

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

11 November 1998

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- B. Chaplain Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. The following senators were absent: Karen Boselli (Walsh Hall), Russell Ernst (Alumni Hall), Susan Gloss (Pasquerilla Hall West), and Kevin Shannon (O'Neill Hall).
- D. The Executive Summary from 04 November 1998 was unanimously approved.

II. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro
 - Student Body President Cesaro reported that Academic Pride Week went well and thanked all of those present who helped spread the news to their residence halls. He announced next week's events with the Department of Government on November 17, 1998 and the Department of Finance on November 18, 1998—students are encouraged to ask their professor to lunch in the Hospitality Room of South Dining Hall from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 - President Cesaro reported that the Office of the President is working on a proposal to privatize SafeRide, paying the Club Coordination Council \$50.00 a night to provide a driver and a navigator for Thursday (10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.), Friday (10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.), and Saturday nights (10:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.).
2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak
 - The Library Renovations Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 17, 1998 at 12:30 p.m. and at 5:00 p.m. in the Sorin Room of LaFortune. Everyone is encouraged to sign up. Interested residence hall students
3. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo
 - Nothing to report.

B. Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs (Senator Ryan Costantini and Senator Drew Olejnik, Co-Chairmen)
 - Senator Costantini reported that the Academic Affairs Committee had Letter S9899-37 on the Agenda asking Program Directors and Deans of Colleges to record lectures either on audio or videotape.
 - Senator Costantini asked if Peter or Andrea had talked to Mark Massoud or Matt Tomko about the Follow-up Report for the Board of Trustees; Andrea responded that Mark and Matt was working with Dr. John Duffy, Assistant Professional Specialist of First Year Composition and Literature, who has already composed a three-part proposal for the Writing Center.
 - Kathleen McCann will be working on the Financial Order for the Office of the President.
 - Senator Olejnik reported that he talked to dining hall officials and received permission for Tuesday, November 17, 1998, so he and other interested senators could pass out Dining Hall Comment Cards or receive general concerns that students have.

2. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)
 - Student Senate T-shirts will be \$7.89. Senator Linster polled the Student Senate for those interested in buying one.
3. Gender Relations (Senator Sophie Fortin, Chairwoman)
 - Senator Fortin reported that Ms. Marnie Bowen from the Women's Resource Center talked to her committee. Information was discussed but nothing was resolved.
 - The Gender Relations Committee discussed the Detex issue, and Senator Fortin stated that a resolution would be on the floor before Thanksgiving.
 - Senator Fortin announced on Monday, November 16, 1998, Ms. Katie Koestner would be speaking in 119 O'Shaughnessy Hall on her experience with sexual assault. Her presentation is directed towards student leaders. If anyone is interested, please call Dean Ava Preacher or e-mail her at preacher.1@nd.edu.
4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Stephany Foster, Chairwoman)
 - Senator Foster reported that the Multicultural Affairs Committee has a new project, to host a forum of multicultural groups on campus to discuss issues and the proposal for the new Multicultural Resource Center. The announced date for this event is Thursday, January 21, 1999. She is encouraging senators, hall presidents, and hall multicultural commissioners as well as friends to attend.
 - Senator Foster announced that in the next couple of weeks a resolution might be presented asking for the Student Senate's support of the Forum.
5. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)
 - Senator Mamak announced that Judicial Council President Kelly Folks was soliciting nominations for Student Senate Parliamentarian. The deadline is Monday, November 16, 1998. Please give Ms. Folks a call or talk to her personally.
 - Senator Mamak read the letter from Professor O'Hara in response to the passed Campus Life Council Resolution on Social Space, which was started in the Student Senate. He announced the Campus Life Council Community Life Committee will now look for temporary solutions around campus.
 - Senator Mamak read from the Residence Life Committee's letter to the Student Senate asking senators to return to their respective residence halls to appeal to their constituents for safety and rational behavior.
 - Vice-Chairwoman Jill Esenwein read from a response letter from Mr. Prentkowski, Director of Food Services; she announced the Committee's intention to write a letter to Mr. James Lyphout, Assistant Vice-President for Business Operations, since there still remain issues unresolved. Senators discussed possible solutions: making a sign as to where the lockers are.
 - Vice-Chairwoman Esenwein read from a letter to Mr. William Yarbrough, Assistant Director of Food Services, who complained about the excessive food waste for students. She encouraged senators to return to their residence halls to spread the message about food waste.
 - Senator Mamak asked all senators to respond to Senator Ogorzalek's e-mail concerning North Dining Hall.
6. Oversight (Senator Brian O'Donoghue, Chairman)
 - Senator Olejnik reported that the Student Union Board Amendment was discussed with Ryan Stecz, Board Manager, but the issue was not resolved in committee.
7. Non-Discrimination Clause (Senator Pat Foy, Chairman)
 - Presentation at Podium.

