

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

27 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. Doyle, 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. No senators were absent at this meeting.
- E. The Executive Summary from 20 January 1999 was unanimously approved.

II. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro
 - Nothing to report. Mr. Cesaro addressed all pertinent issues in his State of the Student Union Address.
2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak
 - Ms. Selak reported that Ms. Gloss was in need of residence hall lists for the Parietals Survey. The lists are due to her by Friday, January 29, 1999.
 - Ms. Selak passed around a sympathy card for Ms. Julie Vodicka, one of the Hall Presidents' Council Co-Chairs, due to the death of her father from cancer.
 - Student Senate T-shirts are still available for \$8.00.
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 finally produced its Supplementary Report for the University's Board of Trustees. He passed around a preliminary version of the Winter Board of Trustees' Report. The report will be fed-exed to London for the February 05, 1999 meeting.
 - Due to Superbowl Sunday, Mr. Costantini announced his intentions to hold a brief committee meeting following today's meeting.
2. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)
 - Mr. Linster reported that the Ethics Committee met Tuesday, January 26, 1999 to discuss a few things. The committee will meet again next week to continue its discussions.
3. Gender Relations (Senator Sophie Fortin and Senator Tom Ogorzalek, Co-chairpersons)
 - Mr. Ogorzalek reported the committee's discussion of rape prevention problems. However, the committee remains undecided on how to proceed.
4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Karen Boselli, Chairwoman)

- Ms. Boselli reported on the success of the Celebration of Cultures. She felt that it provided the means for a wonderful dialogue on the many multicultural issues facing the Notre Dame community.
 - The committee will meet soon to decide on how to proceed with the rest of the semester.
5. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)
 - Mr. Mamak had nothing to report. Ms. Gloss informed the Senate that 1,500 Parietal Surveys would be distributed to undergraduate students over the next week or two.
 6. Oversight (Senator Rhea Gertken, Chairwoman)
 - Ms. Gertken reported that the committee is offering amendments to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body regarding elections of Student Union officials.
 7. Big Ten Conference (Senator Pat Foy, Chairman)
 - Nothing to report.

III. PODIUM

A. College Democrats of Notre Dame

- Mr. Jay Smith and Mr. Dave Hartwig addressed the Student Senate on behalf of the College Democrats of Notre Dame about a rally for the non-discrimination clause. Tuesday night, February 02, 1999, a formal presentation concerning the non-discrimination clause will occur in Washington Hall. The featured speakers include Phil Donahue and Peter Cesaro. A good coalition group is co-sponsoring this event: Aids Awareness, Progressive Student Alliance, Women's Resource Center, and the College Democrats.
- Mr. Hartwig stated that earlier this year, Student Senate passed the non-discrimination resolution, which played an integral role in the whole process. Discrimination should not occur; regardless of the Board of Trustees' decision, students should talk this rally up in their residence halls.
- A University official will carry a packet of information to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees official on behalf of the College Democrats.

B. C.A.R.E. Concert to Benefit Victims of Hurricane Mitch: Ms. Elizabeth Guidi

- Ms. Guidi spoke on the earlier attempt by the Notre Dame student body to assist those victims of Hurricane Mitch. She reported that approximately 18 cents per student was collected; according to her, that statistic is embarrassing.
- On Thursday, January 28, 1999 a concert will take place at Stephen Center at 6:30 p.m. with all proceeds benefiting the Hurricane Mitch Disaster Relief Fund. The event will continue until midnight with five bands performing.
- Student Union co-sponsors include: Center for Social Concerns, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, La Alianza, College Democrats, Progressive Student Alliance, Women's Resource Center, College Republicans, and the Knights of Columbus.

C. Ad Hoc Committee on Big Ten Membership Report: Mr. Pat Foy, Chairman

- On Friday, January 29, 1999, the Faculty Senate will present an open forum on the Big Ten Conference issue. The event is from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in McKenna Hall inside the Center for Continuing Education. Mr. Peter Cesaro will represent the undergraduate student body at this forum and express its opinion. The panel includes Board of Trustees' members by teleconference and the Director of the Alumni Association as well as faculty members.
- The main goal of the ad hoc committee was to compile information and then decide what to do with it. Mr. Foy spoke to Professor Detlefsen and discussed how this possible conference membership change could potentially affect students.
- Three things done by committee: (01) Student body is largely uninformed as to what exactly the Consortium on Institutional Cooperation is all about. To combat this problem Mr.

Ogorzalek wrote a letter to *The Observer* to answer some questions about the academic side of this issue. (02) The committee felt it was necessary to take a stand on this issue; students feel strongly about this topic and deserve to have their voice heard. (03) The committee assembled a Big Ten Conference Report, of which a summary is being circulated around the meeting table.

