

# Notre Dame Student Senate

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

04 November 1998

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

### I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Chaplain Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. The following senator was absent: Mickey Doyle (Off-Campus).
- D. The Executive Summary from 28 October 1998 was unanimously approved.

### II. REPORTS

#### A. Officer Reports

##### 1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro

- Academic Pride Week Events: Tuesday, November 03, 1998—College of Arts and Letters; Wednesday, November 04, 1998—College of Business Administration; Thursday, November 05, 1998—First Year of Studies; Friday, November 06, 1998—Colleges of Engineering and Science and School of Architecture. Peter encouraged all to attend this event and to talk with the deans about other faculty, the tenure system, etc.
- Project Warmth is in process around campus. All types of coats are needed; those collected will be sent to an Indian reservation in North Dakota. Coat boxes have been provided to each residence hall. By giving a coat, a student can earn a gift certificate at the Notre Dame Bookstore off of Gear apparel. This event lasts until December 4, 1998.

##### 2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak

- Prejudice Reduction Workshop (PRW) occurs on Sunday, November 08, 1998 lasting from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Center for Social Concerns. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please let Andrea know if you cannot attend the PRW for your Student Account will be charged \$7.00.
- The Graduate Student Union is working on many of the same issues that Student Senate is: Non-Discrimination Clause, computers, Career and Placement Services. Andrea invited senators to utilize this organization as another resource in their investigative work.
- Vice-President Selak asked the Student Senate for any suggestions or comments about the squid throwing at football games. She reported that at the past Executive Cabinet meeting (November 02, 1998), suggestions were discussed like writing a letter in *The Observer* that would ask fellow students to respect the Notre Dame Marching Band's halftime performance. Senators expressed concern over this issue. This issue was sent to the Residence Life Committee.

##### 3. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo

- Please turn in Student Senate Dogbook Surveys by next meeting, Wednesday, November 11, 1998.

#### B. Committee Reports

##### 1. Non-Discrimination Clause (Senator Pat Foy, Chairman)

- Chairman Foy reported that his committee met a week ago Thursday, identifying the individuals whom the committee would like to receive information on this issue.

2. Academic Affairs (Senators Ryan Costantini and Drew Olejnik, Co-Chairmen)
  - Co-Chairman Costantini reported that nothing was on the agenda from Academic Affairs this week.
  - Senator Costantini asked the current Administration for their appointee to work with the committee in an investigation into the need for an educational program for students to prepare them for handling their own finances after graduation. President Cesaro and Vice-President Selak said the name would be given to the Co-Chairmen after the meeting.
3. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)
  - Chairman Linster reported his contact with several clothing manufacturers regarding the Student Senate T-shirt. He announced an e-mail from him would be sent to all senators and officers about the price of this T-shirt.
4. Gender Relations (Senator Sophie Fortin, Chairwoman)
  - Chairwoman Fortin reported that at her committee's meeting yesterday, the issue of Detex was discussed. She announced the committee's intention to have a debatable resolution on the Senate floor for the meeting on November 18, 1998.
  - Chairwoman Fortin spoke of her committee's attempt to discuss the Women's Resource Center at the committee meeting, but due to the fact that the officers did not attend the meeting, they could not.
  - The Gender Relations Committee decided that Gender Relations Week was more an issue for Office of the President since this event would involve programming.
5. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Stephany Foster, Chairwoman)
  - Chairwoman Foster reported that her committee met yesterday in which they discussed the return of Mr. Kevin Huie—Assistant Director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs—to the Student Senate next week. With his return to the Senate, Chairwoman Foster hoped the Multicultural Center Proposal would also reappear on the agenda for discussion
6. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)
  - Residence Life Committee Vice-Chairwoman Jill Esenwein distributed minutes from the meeting with Mr. Kirk, Mr. Smith, Mr. Kachmarik, and Mr. Shumaker, which took place on October 29, 1998.
  - Vice-Chairwoman Esenwein announced that Senator Susan Roberts had delivered her Report on the Bookstore to the entire committee. The report learned that about two weeks ago when the deadline for turning professors' book orders in for the Spring 1999 semester only 33% of the orders were placed.
  - Vice-Chairwoman Esenwein announced that the committee is preparing a Parietal Survey for the Notre Dame student body. Senator Roberts has met with a Statistics professor to ensure that the survey questions are fair, impartial, and achieve the purposes of this survey.
  - Vice-Chairwoman Esenwein reported that the Residence Hall Inconsistency Subcommittee continues to meet and research issues.
  - The Residence Life Committee continues to work on Senator Costantini's resolution on illegal searches and seizure.
  - Vice-Chairwoman Esenwein stated that if any senator had any issues for the dining halls to please notify her. She announced her intentions to send a letter to another dining hall official which would state that Mr. Prentkowski, Director of Food Services, has not responded to the Student Senate's questions, and ask this official to respond to the provided question.

7. Oversight (Senator Brian O'Donoghue, Chairman)
  - Chairman O'Donoghue reported his committee's continuance of its internal review of Student Union organizations as well as review of organizations' Transition Reports. Student Senate's Oversight Committee has the responsibility of reviewing all Student Union organizations to locate faults and to ensure the organization's functionality and ethical behavior
  - Chairman O'Donoghue announced that his committee would meet on Friday, November 06, 1998 at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Government Office.

