

# Notre Dame Student Senate

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

09 December 1998

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

### I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting back into order at 7:02 p.m.
- B. Student Senate Chaplain Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. The following senators were present: Ms. Balchunas, Ms. Boselli, Mr. Costantini, Mr. Dittmar, Mr. Doyle, Mr. DuWors, Mr. Ernst, Ms. Esenwein, Ms. Fortin, Ms. Foster, Mr. Foy, Ms. Gertken, Ms. Gloss, Ms. Guziec, Ms. Herlihy, Mr. Linster, Mr. Mamak, Mr. McCall, Ms. Mendoza, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Ogorzalek, Mr. Olejnik, Mr. Penton, Ms. Roberts, Ms. Rompf, Mr. Shannon, Mr. Stefko, and Ms. Tomes.
- D. Ms. Selak, in light of the seriousness of this issue, invoked the two time speaking rule. Under Podium, each organization has four minutes to make a presentation. No questions will come during these presentations. Senators can only speak twice after these presentations, yet the Club Coordination Council, as the presenter of this bylaw, can speak unlimited times. Ms. Selak asked all senators to remember that are working for the students and to keep focused on the issues.
- E. Ms. Roberts offered a motion to suspend *Robert's Rules of Order*, in particular to the two time speaking rule; Ms. Gertken seconded the motion. The motion, however, failed since it did not require the necessary two-thirds majority (Article III, Section 3, Clause 9).

### II. REPORTS

#### A. Committee Reports

1. Oversight Committee (Mr. Brian O'Donoghue, Chairman)
  - Mr. O'Donoghue stated that the Oversight Committee is presenting S9899-48: Timeline for Elections Order, S9899-49: Defunct Club Funds Bylaw; and S9899-50: Club Coordination Council Allocation Bylaw Amendment. The committee, he maintained, is neutral in this process; it is only presenting these bills to follow Student Senate rules.
  - The Oversight Committee endorsed both S9899-48 and S9899-49. Per S9899-48, this order established the basic guidelines for the dates of elections. It matches the theory with the practice and was established with the concurrence of Student Union organization heads. Per S9899-49, all defunct clubs incurring a debt shall be financially undertaken by the Club Coordination Council.
  - The Oversight Committee compiled a list of pros and cons submitted from Executive Cabinet members concerning the CCC Allocation Proposal.
  - The clubs and organizations on campus are currently guaranteed \$198,000.

### III. PODIUM

#### A. Financial Management Board (Mr. T.J. Wolfe, Chairman)

- Regarding the CCC Proposal, Mr. Wolfe reported that the Financial Management Board could not reach a decision. When the issue came up on the agenda, the FMB voted 4 to 4; a tie occurred since one member was absent from the meeting.

#### B. Hall Presidents' Council (Mr. Tim FitzSimons and Ms. Julie Vodicka, Co-Chairpersons)

- Ms. Selak read from a letter written by Ms. Vodicka and Mr. FitzSimons, Hall Presidents' Council co-chairpersons.
- C. Off-Campus Council (Mr. Todd Church and Mr. Bret Hendrickson, Co-Presidents)
- Not in attendance.
- D. Class Councils
1. Freshmen Class (Mr. Ryan Becker, Class of 2002 President)
    - One of the goals of Executive Cabinet is to foster a sense of co-sponsorship amongst different Student Union organizations. Yet this issue has seriously divided up the Cabinet. Because these organizations do much of the programming around campus, these organizations need money. No one is ever funded enough; so to say that another organization would be happy with the CCC attaining more money from the FMB is not likely. Instead, each organization serves its own constituents and fights for its own needs. So, they feel that CCC should have to go through the FMB like all the other organizations and take their chances with their budget proposals. After all, clubs and organizations were awarded \$198,000 just last year.
    - A compromise plan was mentioned at \$213,000.
  2. Sophomore Class (Mr. Hunt Hanover, Class of 2001 President)
    - Speaking with Mr. Becker.
  3. Junior Class (Mr. Joseph Kippels, Class of 2000 President)
    - Not in attendance.
  4. Senior Class (Mr. Jim Farrell, Class of 1999 President)
    - Not in attendance.
- E. Student Union Board (Mr. Ryan Stecz, Board Manager)
- Over 5,000 students participate in one club or organization around campus. That equals roughly 75% of the undergraduate student body. Well that statistic counts the same students in one or more club. According to that logic then, Student Union Board equals around 95% of the undergraduate student body.
  - The CCC Allocation Proposal is very biased: The Marketing Club holds a symposium annually, but this year could not because they did not receive the funding from the CCC. This claim is bias because the Marketing Club received its money from the Marketing Department in the College of Business Administration.
  - Student Union Board is the primary programming body according to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body; their charge is to program, not the clubs.
- F. Judicial Council (Ms. Kelly Folks, President)
- The point of the argument is that CCC believes they should receive more money, but that is different from the issue that is being brought before the Student Senate tonight. The real argument is that CCC is unhappy and wants to constitutionally mandate the amount that they receive from the FMB. Ms. Folks believes that CCC should go through the very same process that all the other Student Union organizations must go through in April.
- G. Office of the President (Mr. Peter Cesaro, President)
- As we have seen this is a very personal issue amongst many of the Student Union organizations. It is important to remain focused on the issue before the Student Senate. In Executive Cabinet, the members held a mock vote, the result of which was 13 to 4 against the CCC Allocation Proposal.
  - The real issue is that CCC wants to know before they begin their budgeting process how much they have to deal with, not in April when all the other organizations find out because then it requires another step on CCC's part. This additional step is cutting the clubs and