III. PODIUM

- A. Assistant to the Vice-President for Student Affairs: Rev. Randall Rentner, C.S.C.
- Fr. Rentner, a former student at Notre Dame, lives currently at Moreau Seminary and works in the Office of Student Affairs part-time.
 - He expressed his excitement with the way Student Senate responded to the issues at hand: the Student Union Budget, the behavior at football games, etc.
 - He looked forward to working with students in the future to solve more problems.
- B. Non-Discrimination Clause Committee Report: Non-Discrimination Clause Committee Chairman Pat Foy
- Senator Foy stated the purposes of the Non-Discrimination Clause: to review the implications of adding the Clause into the University's legally binding clause; to review the Student Senate's Resolution, which urged the Academic Council to expand the University's clause to include sexual orientation.
 - The committee talked to theologians and lawyers about the possible ramifications of this addition; at the center of this debate is how can Notre Dame provide freedom and legal protection while preserving the Catholic heritage and teaching.
 - Senator Foy stated that at no time had the Student Senate requested a change that would jeopardize the Church's teaching on homosexuality or infringe upon Notre Dame's right to practice its Catholicism.
 - The committee found at least six American, Catholic universities protected its students against discrimination in a legally binding manner: St. Louis University, Georgetown University, Catholic University, University of Seattle, ~~San Diego University~~, etc. What the committee found in these universities was that some universities placed the non-discrimination clause directly into their legal clauses, while some other universities circumvented the issue but still found ways to protect their students in a legally binding way from discrimination.
 - A lawyer that the committee spoke to said there were ways to construct the clause that would protect its students and faculty as well as protect the University of Notre Dame from lawsuits.
 - The Non-Discrimination Clause Committee stands behind the addition of sexual orientation to the Non-Discrimination Clause. Also, they hope that the Academic Council will find a way to incorporate sexual orientation into the clause.
 - Senator O'Donoghue commended the entire Non-Discrimination Clause Committee for its hard work and dedication to this issue.
 - The Non-Discrimination Clause Committee planned to meet until after the vote by the Academic Council on Tuesday, November 17, 1998.
- C. Ethical Behavior in the Student Senate: Ethics Committee Chairman Jason Linster
- Senator Linster discussed professionalism in the Student Senate. He apologized for his immature behavior, but he recognized that others were also involved in this behavior.
 - Senator Linster stated that swearing has no place in Senate floor debate. Senators need to respect other opinions and listen to them. Yes, senators are allowed to disagree but they should show their own colleagues the respect they deserve.
 - Senator Linster felt that senators should protect other members of the Student Union. He referenced back to the 04 November 1998 meeting and The Shirt Project Coordinator debate when Mr. Michael Seeley berated Student Union Treasurer.
 - Senator Linster warned how unethical it was to have senators walk out during a vote to prevent quorum. Quorum is essential for any democratic body to consider resolutions, amendments, letters, etc.

- Senator Linster urged the Chair and the Parliamentarian to control the pace of debate and the pace of votes. This is important because at different times, fellow members do not understand what they are voting on or for.
- Senator Linster spoke of the attendance problem both at weekly Senate meetings and committee meetings. Attendance is required by the Constitution, last year's Student Senate had a standing rule that three absences were excusable at the weekly meetings. He suggested returning to this rule for this year. If committee members fail to attend three committee meetings, they face possible expulsion from that committee. And since all senators must serve on at least two committees, that senator could face possible expulsion from the Student Senate.
- Senator Linster urged his fellow colleagues to follow-up on their bills, check the progress after this body passes them.

D. Career and Placement Committee Report: Mr. Mark Higgins

- Parliamentarian Higgins reported that he met with Dr. Kitchner to discuss this Career and Placement Committee. The title of this committee would be the Post-Graduate Affairs Advisory Committee. The committee would deal primarily with Career and Placement issues, but the committee could be broader than even that.
- The committee would be formed via a constitutional amendment to ensure that future administrations would be respectful of this idea.
- This committee will consist of senators as well as non-senators, who would be afforded the full right and privileges of voting in this committee.
- Parliamentarian Higgins reported that the Director of Career and Placement would serve as an *ex officio* member of this committee. This power enables the Director to also have full powers to recruit non-senators.
- Fr. Rentner suggested changing the name from Post-Graduate Affairs Advisory Committee to Post-Baccalaureate Affairs Advisory Committee.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Letter S9899-37: Letter to Directors for the Recording of Lectures

