

Notre Dame Student Senate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

03 February 1999

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting to order at 6:03 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, Ms. Sonnycalb, Ms. Starman, Mr. Stefko, and Ms. Tomes.
- D. The following senators were absent at this meeting: Mr. Doyle (excused) and Mr. Shannon.
- E. The Executive Summary from 27 January 1999 was unanimously approved.

II. REPORTS

A. Officer Reports

1. Student Body President Peter Cesaro

- Mr. Cesaro reported that Academic Pride Services would start up at the last week of February. A couple of weeks after Spring Break, the program will continue. Letters are being mailed out to college deans and department secretaries. Lunches will be in 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room of Reckers. More than one department will be invited on a particular day.
- Mr. Cesaro announced his intentions to have people in place that would work on Transfer Orientation before April 1, 1999.
- Mr. Cesaro reported that he was talking with Mr. Cassidy about extending the hours of Hesburgh Library.
- The Winter Supplementary Board of Trustees' Report was mailed out for the February London meeting. This report supplied additional information about the availability of tutoring on campus. Mr. Cesaro thanked Mr. Drew Olejnik.
- Topic lists are being assembled for the Spring 1999 Board of Trustees' Report.

2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak

- Ms. Selak reminded senators about the availability of Student Senate T-shirts. 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)

- Co-chairman Costantini reported that the committee would meet on February 7, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. One of the issues to be discussed at this meeting would be having left-handed desks inside classrooms.
- Co-chairman Olejnik passed around copies of the Winter Board of Trustees' Report.
- Career and Service issues: What do we already have? What do we want? What do we need to happen? Who do we look for these changes?

2. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)

- Ms. Guzic had nothing to report.
- 3. Gender Relations (Senator Sophie Fortin and Senator Tom Ogorzalek, Co-chairpersons)
 - Co-chairman Ogorzalek reported that the committee was working on the Parietals Survey, which should go out next week.
- 4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Karen Boselli, Chairwoman)
 - Chairwoman Boselli reported that the committee was making plans for the rest of this semester.
- 5. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)
 - Chairman Mamak reported the Residence Life Committee's issues for the rest of the second semester: Parietals Survey, Flex 14 Evaluation Process, Grab-n-Go, Bookstore, and lighting around campus.
 - Vice-Chairwoman Gloss reported that the Parietals Surveys had been copied and the labels as well as the envelopes had been ordered. She asked for help from anyone who could donate it, Friday afternoon.
 - Ms. Gloss reported that the Committee would be writing a letter to rectors encouraging them to have normal parietal hours during breaks.
- 6. Oversight (Senator Rhea Gertken, Chairwoman)
 - Chairwoman Gertken reported that the Oversight Committee did not meet on Sunday, January 31, 1999.
 - Ms. Gertken reported on the Wednesday, February 03, 1999 Executive Cabinet Oversight meeting. It was a beginning meeting.
- 7. Big Ten Conference (Senator Pat Foy, Chairman)
 - Mr. Foy reported that the University's Trustees' would be voting on Friday, February 05, 1999 on whether or not to begin formal negotiations with the Big Ten Conference. The information would be available around 12:00 p.m. that day, and Mr. Foy would relay it back ~~to the~~ ^{to the} Student Senate over the list server.

III. PODIUM

A. Resignation of Zahm Hall Senator: Mr. Spencer Stefko

- Mr. Spencer announced his resignation due to personal reasons effective immediately. Zahm Hall is holding an election to elect a replacement. Mr. Stefko attributed his pleasure at Student Senate meetings to the workshops and the research done on issues to make the debate more thorough.
- Mr. Spencer expressed his thanks to his fellow colleagues for a chance to be a student senator.

B. Student Body President and Vice Presidential Candidates' Election Campaign

- Mr. Wally Piorier, a student body presidential candidate from Zahm Hall, expressed concern that the election bylaws were violated when Mr. Micah Murphy was allowed to choose an alternate running mate.
- Mr. Piorier felt that election information should be open to the entire student body. He read from Section II of the Election Bylaws in the Undergraduate Constitution of the Student Body, Article 12: "No petition shall be accepted after the deadline without prior written permission of the election committee." He asked the Student Senate to investigate this matter as a possible impropriety of the Election Bylaws.
- Last year, Michelle Costello was permitted to have a new running mate because the Student Senate Ethics Committee ruled that it would be O.K. if all other presidential candidates approved. On the day of the Election Debate, all presidential candidates consented to Ms. Costello adding Mr. A.J. Boyd as her vice-presidential candidate.

