

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

14 October 1998

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- B. Chaplain Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. The following senators were absent: ~~Philip~~^{Philip} Dittmar (Fisher Hall), Judson Penton (St. Edward's Hall), and Kevin Shannon (O'Neill Hall).
- D. The Executive Summary from 08 October 1998 was approved with a correction: III. C. Student Senate Parliamentarian Mark Higgins, "Podium is also for members of the Senate to be used equally for questions and answers."

II. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro

- Just to give you a brief run down of what the Office of the President is working on: advertisements for Project Warmth will go up the week we come back from Fall Break; our Diversity Team in Student Government is working on a Salsa Workshop; and there is already a link on the Student Government Homepage to the Financial Aid Page with all the jobs, campus jobs.
- I just want to emphasize our Academic Pride Week, which is the first week in November, and being campus leaders, we would really like you all to go out and make sure you attend this luncheon. It is from November 3 to November 6 whenever you particular college, deans, or program directors are there. It would be a good example to set for campus if we all went and we are hoping that this will really take off this year and improve the experience this year for Notre Dame students.

2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak

- On the e-mail that I sent out, I made a mistake about the date of the lunch with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Shumaker, and Mr. Smith. I said that it was next week, but it is not next week. It is the week after Fall Break. It is that Thursday, October 29th. So far there are two people going, so if you could go to that, please let me know.
- There is a question about of where the reserve room of South Dining Hall is and that is accessible from the back. If you go in the doors in the back by Reckers, you go in there and the reserve room is straight to your right. I am not sure exactly how it is going to work whether we will get our lunch from the dining hall, the regular food area and then bring it back to the reserve room because there is access through the dining hall to that room. So I am not sure whether we will enter through the main South Dining Hall: enter, get our food and go back into that room or enter from the back. But I will let you know.
- Another thing is did all women dorm senators receive a letter about the meeting tomorrow afternoon for the University Committee on Women Faculty and Students? It is tomorrow in the afternoon at 3:30 p.m. If any of you could go, this is the start of a larger project addressing the role of women student leaders on campus, so any input

that you would have at the meeting would be really helpful. It will probably be about thirty to forty-five minutes, with discussions about your experiences and suggestions. If you can attend that meeting let me know. If you cannot attend but would be interested in finding out more about it also let me know.

3. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo

- Nothing to report

B. Committee Reports

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

- First thing that we are working on is the Honor Code, still waiting to hear from the gentleman from Dillon Hall.
- Tests at Stephen Center sort of ran into an institutional group but we are trying to find ways to work around it, so that is temporarily on hold.
- We did dedicate a whole amount of time to the Board of Trustees Committee; we have been working with Student Government to do something on that starting right after Break, so hopefully we will have some updates for you as to what we will be doing.
- At our next meeting, we will likely have an order forcing student government to print a program of practical information education for students once again at the request of Senator O'Donoghue how to balance your check book, manages your finances, basic life skill that people might be lacking at this stage
- We got a long list of things for Career and Placement, so we will probably set up a meeting with the Director or the Assistant Director probably when we get back. If you get a chance over break when your talking to friends or at other school look into whether they have a Writing Center, how that is kind of run, or if they have a Career and Placement Services and if students at that school kind of like how that is run. Trying to get some feedback on how...I was under the impression that they do [have online services] but they don't utilize it well enough, so people are really pushing...

2. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)

- I have to talk to the guy about the T-shirts still so don't worry. It has been a horrible week. Just remember to serve on at least two committees and remember to vote on bills.

3. Gender Relations (Senator Sophie Fortin, Chairwoman)

- We have not had a meeting this week, so we have nothing to say. I am not sure if we will have a meeting during the week after Fall Break, kind of the transition thing, but we probably will.

4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Stephany Foster, Chairwoman)

- The Multicultural Center has come back to our committee; we met this week on Tuesday to discuss the questions we wanted to make sure were addressed and researched. We are also meeting with Kevin Huie on Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. Does anybody have any questions in particular that they want answered? If they do e-mail me. If anyone is really interested in the subject and would like to attend the meeting that is fine, too.
- (Senator Stefko): A little more information on the Prejudice Reduction Workshop: we will be passing a sheet around to sign. Please sign your name and campus address because I don't know how to use the ListServ... We are going to have people from Hall Presidents' Council and Student Government. It is November 8, 1998 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *The Observer* will be attending as well.

5. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)

- I need to apologize to all my committee members for being at the meeting and I not being there. I printed out the message and I realized my mistake: I sent it out to last year's list.
 - A list is printed out of the questions for Mr. Kirk, Mr. Shumaker, and Mr. Smith, and I am going to go copy that right now. Please look over it during the meeting. If there is anything we need to add to it or anything needing reworded, come talk to me at the end of the meeting. We would like to give it to Mr. Kirk tomorrow.
 - We are anxiously awaiting the Judicial Board President's talk, so we can work on our dorm inconsistencies.
 - (Senator Esenwein): We have a meeting the Monday we come back from Fall Break, so we will e-mail you of the time and place.
6. Oversight (Senator Brian O'Donoghue, Chairman)
- Oversight did not meet this past week, but I have two questions for you all though: first, what do you think of the horseshoe? second, I want to talk to you about something from Campus Life Council. The CLC Undergraduate Finance Committee has met with some of the people from Financial Aid. We got a ton of information; all three senators on CLC are on this committee. Basically what we want to know is what you guys think is wrong with Financial Aid, what we can do to improve it. Start with the most basic stuff because Financial Aid is extremely receptive and really wants to work with us within the system without having to go outside and through CLC. It would be great if you all e-mailed me with your comments.
7. Non-Discrimination Clause
- Formed at last week's meeting, we met on Sunday with most of the people who signed were there, but some were not. We did not elect a Chair of the committee yet, we are going to do that after the meeting today for anyone who is on the committee or people who would like to join the committee. We are looking for as many people as possible to participate. We will go over the Chair and how we are going to break apart. Our mission statement: "Research the aspects in an unbiased way of the non-discrimination clause issue, consulting a diversity of perspectives. The primary mission of the committee is not generating a resolution for the Student Senate; instead the primary focus of the committee will be to report their findings to Student Senate before the next Academic Council meeting in mid-November." Other areas the committee will research include other Catholic universities, legal, theological, and ethical aspects. First, the committee will investigate other catholic universities who have and have not a non-discrimination clause. We will look at the expenditures before and after addition of clause and background of how the clause came to be adopted. We will look at the legal aspects, the theological aspects, and the whole picture of Academic Council, Board of Trustees, and Student Senate as to where we fall in the whole picture.

III. PODIUM

A. Judicial Council President: Ms. Kelly Folks

- Judicial Council is divided into two divisions each headed by a vice-president: elections and peer advocacy. The first one, Vice-President of Elections Nicole Borda, is in charge of the elections of the Student Body President, Student Body Vice-President, Hall Presidents, Senators, Class officers, Off-Campus officials, etc. The second one, Vice-President of Peer Advocacy Brian Meihaus, serves as chief student advocate to all those charged with a *duLac* violation by the Office of Student Affairs. Once a student received a violation letter from the Office of Student Affairs, the person has a choice of whether to have an advocate

in the meeting, Brian pairs that person with a student knowledgeable in *duLac*, however, the advocate in anyway does not represent the student but writes does detailed notes in instances of an appeal.

- A main goal of the Judicial Council this year is the Hall Judicial Boards or Hall Judicial Board Reinstatement Committee. This committee consists of a few people including senators which ensures effective communication. Each residence hall is supposed to have one but many do not. Hall Judicial Boards are another option for the rector when a resident is charged with a duLac violation. The rector can either deal with it himself or herself, can send the matter to a hall judicial board, or to the Office of Student Affairs.
- A lot of discretion is available for hall judicial boards: there is no set amount for some halls; it is totally arbitrary. It would be well advised, though, for senators and other hall leaders to sit on these boards as well as a diverse amount of residents.
- The purpose of this Judicial Board update is to recommend to the senators that this is very important to halls: judicial board and hall constitutions.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Nothing on the agenda

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Nothing on the agenda

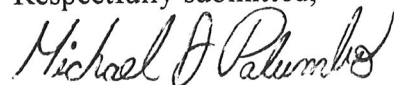
VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Old T-shirt Drive: Boxes should be showing up in halls soon, but if senators would make an all-hall message to the residents reminding them to bring old T-shirts back from home or elsewhere for this drive.

VII. ADJOURNMENTS

- The Student Senate adjourned at 6:50 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 1998. Its next meeting is Wednesday, October 28, 1998 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Palumbo
Student Union Secretary