organizations' personal budgets and then informing each club and organization of the amount received from the FMB.

#### H. Club Coordination Council (Mr. Ryan Harding, Coordinator)

- Ms. Katy Fallon stated that the CCC is composed of fifteen voting members who oversee the operations of nearly 225 clubs and organizations. Currently, clubs follow the standard procedure for requesting budget allocations involving the submission of a budget proposal in late April through the CCC. This process necessitates that the CCC alters its recommendations, often by at least \$100,000 during or immediately prior to final exams and at the end of the semester. This often includes re-interviewing club leaders to better assess the need, in addition to notifying each club president and advisor with a personalized letter detailing their allocation and any restriction.
- Mr. Richard Siefring believed that the clubs have a unique role on campus, but many of the smaller groups on campus cannot co-sponsor events because of out-of-pocket expenses. Thus, diversity on campus is not improved.
- Mr. Harding felt that this matter needed to be brought before the Student Senate at this time because of the registration process for clubs beginning in early January. He observed that many of students on campus prefer smaller-nitch clubs to the large ones because of the camaraderie.
- The Oversight Committee, on account of personal privilege, motioned for a five-minute recess.
- The Student Senate stood in recess at 7:45 p.m.
- The Student Senate reconvened at 7:50 p.m. to continue with its agenda.
- Parliamentarian Mark Higgins said thank you to the Student Senate for the opportunity to serve the body; the new Parliamentarian Stephen Sanchez assumed his seat and begins his functions as Parliamentarian of the Student Senate.
- Mr. Mamak motioned to suspend *Robert's Rules of Order*, in particular, the two time speaking rule; Ms. Gertken seconded the motion.
- Some senators voiced concerns that the two time speaking rule should be enforced if senators begin repeating what another senator or non-senator said. Other senators felt that they needed to ask questions to become more educated with this topic.
- The motion to rescind *Robert's Rules of Order*, in particular, the two time speaking rule was approved by a vote of 14 to 7.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Order S9899-48: Timeline for Elections Order

- Mr. O'Donoghue motioned to bring S9899-48 to the Student Senate floor; Ms. Gertken seconded the motion.
- Mr. O'Donoghue stated that this order was approved by two-thirds of Executive Cabinet members. This order would match what the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body currently calls for.
- Ms. Angela Anderson, speaking on behalf of the Experiment Learning Council, stated that her budget requests are accurate and do not inflate the true costs. She supported the leadership of CCC and the diversity and awareness that clubs and organizations provide on campus.
- Mr. Cassidy interjected this thought: if elections are held before or around February 18<sup>th</sup>, then student lose a longer transition period, but also have a difficult decision to make Hall Resident Assistant.