- Ms. Guziec motioned to send this matter to the Student Senate Ethics Committee. The Committee would investigate this matter quickly and render a verdict by Friday, February 05, 1999 at 9:00 p.m. Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion.
 - Mr. Stefko felt it would be inappropriate to conduct an ethics investigation because all the major parties involved in this race are present here.
 - Ms. Roberts believed that e-mail would be an inappropriate medium to hold an Ethics Committee vote. She suggested a possible emergency Student Senate meeting.
 - Mr. Mamak offered an amendment to the motion to have an emergency meeting of the Student Senate on Thursday, February 04, 1999 at 10:00 p.m. or Friday, February 05, 1999. Mr. Mamak expressed concerns about attaining the necessary three-fourths quorum.
 - Mr. Mamak motioned for a five-minute recess to deliberate; Mr. Stefko seconded the motion.
- The Student Senate stood in recess at 6:38 p.m.
 - Chairwoman Selak called the meeting back to order at 6:46 p.m.
 - A quorum call was ordered to establish the necessary quorum.
- Ms. Guziec rescinded her motion.
 - Mr. Linster referred to a letter from Ms. Nicole Borda, Vice President of Elections, to Mr. Murphy and Mr. Palumbo. In this letter, Ms. Borda refers to Section II of the Election Bylaws, Article IV: "No petition shall be accepted after the deadline without prior approval of the Election Committee."
 - The Ethics Committee agreed to abide by the Election Committee's decision to allow the Mr. Murphy to select Mr. Palumbo as his vice presidential candidate. The candidates are technically write-in candidates, but their names shall appear on the official ballot.
 - Ms. Borda felt there existed extenuating circumstances to warrant this action by the Elections Committee. The Constitution does not say when the deadline is, so the Election Committee gave them approval. As far as write-in candidates, the Constitution is vague. Murphy and Palumbo acquired the necessary 150 signatures, and their names shall appear on the ballot.
 - Mr. Linster felt that something very serious happened to Mr. Murphy's running mate—Ms. Julie Riesing—and he challenged all the candidates present to return to the issues.
 - Mr. Stefko motioned to dissolve into the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Student Union to immediately rewrite the election bylaws. With no second, the motion fails.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Formal Approval of Mr. James Jesse as 1999-2000 Student Union Treasurer

- Ms. Gertken motioned to bring the letter of nomination to the Student Senate floor; senators seconded the motion.
- Mr. Dittmar motioned for unanimous consent. Without objection, Mr. Jesse was formally approved at the 1999-2000 Student Union Treasurer.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Poster Approval for Mr. Sean Deschene and Mr. Michael Revers

- Mr. Dittmar asked for the Student Senate to authorize the Elections Committee to stamp their posters for approval.
- Mr. Deschene was not at the official candidates' information meeting. He did speak to Ms. Borda about acquiring the necessary information as far as petitions and poster approval. Mr. Deschene acquired the information, but he missed the campaign poster deadline; Ms. Borda suggested that they come to the Student Senate and appeal.

- Ms. Gertken read from the Election Bylaws: "It is the responsibility of all candidates to be fully aware of the election rules outlined in these Bylaws..."
- Ms. Borda explained that if you circumvent one rule, you start making exceptions for all candidates.
- Mr. Olejnik explained that the normal student does not read through the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body.
- Mr. Mamak motioned for adjournment. No acquiring the necessary second, the motion fails.
- Ms. Gertken called for previous question; Mr. Stefko seconded the motion.
- The Student Senate passed the motion to pass Mr. Deschene and Mr. Rever's candidate posters by a vote of 17 to 4.


VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Linster thanked Mr. Stefko for his witty banter and dedication to Student Government throughout the entire year.
- Ms. Gertken thanked the Ethics Committee for their well-thought judgment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The Student Senate adjourned at 7:11 p.m. on Wednesday, February 03, 1999. Its next meeting will be Wednesday, February 10, 1999 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Palumbo
Student Union Secretary