

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

18 November 1998

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Letter from Chairwoman Selak: "Due to my attendance of the Fiftieth Annual Student Conference on United States Affairs, sponsored by West Point Military Academy from Wednesday, November 18, 1998 until Saturday, November 21, 1998, I appoint Jason Linster, the Dillon Hall Senator and Ethics Committee Chairperson, as the temporary Chairperson of the Student Senate meeting held on Wednesday, November 18. Please approve Senator Linster as the temporary Chairperson. Thank you. Sincerely, Andrea M. Selak, University of Notre Dame Student Body Vice President/Chairperson of Student Senate."
- C. Student Senators unanimously approve Senator Jason Linster (Dillon Hall) as Acting Chairman of the Student Senate.
- D. Chaplain Philip Donner led the invocation.
- E. All senators were present.
- F. The Executive Summary from 11 November 1998 was approved with correction: "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, etc."

II. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro
 - Student Body President Cesaro reported that yesterday—November 17, 1998—the Office of the President sponsored a Department of Government lunch meeting with professors for Academic Pride Week; today, November 18, 1998, the Department of Finance was present in the Hospitality Room of South Dining Hall. These department lunches are attempts to improve relations between students and faculty.
 - Project Warmth remains 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.
 - President Cesaro reported that the Office of the President privatized 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.).
 - *DuLac* Revisions Taskforce will meet after the Student Senate meeting to establish a taskforce for working on this major project. Anyone who is interested can serve on this project.
 - President Cesaro reported on the function of Executive Cabinet: to coordinate all of Student Union's activities through Student Happening Page in *The Observer*; also, utilize Student Union organizations' leaders to take stands on tough issues (animal throwing). Mr. Cesaro believed Executive Cabinet has served as a clearinghouse for information and

ideas—a way for groups to co-sponsor different events (Ethics and Value in Government, co-sponsored by Office of the President and Student Union Board).

2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak
 - Nothing to report.
3. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo
 - Student Senate meeting on Monday, November 23, 1998 at 8:00 p.m. at a location to be announced later.

B. Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs (Senator Ryan Costantini and Senator Drew Olejnik, Co-Chairmen)
 - Senator Olejnik reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met with Mr. Mark Massoud, Co-Coordinator of Student Report to Board of Trustees, at its meeting on November 15, 1998. Letter S9899-40 on the agenda resulted from this meeting.
 - The Academic Affairs Committee will be researching the cost of tutoring services due to the interest shown by the Board of Trustees in this area.
 - On Sunday, November 22, 1998, the Academic Affairs Committee will meet and review all that has been done by this committee thus far, while subsequently planning goals for the remainder of the term.
 - Senator Costantini reported that the Erasmus Institute responded very favorably to the letter they received from the Student Senate, starting on November 18, 1998 to tape-record or video-record a lecture.
2. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)
 - Senator Linster reported that he would turn in all necessary forms to the Office of Student Activities for the Student Senate T-shirt by the end of the week (November 20, 1998).
 - The Ethics Committee met November 17, 1998 to discuss a few issues. If anything warrants telling the entire Student Senate, the committee will do so at the appropriate time.
3. Gender Relations (Senator Sophie Fortin, Chairwoman)
 - Senator Fortin reported that the Gender Relations Committee had a meeting on November 17, 1998 to discuss the Detex issue, Resolution S9899-39.
 - The Gender Relations Committee discussed its role in the parietal initiative.
4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Stephany Foster, Chairwoman)
 - Senator Foster reported that the Multicultural Affairs Committee met November 17, 1998 to continue its work on Celebration of Cultures Forum, which will be held on January 21, 1999 in the LaFortune Student Center Ballroom. Presently, the committee has an opening and a closing speaker for the event. Now, the committee is focusing on creating the panel of speakers. She encouraged all to attend as well as the halls' multicultural commissioners.
5. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)
 - Senator Mamak reported that the Residence Life Committee would have a letter for Monday, November 23, 1998's meeting addressed to Mr. James Lyphout regarding the review of the Backpack Policy in South Dining Hall.
 - Senator Jill Esenwein reported that the Residence Life Committee was going to send a letter to Mr. Yarbrough recommending that South Dining Hall place signs above the lockers and walk areas to encourage students to utilize the lockers for their backpacks.
 - With regards to the food waste, Senator Esenwein reported that the Residence Life Committee would recommend placing table cards on the dining hall tables to encourage student to eat their food and to realize the wastefulness of food.

