

# **Notre Dame Student Senate**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**17 February 1999**

**Notre Dame Room, LaFortune**

### **I. OPENING BUSINESS**

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- B. Student Senate Chaplain Philip Donner led the invocation.
- C. The following senators were present at the meeting: Ms. Balchunas, Mr. Bedell, Ms. Boselli, Mr. Dittmar, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Ernst, Ms. Fortin, Mr. Foy, Ms. Gertken, Ms. Gloss, Ms. Guziec, Ms. Herlihy, Ms. Jacobs, Mr. Linster, Mr. Mamak, Ms. Mendoza, Mr. O'Donoghue, Mr. Ogorzalek, Mr. Olejnik, Mr. Penton, Ms. Roberts, Mr. Shannon, Ms. Sonnycalb, Ms. Starman, and Ms. Tomes.
- D. The following senators were absent at this meeting: Mr. Costantini, Mr. DuWors, and Mr. McCall.
- E. The Executive Summary from 10 February 1999 was unanimously approved.

### **II. REPORTS**

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

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

- Mr. Cesaro reported on the Academic Pride Lunch Series. On Monday, February 22, 1999, American Studies, Psychology, and Anthropology; on Tuesday, February 23, 1999, Economics, Government and International Studies, and East Asian Languages and Literatures, German and Russian Languages and Literatures; on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, Accountancy Management and Administrative Services; on Thursday, February 25, 1999, Finance and Business Economics, Marketing, and CAPP; on Wednesday, March 17, 1999, Aerospace Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Geological Sciences, and Physics; on Thursday, March 18, 1999, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Chemical Engineering; on Monday, March 22, 1999 Chemistry and Biochemistry; On Tuesday, March 23, 1999, Mathematics; on Wednesday, March 24, 1999, Biological Sciences, Pre-Professional Sciences, and Communication and Theatre; On Thursday, March 25, 1999, Art, Art History, and Design, and Music; on Monday, March 29, 1999, English, Sociology, Medieval Studies, and Romance Languages and Literature; on Tuesday, March 30, 1999, Philosophy, Theology, Classics, and Program of Liberal Studies.
- The way this program will work is for the professors from these departments to come to the dining hall and student government representatives meet them at the door. Tickets will be given to the professor. The times for the lunches are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Lunches will be eaten in the Hospitality Room located in South Dining Hall.
- The Office of the President is also working on a Gender Relations Week.
- Life Skills Seminars, which will take place the week after Spring Break, regarding financing, budgeting, and major decisions.
- The Office of the President is working with the Office of Information Technologies on student computing issues, Y2K issues, and computer lab hours.

- The Office of the President is working with Dr. Kitchner and Career and Placement to enable students an infrastructure and communication stream on such issues as resume disks.
- 2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak
  - Ms. Selak reported that Student Senate T-shirts are still on sale 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 had two items on the agenda for this week: Resolution S9899-55: A Resolution Requesting the Placement of Left-handed Desks in All Notre Dame Classrooms and Letter S9899-56: Letter to College Deans Requesting Collaborative Learning.
  - Letter S9899-56 was not in its final form. Senator Herlihy made corrections to the letter and did not have time to type out a finished version for all senators. She stated, however, that these changes were only grammatical in nature and not content based.
2. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)
  - Mr. Linster reported that Student Senate T-shirts were still on sale for \$8.00.
3. Gender Relations (Senator Sophie Fortin and Senator Tom Ogorzalek, Co-chairpersons)
  - Ms. Fortin reported that the Gender Relations Committee was in the process of writing a response to the Board of Trustees' decision regarding the Non-Discrimination Clause. The letter will appear on next week's agenda. Ms. Fortin announced that there would be a Letter Revision Meeting on Sunday, February 21, 1999 at 9:00 p.m.
  - The letter will also be sent out via the Student Senate List Server so that senators can take this letter back to their Hall Councils and talk about this issue.
4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Karen Boselli, Chairwoman)
  - Ms. Boselli reported that Hall Presidents' Council could attend a Prejudice Reduction Workshop during the same weekend that Scholastic Magazine goes to the retreat.
5. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)
  - Ms. Gloss reported that the Residence Life Committee had two items on the agenda: Order S9899-58: Order Directing the New Administration to Continue the Online Booksale and Letter S9899-59: Letter Encouraging Rectors to Maintain Normal Parietal Hours During Breaks and Junior Parents' Weekend.
  - Ms. Gloss also reported that the committee had received a report on grab-n-go.
6. Oversight (Senator Rhea Gertken, Chairwoman)
  - Ms. Gertken reported that the Oversight Committee had one item on the agenda: Amendment S9899-57: Timeline and Miscellaneous Election Amendments.

### III. PODIUM

#### A. Office of the President's Board of Trustees' Report Committee: Spring 1999 Report Topic Presentation

- The proposed topic is Experiential Learning for the Spring 1999 Board of Trustees' Report. Experiential learning includes almost everything from labs in the classroom, studying abroad, Internet in the classroom to internships and service projects in Appalachia. The type of curriculum here at Notre Dame is part of the University's Catholic character.
- Section One of the Report will focus on an overview of experiential learning—what is it? Why is it important?

