

# **Notre Dame Student Senate**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**20 January 1999**

**Notre Dame Room, LaFortune**

### **I. OPENING BUSINESS**

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- B. Student Senate Chaplain Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. The following senators were present at the meeting: Ms. Balchunas, Ms. Boselli, Mr. Costantini, Mr. Dittmar, Mr. DuWors, Mr. Ernst, Ms. Fortin, Mr. Foy, Ms. Gertken, Ms. Gloss, Ms. Guziec, Ms. Herlihy, Ms. Jacobs, Mr. Linster, Mr. Mamak, Mr. McCall, Ms. Mendoza, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Ogorzalek, Mr. Olejnik, Mr. Penton, Ms. Roberts, Mr. Shannon, Ms. Sonnycalb, Ms. Starman, Mr. Stefko, and Ms. Tomes.
- D. The following senator was absent from the meeting: Mr. Mamak.
- E. The Executive Summary from 13 January 1999 was unanimously approved.

### **II. REPORTS**

#### **A. Officer Reports**

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

- Mr. Cesaro mentioned that the Office of the President was talking with Dr. Kitchner about a Career and Placement Task Force with students working with people in Career and Placement to make it more "user-friendly."
- The Office of the President is continuing to work on its multicultural residence hall presentations.
- The Office of the President is also continuing its work with the Academic Affairs Committee in preparing its February Supplemental Report to the Board of Trustees on the progress of the Fall 1998 Report. Mr. Cesaro asked if any senators had suggestions for the Spring 1999 Report.
- Mr. Cesaro announced plans to work with the Office of Information Technologies to enhance Student Government's Online Booksale for the Spring Semester so that when students sell their books back, the system will run even more efficiently.
- The Office of the President is also working with the Office of Student Affairs on the Residence Hall Fellows' Program—each hall would be assigned a professor, who in turn could participate in hall events and present lectures, etc. to the hall.

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

- On Thursday, January 21, 1999, the Student Senate Multicultural Affairs Committee in conjunction with other co-sponsors would present the Celebration of Cultures, which would take place on Thursday, January 21, 1999 in the LaFortune Student Center Ballroom. At 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Voices of Faith Choir will perform and pizza and soda will be served. At 6:30 p.m. to 6:40 p.m. Ms. Chandra Johnson will speak. At 6:40 p.m. to 7:10 p.m. six ethnic organizations will ask prepared questions to a panel of representatives in order to allow them to talk about their experience as a minority on campus, to explain the purpose and need for their organization, and to educate students on the prejudice that occurs on campus. At 7:10 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. time for each organization to briefly let student know how to get involved with questions from audience. Finally, at

7:50 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Iris Outlaw will speak about the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

- Ms. Selak reminded senators that Student Senate T-shirts would be on-sale for \$8.00.
- Ms. Selak reiterated the Board of Trustees' Report topic issue. She stated that there would be an advertisement in *The Observer* for Monday, January 25, 1999 as a reminder of Report topics.

3. Student Union Secretary Michael Palumbo

- Nothing to report.

B. Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs (Senator Ryan Costantini and Senator Drew Olejnik, Co-chairmen)

- Mr. Olejnik reported that the Academic Affairs Committee was primarily working on the February Supplemental Report to the Board of Trustees which would elaborate on the tutoring service by trying to formulate an ideal system (how much the service costs) of tutoring.
- Mr. Olejnik also reported that the committee would look into the Career and Placement issue, expanding upon the work of Mr. Mark Higgins.
- A new bulletin board was sighted in DeBartolo Hall—a result of the Student Senate resolution asking for more bulletin board space.

2. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)

- Mr. Linster asked senators to please purchase Student Senate T-shirts for \$8.00.

3. Gender Relations (Senator Sophie Fortin and Senator Tom Ogorzalek, Co-chairpersons)

- Ms. Fortin reported that the Gender Relations Committee met yesterday, in which Julie from the Women's Resource Center and Ms. Kim Gibson from Student Government attended.
- Issues that the committee plans to discuss during the Spring 1999 Semester--reporting rape on campus and campus security for students on campus.
- Ms. Fortin and Ms. Roberts plan to meet with Mr. Jeffrey Shoup, Director of Residence Life, to discuss campus security.
- Parietal's Survey idea is currently in limbo; Ms. Roberts is in the process of deciding how to proceed with that issue.
- Ms. Fortin reported the Campus Shuttle between Saint Mary's and Notre Dame has been taken over by the Residence Life Committee.
- Discussions have begin concerning Gender Relations Week: possible movies, panel discussion, presentations, residence hall interactions

4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Karen Boselli, Chairwoman)

- Ms. Boselli reported that the Celebration of Cultures was on Thursday, January 21, 1999 in the LaFortune Student Center Ballroom.
- Mr. Stefko stated that he would like to look into Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the reason(s) that the University does not celebrate it as an official holiday.

5. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)

- Vice-Chair Ms. Gloss reported that the South Dining Hall issue with backpacks was finished, but the committee was looking into the evaluation of Flex 14 Meal Plan now.
- A graduate student proposed some changes and raised some alternative issues in reviewing the Parietal's Survey, written by Ms. Gloss and Ms. Roberts. Also, related to parietals is the fact that parietals around major holiday/academic breaks appear to be unreasonable. The Residence Life Committee will address both of these issues



- The University currently has no policy for satellite dishes in residence halls, but the Residence Life Committee wants to make sure that students are involved on this policy decision when it occurs.
  - Lights and security around the lakes is another issue that will be discussed.
6. Oversight (Senator Rhea Gertken, Chairwoman)
- Ms. Gertken reported that the Oversight Committee is working on the timeline for election amendments.
  - Last semester, Mr. O'Donoghue was nominated for the Joint Conference with Executive Cabinet on the Oversight Capacities of the Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee, due to the fact that Mr. O'Donoghue resigned his chairmanship, the committee nominated Ms. Gertken for the position.
7. Ad Hoc Committee on Big Ten Membership (Senator Pat Foy, Chairman)
- Mr. Foy reported that he had been elected chairman of the Committee on Big Ten Membership.
  - Mr. Foy expressed the goal of the ad hoc committee as sending a resolution to the Student Senate for the January 27, 1999 meeting regarding Notre Dame's possible affiliation with the Big Ten Conference. The goal of having this resolution at the January 27, 1999 meeting and then hoping that it was approved, the resolution could next go to the Campus Life Council on February 01, 1999 for their position on this issue.
  - Mr. Foy stated that he would meet with Professor Detlefsen and Professor Sterling to acquire a better understanding of what the actual CIC is, how it works, how it will affect undergraduate life, etc.
  - Students do not have a good understanding of the issue on Big Ten Membership, according to Mr. Foy. To remedy this problem the committee has proposed an editorial explaining the facts in *The Observer*. Mr. Ogorzalek has written a good portion of this editorial already.
  - The Faculty Senate is holding a forum on the Big Ten Conference Membership on January 29, 1999. Currently, no undergraduate students sit on the panel. Mr. Foy is trying to remedy this situation.

### III. PODIUM

- Ms. Boselli moved to dissolve the Student Senate into the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Student Union for the purpose of authorizing \$75.00 to the Celebration of Cultures.
- Mr. O'Donoghue, financially speaking, stated that the Student Senate could afford this authorization. He checked with the Office of the Treasurer to make sure this was correct. This dinner that Mr. Linster mentioned regarding Learning to Talk About Race Retreats is for all to attend. This grassroots level attempt will hopefully bring all cultures together to talk about the problems in the Notre Dame community.
- For the Celebration of Cultures, Student Senate, Student Government, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, and Office of Student Affairs, all contributed to this program.
- The people who attended the retreat will cook these LTR Dinners, but all people can go. The planners of the meal will utilize the ID Card account to save money.
- The Student Senate authorized the \$75.00 allocation to Celebration of Cultures Forum.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Resolution S9899-52: Resolution Conferring the Student Senate's Blessing Upon Mr. Ryan Stecz, Student Union Board Manager, and his fiancée

- Mr. O'Donoghue motioned to dissolve the Student Senate into the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Student Union to consider Resolution S9899-52 because it was not brought out of a particular committee; Mr. Linster seconded the motion.
- In the Committee of the Whole, Mr. O'Donoghue motioned to rise up into the Student Senate to consider Resolution S9899-52; Ms. Jacobs seconded the motion.
- Mr. O'Donoghue explained the resolution as traditional, a customary action on the part of the Student Senate to express their congratulations.
- Mr. Doyle did not think this action was appropriate on the part of the Student Senate.
- The motion proposed by Mr. O'Donoghue was approved by an 18 to 4 vote margin.
- In the Student Senate, Mr. O'Donoghue motioned to bring Resolution S9899-52 to the Student Senate floor; Mr. Foy seconded the motion.
- The Student Senate with a vote margin of 11 to 9 to 7 rejected Resolution S9899-52.


## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Gertken announced that the Oversight Committee would not meet on Thursday, January 21, 1999.
- Mr. Cesaro reminded senators to go back to their halls and ask about possible Board of Trustees' Report topics.
- Ms. Gloss announced that she would like to meet with the Parietal's Subcommittee following the meeting; Mr. Olejnik announced that he would like to meet with the Academic Affairs Committee following the meeting.
- Mr. Willerton announced that Mr. Cassidy and his wife had a baby boy on January 19, 1999. His name is Robert Joseph Cassidy. Also, Notre Dame Express is now open and located downstairs in LaFortune Student Center.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The Student Senate adjourned at 6:31 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 1999. Its next meeting will be Wednesday, January 27, 1999 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Palumbo

Student Union Secretary