- Senator Mamak reported Resolution S9899-38 on the agenda, a resolution supporting the reinstatement of hall judicial boards. Senator Elizabeth Rompf drafted the resolution with the support of Judicial Council President Kelly Folks.
 - Senator Rompf stated that at least half of the residence halls on campus do not have a standing hall judicial board. The purpose of the Hall Judicial Board Reinstatement Committee is to encourage all halls to write a hall constitution and have a hall judicial board. Thus, most violations could stay within the halls and the Office of Student Affairs will not be bogged down with minor infractions.
 - Senator Mamak announced a change that was approved at the Residence Life Committee meeting but not on the current resolution in the Student Senate packet: On Resolution S9899-38, the seventh Whereas Clause, “WHEREAS the Hall Judicial Board Reinstatement Committee was formed this year to *foster the institution of Hall Judicial Boards through the review, revision, and if necessary, establishment of Hall Constitutions;*”
 - Senate Rompf announced a change that was approved at the Residence Life Committee meeting but not on the current resolution in the Student Senate packet: On Resolution S9899-38, the fourth Whereas Clause, “*WHEREAS many Hall Judicial Boards remain inactive or are minimally used; and,*”
6. Oversight (Senator Brian O’Donoghue, Chairman)
 - Senator O’Donoghue reported that the Oversight Committee met on November 12, 1998 but concluded absolutely nothing. The committee is continuing its review of Amendment S9899-35: Time of Replacement Nominee for Student Union Board Executive Committee Amendment as well as internal review of Student Union organizations.
 7. Non-Discrimination Clause (Senator Pat Foy, Chairman)
 - Senator Foy reported that the Academic Council voted in favor of approving the Non-Discrimination Clause.

III. PODIUM

A. Announcement of Senatorial Resignation: Senator Jill Esenwein

- Senator Esenwein announced her resignation from the Student Senate effective Wednesday, January 13, 1999 due to her enrollment in the University of Notre Dame’s London Program.
- McGlenn Hall held elections on Wednesday, November 18, 1998 for a student senator. Senator Esenwein reported that her replacement would attend the December 02, 1998 meeting and December 09, 1998 meeting.
- Senator Esenwein thanked all senators for a great time and a wonderful experience.
- Senator Mamak announced that the Residence Life Committee would find a new Vice-Chairperson sometime in the future.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Formal Approval of Mr. Garrett Skiba as 1998-1999 The Shirt Project Coordinator

- Senator O’Donoghue motioned to bring the nomination to the Senate floor; Senator Olejnik seconded the motion.
- Senator O’Donoghue called for previous question if there were no objections by any senator. There were no objections made by any senator.
- Mr. Garrett Skiba was formally approved as 1998-1999 The Shirt Project Coordinator by the Student Senate with a vote of 28-0-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution S9899-38: Resolution Supporting the Reinstatement of Hall Judicial Boards

- Senator Rompf motioned to bring Resolution S9899-38 to the Senate floor; Senator McCall seconded the motion.
- Senator Rompf stated that Resolution S9899-38 has the support of the Judicial Council President as well as the Office of Residence Life in Student Affairs. Ms. Lori Maurer, Assistant Director of Residence Life, has helped the Hall Judicial Board Reinstatement Committee to setup workshops for hall judicial boards.
- Senator Mamak proposed a friendly amendment to Resolution S9899-38: In the last Therefore Statement, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate encourages each rector and Hall Council to *review, revise, and if necessary establish a Hall Constitution* by the end of the 1998 Fall Semester, and establish a viable Judicial Board during the 1999 Spring Semester." Senator Olejnik seconded the friendly amendment. There were no objections to the friendly amendment thus it was approved.
- Resolution S9899-38 serves as guidelines for a hall judicial board, but to have one in the first place, a residence hall must have a hall constitution. There are example hall constitutions that individual halls can use when drawing their particular one up for ratification.
- All residence halls are encouraged to have a hall judicial board, according to the Office of Residence Life. There are no penalties for a residence hall not having a hall judicial board.
- Senator Roberts called for previous question if there were no objections by any senator; Senator Foy seconded the motion. There were no objections made by any senator.
- The Student Senate passed Resolution S9899-38 by a vote of 25-2.

