delivered our Board of Trustees Report, and you will be hearing more about that later on. But I just wanted to thank all the Senate for approving it, and I am sure that we will go into it in much more detail under Podium.
 - We are starting our Academic Pride Week on November 3rd to November 6th in the backroom of the South Dining Hall. You will be receiving more information about that later on. Right now, we are just starting off the program with the deans and the program directors. We are really encouraging students to come and ask them questions. We are relying on student leaders--mainly people in Senate, Hall Presidents' Council, and the Class Officers--to really take the initiative in programs like this. If we get involved in it and then we go and invite some of our friends to go to talk with some of our professors, then I think students will go to it. I encourage and call upon some of the senators to participate in this activity.
 - The Financial Aid Department has published the jobs available around campus on their Webpage, but we will soon have a link from the Student Government Webpage to their Webpage.
 - In case any of you are all concerned about *duLac* revisions, in case you wanted to get involved in that, we will probably be bringing a committee together toward the end of this semester to look over the research.
 2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak
 - I only have just one quick thing, if any of you have your dorm concerns list, I would like those. I only have four now...
 3. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo

- Just turn in the Senate Dogbook surveys, and the new Webpage is pretty accurate. I think all the Senate stuff is up-to-date until the 23rd of September.

B. Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs (Senator Ryan Costantini and Senator Drew Olejnik, Co-Chairmen)
 - We are making some headway to get full size desks in Stepan for tests. I spoke to [inaudible] and he gave me some new leads to follow up on, so be looking for something substantial on that soon.
 - We are looking into the Honor Code and how students who would like can be on that committee. We talked to Dean Murray who we know recommended somebody, so we are going to see what happens from there.
 - We are still waiting to hear back from you guys about your Career and Placement things. If you could get back to us soon on that one, it would be appreciated. We do want to move ahead with that.
2. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)
 - Nothing to report.
3. Gender Relations (Senator Sophie Fortin, Chairwoman)
 - We had a really short meeting this week, and members from our committee put together a packet for the Academic Council. It was a series of letters from different students about how they felt about the Non-Discrimination Clause. It was not submitted by the Gender Relations Committee.
 - Beyond that, next week I am not too sure if we are going to have a meeting yet because of midterms and all that good stuff. I don't know if it is going to be a good idea.
 - I am hoping to kind of organize a meeting with the Women's Resource Center and the Gender Relations Committee of Student Government. We will get together and be able to come up with a new vision for the end of the semester. That will hopefully happen after Fall Break.
4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Stephany Foster, Chairwoman)
 - Basically the date for the Prejudice Reduction Workshop is still going to be November 8th. We are pitching it to HPC and Student Government next week. We are going to notify *The Observer* informally, but we are going to send out a formal letter sometime this week. And then the other thing is the resolution coming up about the Multicultural Resource Center. I don't think that we are going to meet next week. I would also like to see if OMSA needs any help.
 - (Senator Roberts): What are the times on that day for the Prejudice Reduction Workshop?
 - (Senator Stefko): It will be all day, but I don't know the times yet... [Inaudible]... There will be another one coming up in the Spring.
5. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)
 - We have two resolutions on the table today, and I have a statement, actually a written statement, on one of them, and I will probably give that under New Business when those issues come up. They are on social space on campus and the bike racks issue. The Residence Life Committee will meet next week, but I promise it will be no longer than an hour. We will produce one resolution for next week—Bookstore—concerning the Buy-Back Book Process. We have some information on that, some research.
 - Next thing, our meeting with Mr. Kirk, Mike Smith and Gary Shumaker...
 - (Chairwoman Selak): It has been changed now. It's now the week after Fall Break that Tuesday or Thursday. She is still trying to coordinate all three of their schedules. It will be at 12:30 p.m. though.

- My goal on this is to submit a list of questions to Mr. Kirk that he could give to Mr. Smith and Mr. Shumaker, so they can prepare answers to our questions if they don't know they answers on the spot. There will be time for open questions at the end of it, and we invite all to come to that...[Inaudible]. The Residence Life Committee started preparing a list; there are fifteen or sixteen different questions. There are a variety of issues. What I will do is get this typed up and e-mailed out to everyone over the weekend, so you can review it. If you have any additional questions, please send them to Jill or I, so we can get those on the list. I would like to submit those by the middle of next week, so they would have time to prepare.
 - We have research still going on with our two task forces. Probably resolutions from both those forces won't come until the beginning of next semester or the end of this semester, so look for that up coming.
 - (Senator Esenwein): I have one thing, I am still trying to put together a list of little trivial stuff that I am going to be sending via e-mail to the Dining Hall Administration. So if you have any concerns with anything like little stuff, please e-mail me or call me and talk to me. I will probably be doing that at the beginning of next week.
6. Oversight (Senator O'Donoghue, Chairman)
- Oversight Committee had a meeting, and I apologize to senators for the short notice of that, last night. The result of the meeting will be discussed under podium, and if it is possible Oversight members have a meeting tomorrow.
 - (Senator Stefko): Will that meeting tomorrow be the same kind of thing, open to all senators?
 - No, that will be just a regular Oversight meeting.