### III. PODIUM

- A. Student Senator Andrew Olejnik: Dining Hall Information
  - Senator Olejnik asked for two senators a week to sit in the dining hall for approximately thirty minutes to encourage student suggestions and comments about the dining hall.
  - Senator Olejnik passed around a sign-up sheet for fellow senators to place their name under a specific date and time. He hoped for this project to be functional for either next week (November 8<sup>th</sup>) or the following week (November 15<sup>th</sup>).
- B. Career and Placement Update: Parliamentarian Mark Higgins
  - Parliamentarian Higgins reported that Dr. Kitchner, Acting Director of Career and Placement, wishes to establish a standing committee with students to discuss the direction of Career and Placement. Dr. Kitchner would serve on this committee *ex officio*.
  - Parliamentarian Higgins also reported that Dr. Kitchner would like to create a student advisory committee for Webpage software on the Career and Placement Web site.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Formal Approval of Nomination for Mr. Garrett Skiba as 1999 The Shirt Project Coordinator
  - Senator Dittmar motioned to consider the nomination of Mr. Garrett Skiba as the 1999 The Shirt Project Coordinator; Senator Costantini seconded the motion.
  - Senator Mamak objected to the process that was used to select this candidate not to the candidate himself. According to Senator Mamak, this process was not open to people outside the realm of Student Union. Yes, the Constitution is very vague on this issue, but Senator Mamak felt that all students should be given a opportunity to participate
  - Senator Mamak asked the Student Senate Oversight Committee to review all the nomination processes for Student Union organizations.
  - Mr. Michael Seeley, a Keenan Hall junior, expressed discontent with the selection process that nominated the 1999 The Shirt Project Coordinator. He questioned the mix messages from Student Union Treasurer T.J. Wolfe regarding contact people and promises to senators that he could have the job since no one else was interested in. Mr. Seeley believed that the process used to select Mr. Skiba was not done proper.
  - Student Union Treasurer Wolfe agreed that there were a lot of problems with the process. He relied on the 1998 The Shirt Project Coordinator John Maus, because of his expertise in this area, to bring Mr. Wolfe a qualified and acceptable nominee. Treasurer Wolfe believed that the nomination was acceptable since Mr. Skiba has semesters of experience.
  - Both senators on the Financial Management Board concurred with the nomination of Mr. Skiba; other senators felt that there was no benchmark to compare Mr. Seeley to Mr. Skiba.
  - Mr. Nathaniel Hickey, a friend of Mr. Seeley hoped that this process would become more of a campus wide project, not just a sectional project due to the fact the Mr. Skiba live a few door down from Mr. Maus.

- Senator Stefko suggested tabling the nomination until we can determine who is the best person for the 1999 The Shirt Project Coordinator.
- Treasurer Wolfe felt that deadlines would be pushed back possibly too long if the Student Senate waited for two more weeks to approve the nomination.
- Senator Balchunas motioned to send the nomination back to the Financial Management Board to alleviate this “bitching and moaning.”
- Mr. Erwin Cena, a friend of Mr. Seeley, stated that The Shirt is as authentic an article of Notre Dame clothing as there is, but it made Mr. Cena sick to his stomach that this process was conducted under clandestine operations.
- Senator Gertken motioned to previous question; Senator Roberts seconds the nomination. The motion passed by a two-thirds majority.
- Voting was conducted, but Senator O’Donoghue motioned to appeal the result of the vote--14 to 7 to 0 in favor of approval--to the Chair and motioned for a roll call vote. Senator Mamak seconded the appeal. The motion passed by a majority of those present.
- The results of the roll call: 14 for approval, 9 for rejection, and 5 abstaining in the vote. Approval of the nomination for Mr. Garrett Skiba as 1999 The Shirt Project Coordinator is rejected. (See sheet attached)
- Parliamentarian Higgins rationale for his two-thirds decision was based on Article III, Section II, Number 2: “Orders constitute the execution of explicitly stated powers of the Senate. Orders must be passed by a two-thirds vote unless otherwise stated.”

## V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Formal Approval of the Class Treasurer as a member of the Financial Management Board
  - Student Union Treasurer Wolfe selected Vinod Kurian to represent the Class Treasurers on the Financial Management Board.
  - A vote on this nomination will occur at the Wednesday, November 11, 1998 meeting.
- B. Amendment S9899-34: Student Union Board Programming Board Composition Amendment
  - Senator Olejnik motioned to bring Amendment S9899-34 to the floor; Senator O’Donoghue seconded the motion.
  - Senator Olejnik currently oversees Student Union Board; Student Union Board Manager Ryan Stecz proposed these amendments.
  - Senator Linster motioned for unanimous consent of S9899-34; Senator Olejnik seconded the motion. The Student Senate unanimously ratified Amendment S9899-34.
- C. Amendment S9899-35: Time of Replacement Nominee for Student Union Board Executive Committee Amendment
  - Senator Olejnik motioned to bring Amendment S9899-35 to the floor; Senator Ernst seconded the motion.
  - Senator Mendoza motioned to table this amendment; a senator objected.
  - Senator Linster motioned to send this amendment back to committee; a senator seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a majority vote.
  - The rationale for sending this back to the Oversight Committee was that the amendment gave Student Union Board a special privilege—having three academic weeks to nominate a replacement instead of two weeks; Chairman O’Donoghue thought that this right should be extended to all Student Union organizations.
- D. Amendment S9899-36: Student Union Board Director of Creativity
  - Senator Olejnik motioned to bring Amendment S9899-36 to the floor; Senator O’Donoghue seconded the motion.

- Senator Olejnik motioned to approve the amendment by unanimous consent; Amendment S9899-36 was ratified by unanimous consent.

## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senator Olejnik proposed having senator sit at the dining hall suggestion table one day instead of two.
- President Cesaro encouraged senators to solicit student input about dining hall issues.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

- Senator Dittmar motioned to adjourn; Senator O'Donoghue seconded the motion.
- The Student Senate adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, 1998. Its next meeting is Wednesday, November 04, 1998 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Palumbo  
Student Union Secretary