- Section Two of the Report will provide an informational section—what Notre Dame currently has? what other colleges and universities do? student opinions, costs, and benefits to experiential learning? This section is further subdivided into three parts: service and community based learning, undergraduate research opportunities, and internships for academic credit. This section will be the bulk of the report—the report will focus on the example of the Center for Social Concerns.
- Section Three of the Report details the recommendations for student government and for the Board of Trustees.
- The report will be broad as opposed to the Fall 1998 Report, an attempt to lay everything out for the Board of Trustees and open the dialogue for other student governments in the future.
- Mr. Cassidy suggested breaking the informational section down by college: Arts and Letters, Science, etc. to more easily illustrate the experiential learning.
- Other report topics considered were Studying Abroad and Sexual Orientation.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Spring 1999 Board of Trustees' Report Topic: Experiential Learning
- Mr. Olejnik motioned to consider the Spring 1999 Board of Trustees' Report Topic: Experiential Learning; Ms. Roberts seconded the motion.
  - Mr. Doyle motioned for unanimous consent. There were no objections.
  - The Student Senate unanimously approved the Spring 1999 Board of Trustees' Report Topic of Experiential Learning.
- B. Letter S9899-56: Letter to College Deans Requesting Collaborative Learning
- Ms. Herlihy motioned to consider Letter S9899-56: Letter to College Deans Requesting Collaborative Learning; Mr. Ogorzalek seconded the motion.
  - Mr. Doyle motioned for unanimous consent; Ms. Roberts objected to the request.
  - Mr. Olejnik stated that the only formal response was from the School of Architecture, but the committee was planning to write a follow-up letter about collaborative learning. The motivation for the collaborative learning letter was from the Board of Trustees Fall 1998 Report and from discussions with Mr. Cesaro.
  - Mr. Linster spoke against Letter S9899-56. As an Arts and Letters major, he does not see any requirement for group work. Besides, he did not think most students want group projects anyway.
  - Mr. Foy objected to Letter S9899-56. He felt that the Student Senate was telling professors how to teach, which in his opinion is wrong. Students are here to learn and teachers are here to teach.
  - Ms. Roberts believed that this letter should be taken back to Hall Council meetings for further consideration.
  - Ms. Roberts motioned to send it back to the Academic Affairs Committee; senators seconded the motion.
  - The motion to recommit failed because of a 12 to 12 tie. Ms. Selak broke the tie, deciding the letter should continue to be debated at this meeting.
  - Mr. Doyle motioned for previous question; Mr. Shannon seconded the motion. The motion attained the necessary two-thirds majority.
  - The Student Senate passed Letter S9899-56 with a 14 to 12 vote margin.
- C. Amendment S9899-57: Timeline and Miscellaneous Election Amendments

- Ms. Gertken motioned to consider Amendment S9899-57: Timeline and Miscellaneous Election Amendments; Mr. Doyle seconded the motion.
  - Mr. Doyle motioned for unanimous consent. There were no objections.
  - The Student Senate unanimously approved Amendment S9899-57.
- D. Letter of Nomination for 1999-2000 Assistant Student Union Treasurers: Ms. Katie Reicher and Mr. Joseph Lomangino
- Mr. James Jesse explained the process used to select the two Assistant Student Union Treasurers. Letters were distributed to each Introductory Accounting class, to the Hall Presidents' Council, and to the Class of 2001 detailing the specifics of the job. He received sixteen applications and did follow-up interviews with each applicant. The two selected represent the most qualified members of the applicant pool. Both Katie and Joseph possess outstanding academic records, financial knowledge, and have shown a great interest in improving the efficiency and operation of the Office of the Treasurer.
  - Formal approval will be considered at next week's Student Senate meeting (February 24, 1999).
- E. Order S9899-58: Order Directing the New Administration to Continue the Online Booksale
- Mr. Mamak motioned to consider Order S9899-58: Order Directing the New Administration to Continue the Online Booksale; Ms. Fortin seconded the motion.
  - Mr. Mamak motioned for unanimous consent. Ms. Gertken objected.
  - Mr. Cesaro stated that he asked the Student Senate to order future administrations to commit the necessary resources for the Online Booksale. Mr. Cesaro mentioned that he wrote a letter to Dr. Rapagnani saying that it is in the students' best interest to commit these resources for this project.
  - Student Body Vice President-elect Michael Palumbo stated that this was the precedent set last year for the Cesaro/Selak administration. The online booksale is part of the Murphy/Palumbo platform and with Mr. Mamak as our Chief of Staff, we support the order.
  - Ms. Starman motioned for previous question; senators seconded the motion.
  - The Student Senate passed Order S9899-58 with a 23 to 2 vote margin.
- F. Letter S9899-59: Letter Encouraging Rectors to Maintain Normal Parietal Hours During Breaks and Junior Parents' Weekend
- Mr. Mamak motioned to consider Letter S9899-59: Letter Encouraging Rectors to Maintain Normal Parietal Hours During Breaks and Junior Parents' Weekend; Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the motion.
  - Ms. Gloss stated that there was no precedent for this letter, but the letter was intended to inform rectors that there was no University rule for 12:00 a.m. parietals during break or JPW. Rather, the university leaves the matter to the discretion of each individual rector.
  - Ms. Gertken informed the Student Senate that Breen-Phillips was having 2:00 a.m. parietals during JPW.
  - Mr. Doyle motioned for previous question; Mr. Linster seconded the motion.
  - The Student Senate passed Letter S9899-59 with a 25 to 0 vote margin.

## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Cassidy reminded senators to think about the Student Leadership Awards.
- Mr. Linster announced that senators should come to the Huddle around 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 1999.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The Student Senate adjourned at 6:57 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 1999. Its next meeting will be Wednesday, February 24, 1999 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael J. Palumbo*

Michael J. Palumbo  
Student Union Secretary

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