- Senator Olejnik motioned to bring Letter S9899-37 to the floor; Senator Fortin seconded the motion.
- Senator Olejnik felt that the purpose of this letter was to tape record lecturer since many classed are in session while lectures are going on at 4:15 p.m.
- Senator Olejnik thought it a great idea to have these tapes available at the Audio/Video Room in Hesburgh Library.
- Mr. Cassidy addressed the limitations of speakers, who in their contract specify that they do not wish their material to be recorded in anyway, in order for them to speak freely. He suggested inserting a clause that asked the directors to adhere to this policy so long as the speaker is not opposed to it.
- Senator Linster offered a friendly amendment to Letter S9899-37: In line 10 of the letter replace "she has" with "students have." Senator O'Donoghue seconded the motion. Senator Olejnik objected to this friendly amendment.
- Senator Gertken offered an amendment to the friendly amendment to Letter S9899-37: In line 10 of the letter replace "she has" with "of." Senator Linster seconded the motion. No senator objected to this amendment to the friendly amendment.
- The friendly amendment was passed unanimously.

- Senator Herlihy offered a friendly amendment to Letter S9899-37: In line 12 of the letter inserting after “by the institute” the following phrase “(providing that the lecturer is not opposed to such action).” Senator Mamak seconded the motion. No senator objected to the friendly amendment.
 - Senator Mamak offered a friendly amendment to Letter S9899-37: In line 14 of the letter replace “in be” with “be in”. Senator Fortin seconded the motion. No senator objected to the friendly amendment.
 - Senator Linster motioned for previous question; Senator Roberts seconded the motion. There were no objections to previous question.
 - Letter S9899-37 was passed with a margin of 24-0-0.
- B. Letter of Nomination for Mr. Garrett Skiba as 1999 The Shirt Project Coordinator
- Senator Gertken motioned to bring the Letter of Nomination to the floor; Senator O’Donoghue seconded the motion.
 - Senator Dittmar mentioned that he called both Mr. Garrett Skiba and Mr. Michael Seeley to appear before the Student Senate, but they were unable to attend. He stated that he would try to have them appear for next week.
 - Chairwoman Selak talked to Mr. John Maus, telling him that the nomination would have to wait a week, and for Mr. Skiba to appear at next week’s meeting.
 - Senator O’Donoghue asked if it was necessary for the Student Senate to appoint a temporary Coordinator; Senator Gertken responded that Mr. Maus was still working on The Shirt and that Mr. Skiba was on his committee working with him.
 - Senator O’Donoghue motioned for the Student Senate to dissolve into the Committee of the Whole; Senator Gertken seconded the motion. In the Committee of the Whole, a vote was taken.
 - Senator O’Donoghue motioned to dissolve the Committee of the Whole and reassume business under consideration of the Student Senate.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Formal Approval of Junior Class Treasurer Vinod Kurian as Representative of Class Treasurers on the Financial Management Board
- Senator O’Donoghue motioned to bring the Letter of Nomination to the floor; Senator Roberts seconded the motion.
 - Senator O’Donoghue motioned to approval Mr. Kurian by unanimous consent; Senator Roberts seconded the motion. Senator Mamak was opposed to this motion.
 - Senator O’Donoghue called for previous question; Senator Roberts seconded the motion. There were no objections to this motion.
 - The Student Senate formally approved Junior Class Treasurer Vinod Kurian as the representative of Class Treasurers on the Financial Management Board with twenty-three senators voting in the affirmative.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senator Fortin announced that Katie Koestner’s presentation entitled *What is the Crime of Silence?* would take place on Monday, November 16, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hesburgh Library Auditorium. The workshop at 4:30 p.m. in 119 O’Shaughnessy Hall is primarily for student leaders. Both of these presentations are not for women only.
- Senator Esenwein announced Hurricane Mitch Relief sites for student donations. It is really important to donate items such.
- Senator Gertken announced that Senator Bill Bradley would talk on 88.5 FM at 5:30 p.m.

- Senator Olejnik asked senators who are interested to sign up for dining hall shifts on Tuesday, November 17, 1998 to see him after the meeting.
- Senator O'Donoghue announced that the Oversight Committee would meet at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 1998 in the Student Government Office.
- President Cesaro announced next week's events with the Department of Government on November 17, 1998 and the Department of Finance on November 18, 1998—students are encouraged to ask their professor to lunch in the Hospitality Room of South Dining Hall from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Senator Linster announced that the Ethics Committee would meet next Tuesday, November 17, 1998. He will send out an e-mail to all committee members informing them of the time and location.
- Senator Costantini announced that the Academic Affairs Committee would meet either at 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.
- Parliamentarian Higgins asked for all those interested senators to meet with him after the meeting for the Post-Baccalaureate Affairs Advisory Committee.

VIII. ADJOURNEMENT

- The Student Senate adjourned at 7:27 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 1998. Its next meeting is Wednesday, November 18, 1998 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Palumbo
Student Union Secretary