- It is the University of Notre Dame's policy to not allow campaigning during Junior Parents' Weekend.
  - The Student Senate with a vote of 27 to 0 approved Order S9899-48.
- B. Bylaw S9899-49: Defunct Club Funds Bylaw
- Mr. Olejnik motioned to bring S9899-49 to the Student Senate floor; Ms. Gertken seconded the motion.
  - Ms. Cassidy offered a friendly amendment to Bylaw S9899-49: After the words "...Club Coordination Council" please insert "*and should a defunct club run a deficit, that expense shall be incurred by the Club Coordination Council.*" Mr. Olejnik and Ms. Gertken accepted the friendly amendment.
  - The Student Senate with a vote of 27 to 0 approved Bylaw S9899-49.
- C. Bylaw Amendment S9899-50: Club Coordination Council Allocation Bylaw Amendment
- Ms. Esenwein motioned to bring Bylaw Amendment S9899-50 to the Student Senate floor; Mr. Olejnik seconded the motion.
  - The quote by Ms. Laura Antkowiak in which the College Republicans cannot pay for the telephone bill is due in part because the club only received \$100 from CCC. Mr. Harding stated that this is an old policy, a rule that as been around for a long time and one that needs modifications.
  - Mr. Olejnik stated the fundamental question for this debate: Should the CCC be guaranteed more money? \$198,000, the amount currently guaranteed to them, approximates to 34% of the Student Union allocations. Professor O'Hara, Vice President for Student Affairs, created this policy.
  - CCC arrived at 39% by taking what was used this year, roughly \$223,000 and grossed that amount up with growth percentages.
  - Mr. Costantini opposed this allocation proposal since the CCC is already guaranteed \$198,000 and could plan with that amount. Any additional money that the CCC received from the FMB could be dispersed as appropriate to clubs and organizations. Yes, the need to plan ahead is a good reason, but they already have a ballpark number to plan with for the upcoming year. Furthermore, many of the clubs and organizations request huge sums of money, most of which those clubs know they will not receive. This then is a reflection of how much a club is allocated—the percentage, which is essentially Mr. Harding's point, that clubs and organizations do not receive enough money for programming.
  - Mr. Michael Fierro, Vice President of La Alianza, stated that La Alianza raised \$60,000 last year. It is the only group on campus of Hispanic dissent. For a group that wants to educate and raise awareness of the Hispanic culture, that is how much money it takes.
  - Mr. Ryan Stecz stated that last year CCC received \$17,000 for capital improvements of the Club Resource Center, while the clubs and organizations received \$198,000. The CCC assured the FMB that the \$17,000 figure was a one-time expenditure for capital improvements. They are coming up with their figure of \$223,000 based on a one-time figure, not a growth rate.
  - Ms. Gertken objected to that comment since it was never recorded in the Financial Management Board minutes. It is just an opinion, what Mr. Stecz stated, that was not how other members of the FMB perceived it.
  - Mr. Linster supported this CCC proposal because the smaller events are meant to include the entire campus and with these smaller groups there is a real bonding. Communities are built when people can interact on a small scale; when 500 people gather at Stonehenge, there is no real interaction.

- Ms. Davis stated that the ethnic groups probably do the most programming on campus. There is no event that brings the entire campus together. Ms. Davis felt that the ethnic groups have to incur a lot of their costs personally. All are welcome at these ethnic events. To program it costs a lot of money. It would be very helpful to plan ahead of time. It would benefit her as a student because the budget process occurs around final exams week, which is busy enough.
- Mr. Mamak agreed with Mr. Costantini that all people inflate their budgets. It is a matter of what Student Senate considers priorities, either between Student Union Board or Club Coordination Council. It seemed to him that SUB received the highest percentage of what they asked for, 80.6%. Hall Presidents' Council received 72%. Last year clubs requested \$420,000, and the CCC asked for \$251,000; the clubs were granted \$198,000. The percentage granted was 47%, a number that historically is about right for what they typically receive. Another point, at the FMB allocation meeting there is no mention of a one-time expense for the CCC regarding the Club Resource Center.
- Mr. O'Donoghue presented an amendment to Bylaw S9899-50 to lower the percentage from 39% to 36.75%, which has received the endorsement of the Office of the Treasurer, the Sophomore Class Council, Freshmen Class Council, Hall Presidents' Council, and the Club Coordination Council.
- Mr. Harding felt that 39% is really the amount that CCC needs to meet its requirements, but they are looking out for the benefits of the clubs and organizations.
- Mr. O'Donoghue stated that seven out of twelve representative bodies have supported this amendment. The logic behind this number is \$213,000---this compromise allows the three parties involved CCC (proponents of this proposal), other Executive Cabinet members (opponents of this proposal), and the Student Senate (mediators in this issue) to walk away happy.
- Mr. Mamak formally seconded the amendment.
- Ms. Gertken opposed the amendment. She felt that this was not the right time for this amount. It is not the right time to pick and choose numbers. We need to discuss the CCC Proposal of \$213,000.
- Ms. Roberts believed that \$225,000 was more appropriate than \$213,000 at this time because the \$213,000 was not an increase from what the CCC has asked for in the past, it was just what the CCC asked for last year. Because of that, she did not believe that it was Student Senate's duty to tell the student body they should support smaller or larger groups or organizations. Instead, Senate should be reactionary to student needs. \$213,000 was not an increase; Senate would not be taking an action that the FMB would have taken this April.
- Mr. Linster spoke against the amendment. The University of Notre Dame is a catholic university and has a calling to reach out to our fellow students, especially for student service-oriented clubs and organizations.
- Ms. Fallon spoke on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. She did not feel that the club inflated their budgetary needs. The costs for last year amounted to \$40,000, but the club only received \$8,500.
- Mr. O'Donoghue related the news that Student Union Board just agreed to the O'Donoghue Amendment. Seven out of the twelve Executive Cabinet groups support this amendment, let Student Senate not stand in the way of this.
- Mr. Stecz responded to Ms. Roberts comment. Students are not walking away from SUB events. They might be joining more clubs, yes, but they are not staying away from SUB events around campus. Concerts are sold out, video dances as well. Students are doing both things. The decision should be left up to FMB, who decides all of the budget issues.