B. Resolution S9899-39: Resolution Supporting the Upgrading of the Residence Halls' Detex System

- Senator Shannon motioned to bring Resolution S9899-39 to the Senate floor; Senator McCall seconded the motion.
- Senator Rompf reported that the Gender Relations Committee was motivated primarily by the many inconsistencies of the individual residence halls' Detex system—hours, who has keys, who gets in, etc.
- Senator Rompf stated that she spoke with the Student ID Detex System as to what technology was available and to Mr. William Kirk, as to what the University's future plans were. The future plan of the University is for all students to gain access into residence halls by their Student Identification Card.
- During non-parietal hours, both males and females could enter all residence halls using their Student ID Cards. Thus, the Student Senate asks the Administration to institute this plan immediately by changing the Student ID access system to one that would allow students access to all residence halls that currently use Student ID access systems.
- According to Mr. Kirk, it would take at least six years before all of residence halls could have the Student ID System. Additional time would be required for all halls to have a dual access system, which adds up to approximately ten years before these systems would be operational.
- Only students would be allowed access to these residence halls thus perhaps students would be more wary of allowing visitors into the halls. This change in security systems would improve gender relations around campus.
- Senator Ernst offered a friendly amendment to Resolution S9899-39 [BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate asks the Administration to continue to institute this policy as the Student ID access system is implemented in the remainder of the residence halls.]; Senator Ogorzalek seconded the friendly amendment. Senator Rompf accepted the friendly amendment.

- Senator Shannon called for previous question if there were no objections by any senator. There were no objections made by any senator.
 - The Student Senate approved Resolution S9899-39 by a vote of 27 to 0.
- C. Letter S9899-40: Letter Encouraging Professors to Allow Students to Submit Drafts of Papers
- Senator Olejnik motioned to bring Letter S9899-40 to the Senate floor; Senator Roberts seconded the motion.
 - Senator Olejnik reported that this letter arose from conversations with Mr. Massoud and from the Student Report to the Board of Trustees (page 20-21, Student Government Proposal #3).
 - This letter would be sent, if passed, to the deans of the colleges/schools (Architecture, Arts and Letters, Business Administration, Engineering, First Year of Studies, and Science), chairpersons of departments, and Faculty Senate. Senator Olejnik recommended that this Letter be sent back to Academic Affairs Committee for further review.
 - The point of this letter is to teach students how to write better dispelling much of the criticism that Notre Dame students cannot write well.
 - Senator Shannon motioned to send Letter S9899-40 back to the Academic Affairs Committee; Senator Mamak seconded the motion. There were no objections.
 - Letter S9899-40 was sent back to the Academic Affairs Committee.


VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- After the Student Senate meeting, Multicultural Affairs Committee and Non-Discrimination Clause Committee would like to meet briefly.
- Oversight Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 1998 at 5:00 p.m. in the Student Government Office.
- Birthdays: Deanette Weiss (Chief of Staff) celebrates her 22nd Birthday on Saturday, November 21, 1998; Matt Mamak (Keenan Hall) celebrates his 20th Birthday on Thursday, November 19, 1998.
- Senator Rompf announced her resignation from the Student Senate effective Wednesday, January 13, 1999 due to her enrollment in the Syracuse University's London Program. Howard Hall will hold their elections during the week of November 22nd for a student senator. Senator Rompf reported that her replacement would attend the December 02, 1998 meeting and December 09, 1998 meeting.
- Senator Balchunas asked all senators to ask their Hall's Service Committee Representative if they not have heard about the Class of 2000's Service Project with the Fireside Home. If not, please call Michelle at 634-3721.
- Senator Esenwein announced that the Hurricane Mitch Relief Project would occur on Saturday, November 21, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on South Quad.
- Senator Olejnik thanked all senators who helped with Dining Hall Comment Cards.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The Student Senate adjourned at 6:54 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 1998. Its next meeting will be Monday, November 23, 1998 in the Alumni-Senior Club at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Palumbo
Student Union Secretary