- Mr. Foy expressed his concern over the timeliness of this resolution. He urged other senators to pass this resolution tonight since the Student Senate wished this resolution to go next to the Campus Life Council for their consideration. This move will hopefully add to the credibility of when Peter talks to the Board of Trustees in February. He can say to the Trustees that it passed both the Student Senate and the Campus Life Council.
- A lot of information for the Big Ten Conference Committee Report was taken from the Faculty Senate report. The Faculty Senate Report had a series of appendices that described the Notre Dame Graduate Program. Notre Dame looks at the CIC as an association of peers; by looking to peer institutions, Notre Dame hopes to gain credibility and make it a finer research institution.
- The CIC makes borrowing a book from a member-library much easier. For inter-library loans, CIC membership guarantees the book that you requested to you in less than five days.
- International Studies Programs would be offered through the CIC, not the individual university. A central committee would govern the people accepted into the program.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution S9899-53: A Resolution Recommending the University's Board of Trustees Vote Against Joining the Big Ten Conference at This Time

- Mr. Foy motioned Resolution S9899-53 to the Student Senate floor; Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion.
- Mr. Foy pointed out a main criticism that the student body has with joining the Big Ten and the CIC. Loss of reputation of the University of Notre Dame as a national institution worries students; most CIC members are regional universities. Northwestern University and the University of Chicago are clearly not publicly funded as the other CIC members are. Where does this national reputation come from then? Three places, according to Mr. Foy, which Notre Dame receives its national reputation are: as a Catholic institution, its academic excellence, and continued athletic prominence.
- Notre Dame athletics attracts students across the country because of the national exposure Notre Dame receives.
- It is hard to underestimate that influence of national exposure. "Subway alumni" want very much to see their school travelling to different regions of the country. But with membership in the Big Ten Conference, circumstances would change. Students are also influenced by that exposure, too as is a reflection in undergraduate admissions.
- By joining the CIC, Notre Dame undergraduate students would enjoy three primary benefits: the interlibrary loan program, the foreign studies program, and the undergraduate minority program. However, with Big Ten Conference membership the focus of academics would change to primarily graduate school. It is possible that professors would no longer teach undergraduate courses but only graduate level courses.
- Mr. Linster believed the students should look at the "what if" information. He did not want to see undergraduate education suffer. Sometimes, freshmen have graduate assistants as teachers and they have very negative experiences. Others at public schools have almost all graduate

assistants as teachers and they receive nothing from their education, according to Mr. Linster. The same thing should not happen at Notre Dame

- Mr. Ogorzalek spoke on the Notre Dame experience--the unique love for our school--and the University should not change this identity. The atmosphere is different here—it is academically reach but not nearly as stressful; thus, maybe we should not become a Harvard alumni.
 - Mr. Penton did not think that Notre Dame would acquire the regional diversity if they joined the Big Ten Conference.
 - Mr. Costantini felt that it would not be smart to go against the wishes of the alumni since if they can continue to see their university travel across the nation, then they will feel better about contributing to Notre Dame.
 - Mr. Shannon called for unanimous consent; Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion.
 - Student Senate unanimously approved Resolution S9899-53.
- B. Amendment S9899-54: Timeline Election Amendments
- Ms. Gertken motioned Amendment S9899-54 to the Student Senate floor; Ms. Roberts seconded the motion.
 - Ms. Gertken offered these amendments in bloc form in reference to Order S9899-48: Timeline for Elections Order.
 - Mr. Stefko motioned for unanimous consent of Amendment S9899-54; Mr. Mamak objected.
 - Mr. Mamak stated that these changes, in particular the allocation of funds would significantly change how the budget was handled earlier.
 - Mr. Stefko motioned for unanimous consent; Mr. Shannon seconded the motion.
 - Student Senate unanimously approved Amendment S9899-54.
- C. Financial Management Board's Student Union Spending Review
- Mr. Mamak asked why the Office of the President's figures was so low? Ms. Selak reported that the Celebration of Cultures, Learning to Talk About Race Retreat, and three programs were tentatively allocated. Mr. Cesaro stated that the goal was not to spend all of the money in the first semester.
 - Mr. Cesaro stated that the Executive Cabinet money was supposed to go to the Student Union Happenings in *The Observer* on Thursdays.
 - Mr. Wolfe answered questions by saying that Mr. Dave Rogero, the Office of the President's Controller, had billed the wrong account. Thus, Mr. Wolfe transferred \$3,500.00 out of the Administrative Relations account/Public Relations account to make up for that mistake. The money should have come out of Executive Cabinet. Many of the recent events will not show up on this Spending Review since it is dated November 1998.
 - Ms. Gertken motioned the Spending Review onto the Student Senate floor; Mr. Mamak seconded the motion.
 - Mr. Linster motioned for unanimous consent; Ms. Jacobs seconded the motion.
 - Student Senate unanimously approved Financial Management Board's Student Union Spending Review.
- D. Letter of Nomination for Mr. James Jesse as the 1999-2000 Student Union Treasurer
- Mr. Wolfe explained the process of how the Financial Management Board decided on Mr. James Jesse as Student Union Treasurer. Mr. Wolfe asked for the FMB's opinion as well as other student leaders opinions. He feels that Mr. Jesse will do a very fine job and has creative ideas for the upcoming year.
 - The Student Senate will consider the letter of nomination next week for approval.

VI. STATE OF THE STUDENT UNION ADDRESS


VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Linster announced that Fr. Malloy would be speaking in the Dillon Hall Chapel.
- Mr. Costantini announced a quick Academic Affairs Committee meeting following the Student Senate meeting.
- Mr. Donner congratulated Mr. Cassidy and his family on the recent birth of Robert Joseph.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- The Student Senate adjourned at 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 1999. Its next meeting will be Wednesday, February 03, 1999 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Palumbo
Student Union Secretary