- Ms. Esenwein thought that Student Senate should take care of this issue because they are a neutral party in this matter. Senators represent club presidents as well as hall presidents.
- Mr. Wolfe believed that this compromise, which he supports, has come a long way. It accomplishes a lot of things. Do not speculate on the things that are not a reality yet. The base is \$198,000 not \$213,000.
- Mr. Cesaro agreed with the 36.75% compromise because it would provide the opportunity for larger organization to work with smaller clubs in programs throughout the university.
- Mr. Kevin Kileen, Student Union Board Controller, agreed with the compromise amendment because SUB stood to lose approximately \$12,680 on this 39% figure.
- Mr. Dittmar believed that it was necessary to look out for number one: Fisher Hall. He knows how the hall spends money, and if Fisher loses any more money, they cannot put the events on any more. Father Hesburgh claimed that Fisher Hall was supposed to be a ten-year residence hall and then torn down. He does not know how everyone spends their money, but he does not really care!
- Ms. Gertken answered Mr. Stefko's comments. Student Senate is here to ask questions because it is its duty. Student Senate shall establish the policies of the Student Union because it is unbiased.
- Mr. Brian Churney spoke on Ms. Gertken's comments. Student Senate is not unbiased because of its affiliations with different club presidents and Student Union organizations within their halls. He urged the Student Senate not to guarantee money in December. All organizations would love to set its limits, but then there would be no money left. All organizations should go through the same process, compile a detailed budget, have it whittled down by the FMB, and go from there.
- Mr. Linster differed in his viewpoint from Mr. Churney because to set a floor is a good idea. So many groups are involved—10 SUB committees and 225 clubs.
- Ms. Foster called for previous question; Mr. Foy seconded the motion. The motion failed to attain the necessary two-thirds majority.
- Mr. Wolfe stated that he was comfortable upping the floor for CCC allocations.
- Ms. Roberts proposed an idea: first, the Student Senate debate the \$225,000 bylaw amendment and vote, before we do that, take a straw poll and see if the amendment will pass.
- Parliamentarian Sanchez ruled that the amendment must first be debated and voted upon before the actual bylaw.
- Ms. Roberts called for previous question; Mr. Linster seconded the motion. The motion passed by the necessary two-thirds majority.
- The O'Donoghue Amendment was approved by the Student Senate by a vote of 18 to 7.
- Ms. Gertken motioned to table Bylaw S9899-50; Ms. Roberts seconded the motion.
- The motion to table Bylaw S9899-50 failed by a vote margin of 4 to 21.
- Mr. Penton viewed this debate as unfair. CCC receives already \$198,000, but it is not fair for CCC to receive more money at the expense of other Student Union organizations.
- Mr. Cesaro stated the compromise plan. The difference between 36.75% and 39% is 2.25%, which is roughly \$14,000. This money can be put in an Executive Cabinet contingency fund requiring a club and another Student Union organization to co-sponsor events. This still allows CCC to receive 39%. Mr. Harding, Mr. Stecz, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Hanover all agree to this compromise plan.
- Ms. Roberts motioned to table this amendment to the bylaw until the January 13, 1999.
- Parliamentarian Sanchez ruled that this amendment to the bylaw cannot be tabled. It must be voted on tonight.

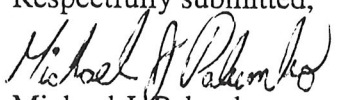
- A motion on previous question failed to vote on Bylaw S9899-50.
- Mr. Foy motioned to dissolve the Student Senate into the Committee of the Whole; Mr. Mamak seconded the motion. The motion fails.
- Mr. Costantini motioned to send Bylaw S9899-50 back to the Oversight Committee; Ms. Gertken seconded the motion. The motion to send Bylaw S9899-50 to the Oversight Committee failed 7 to 19.
- Mr. Foy called previous question on Bylaw S9899-50; Ms. Foster seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- Bylaw S9899-50 was approved by the Student Senate with a vote of 15 to 10.

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mr. Cassidy thanked both Parliamentarian and Chair for their wonderful job.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

- The Student Senate adjourned at 9:53 p.m. on Wednesday, December 09, 1998. Its next meeting is Wednesday, January 13, 1999 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Michael J. Palumbo  
Student Union Secretary