III. PODIUM

- A. Office of Multicultural Affairs Assistant Director Mr. Kevin Huie: Office of Multicultural Affairs Proposal for a Multicultural Center on Campus
- Mr. Huie asked for the Student Senate's support of the Multicultural Resource Center either in the form of a written letter from each individual or a letter from the entire body.
 - He hoped to build another space for this Center, not take someone else's. This Center would house OMSA, ethnic organizations, and international studies. Ideally to accomplish what the goals of this Center are, more space is required.
- B. Student Government Board of Trustees Report Coordinators Mr. Mark Massoud and Mr. Matthew Tomko: Follow-Up Presentation
- The Board of Trustees Report was one of the best in years. We created constructive dialogue, had a PowerPoint Presentation, and the Trustees seemed willing to help us.
 - We made three recommendations to the Trustees. We are hoping to work with the Academic Affairs Committee and Student Government to prepare a follow-up report-- maybe an ad hoc subcommittee to acquire statistics on other schools.
 - Senator Costantini sends an open invitation to all for the Academic Affairs Committee meeting on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Government Office.
 - The full Board of Trustees Report is available on the Student Government Webpage.
- C. Student Senate Parliamentarian Mark Higgins: Parliamentary Procedure
- Mr. Higgins pledged to be stricter in enforcing Senate rules and orders possibly even interrupting senators when rules are broken.
 - Another way to avoid a breakdown of the order at meetings is following a rule that the Student Senate has been ignoring up to this point: if a Senator has the floor please stand.

Likewise, chairpersons should stand during Committee Reports and guests should stand during Podium.

- There is no such thing as “yielding the floor to questions.” If a senator yields the floor, it does not necessarily have to be for questions and that senator is not guaranteed the floor back.
 - Change of seating structure, the Senate will be U-shaped so that main speakers do not feel left out when giving presentations.
- D. Oversight Committee Chairman Brian O’Donoghue: Oversight Committee’s State of the Student Senate

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Non-Discrimination Clause
- Senator Mamak motions to create an ad hoc committee to study the Non-Discrimination Clause. Senator O’Donoghue seconds the motion.
 - The purpose of this ad hoc committee is to further the research, but the committee has no set agenda and does not have to recommend anything to the entire Senate.
 - The committee is approved by a vote of 23-0-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Amendment S9899-23: Student Senatorial Membership on the Campus Life Council
- Senator Foy motions to bring Amendment S9899-23 to the Senate floor. Senator Dittmar seconds the motion.
 - The purpose of this amendment is to make the Undergraduate Constitution and the Campus Life Council Bylaws in agreement with each other.
 - Senator Penton offers several friendly amendments: Amendment S9899-23 [The Senate shall elect three Senators *as voting members* and an alternate Senator *to vote in the place of an absent Senator* to serve on the Campus Life Council. The Senator representing Off-Campus shall automatically be appointed to serve *as a voting member* on the Council.]; Amendment S9899-24 [The Student Union Board Manager shall serve *as a voting member* on the Campus Life Council]; Amendment S9899-25 [One Hall President's Council Co-Chair will serve *as a voting member* on the Campus Life Council]; and Amendment S9899-26 [The Judicial Council President shall serve *as a voting member* on the Campus Life Council].
 - Senator O’Donoghue accepts the friendly amendment. Senator Dittmar also accepts the friendly amendment.
 - Amendment S9899-23 is unanimously approved.
- B. Amendment S9899-24: Student Union Board Membership on the Campus Life Council
- Senator O’Donoghue motions to bring S9899-24 to the Senate floor. Senator Mamak seconds the motion.
 - Senator O’Donoghue accepts Senator Penton’s friendly amendment. Senator Mamak also accepts the friendly amendment.
 - Amendment S9899-24 is unanimously approved.
- C. Amendment S9899-25: Hall Presidents’ Council Membership on the Campus Life Council
- Senator O’Donoghue motions to bring S9899-25 to the Senate floor. Senator Gertken seconds the motion.
 - Senator O’Donoghue accepts Senator Penton’s friendly amendment. Senator Gertken also accepts the friendly amendment.
 - Amendment S9899-25 is unanimously approved.

- D. Amendment S9899-26: Judicial Council Membership on the Campus Life Council
- Senator O'Donoghue motions to bring S9899-26 to the Senate floor. Senator Ogorzalek seconds the motion.
 - Senator O'Donoghue accepted Senator Penton's friendly amendment. Senator Ogorzalek also accepts the friendly amendment.
 - Amendment S9899-26 is unanimously approved.
- E. Amendment S9899-29: Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee Presentation
- Senator O'Donoghue motions to bring S9899-29 to the Senate floor. Senator McCall seconds the motion.
 - Senator O'Donoghue clarified Senator Costantini's question that yes it will be up to the Office of the President to make the recommendations to the Student Senate, but it is the Student Senate's responsibility to ultimately approve those recommendations.
 - Chairwoman Selak addressed Senator Fortin's question regarding the plausibility of having a Board of Trustees Report topic two months prior to the Spring presentation by stating the since the presentation is the first week of May generally, the Office of the President will work on it prior to the two months requirement.
 - Amendment S9899-29 is unanimously approved.
- F. Resolution S9899-30: Multicultural Center Resolution
- In hope that this proposal reaches the full Board of Trustees, the purpose of this resolution is to compile as many letters as possible in showing unity and full support of the undergraduate student body for this Multicultural Center.
 - This resolution if passed does have to go to the Campus Life Council because the term Student Affairs does appear in the wording of the bill.
 - Senator Penton motions to table this resolution and instead to write an open letter to OMSA; Senator Fortin objects because she thought that a resolution would carry a little more weight.
 - Senator Foy thought that the Senate should do more research and possibly ask Mr. Huie to come back and answer more questions; thus, he motioned to postpone this resolution. Senator Linster objected.
 - Parliamentarian Higgins explained the terms "postponement" and "table." postponement is almost like tabling a bill indefinitely except that it is undebateable, unamendable, majority vote, and cannot be reconsidered; when you postpone something indefinitely that can be amended to postpone to a certain date.
 - Senator Linster motions to postpone it for three weeks; Senator Foster objects.
 - Senator Mamak motions to send this resolution back to the Multicultural Affairs Committee. Senator Foster seconds this motion.
 - Resolution S9899-30 is sent back to the Multicultural Affairs Committee.
- G. Resolution S9899-31: Resolution on Increasing the Number of Bike Racks on Campus
- Senator Mamak motions Resolution S9899-31 to the Senate floor. Senators second this motion.
 - The purpose of this bill is to deal with security problems and to improve the natural beauty of campus by placing the bikes left on the sidewalks securely in bike racks.
 - Senator Mamak offers "Sorin Hall, Lewis Hall, Zahm Hall, Siegfried, North side of Stanford Hall" as friendly amendments. The Senate accepts the friendly amendments.
 - Senator Linster motions for unanimous consent; Resolution S9899-31 is unanimously approved.
- H. Resolution S9899-32: Resolution on Social Space on Campus

- Senator Mamak motions Resolution S9899-32 to the Senate floor. Senator Stefko seconds the motion.
- The Campus Life Council Community Life Committee is addressing this issue.
- Reckers was an important step to deal with the social space situation, however, Reckers is not adequate enough to serve the number of students at Notre Dame.
- The Office of Student Affairs has recognized this issue as a concern along with the University of Notre Dame in the *Colloquy for the Year 2000* (Recommendations #25 and #26).
- There have been marginal improvements, but this resolution demonstrates that students take this issue very seriously and want to be included when the preliminary work has concluded on social space decisions.
- This resolution will be sent to the Campus Life Council if passed.
- Senator Gertken motions for unanimous consent; Resolution S9899-32 is unanimously approved.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senator Linster apologized for his lateness and presented his Ethics Committee Report. People are dropping out of committees, yet senators must serve on at least two committees. And serving on a committee means attending committee meetings, not just having your name on the list. Committees must be run ethically. When resolutions come up through a committee, the committee must vote on them if there are serious objections. If a resolution is not in the best interest of the entire committee, then it should not come to the Senate floor.
- Chairwoman Selak announced that there will be a sheet of paper available at the end of the meeting for all those interested in signing up for the ad hoc Non-Discrimination Clause Committee. At the committee's first meeting, then a committee chair will be voted on by members.
- Senator Penton announced that the Feast of St. Edward's was next week, not this past week.
- Senator Dittmar announced that Fisher Hall Government wanted to donate some old computers to some charity and was open to suggestions as to the name of charities or organizations.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The Student Senate adjourned at 8:24 p.m. on Thursday, October 08, 1998. Its next meeting is Wednesday, October 14, 1998 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Palumbo
 Michael J. Palumbo
 Student Union Secretary