

# **Notre Dame Student Senate**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**24 February 1999**

**Notre Dame Room, LaFortune**

### **I. OPENING BUSINESS**

- A. Chairwoman Andrea Selak called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. 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 Ms. Roberts, Ms. Starman, and Ms. Tomes.
- D. The following senators were absent at this meeting: Mr. Penton, Mr. Shannon, and Ms. Sonnyalb.
- 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 that the Office of the President is continuing its work on the Academic Pride Series Lunches.
  - Mr. Cesaro also reported that the Office of the President is working on signs for the D6 Parking Lot.
  - Mr. Cesaro reported that the Board of Trustees' Report Committee is continuing their work on the Spring 1999 Board of Trustees' Report.
  - Mr. Cesaro reported that transitioning is beginning for all organizations within Student Union including the Office of the President. Reports are being prepared to help with the transition process to ensure the proper transfer of information.
2. Student Body Vice-President Andrea Selak
  - Ms. Selak reported that Student Senate T-shirts were still on sale for \$8.00
  - Ms. Selak mentioned that Mr. Cassidy sent a thank you note to the Student Senate for the gift they had given for the birth of Robert Joseph.
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. Costantini reported that the Academic Affairs Committee had two items on the agenda: Resolution S9899-55: A Resolution Requesting the Placement of Left-Handed Desks in All Notre Dame Classrooms and Order S9899-61: Order to the Office of the President about Commencement Speaker Selection.
  - Mr. Olejnik reported that the Office of the President's Life Skills programs going through soon. Desks in Stephen Center have been changed to desks.
  - Mr. Olejnik mentioned that Knott Hall wants mussenges.
2. Ethics (Senator Jason Linster, Chairman)
  - Mr. Linster reported that Student Senate T-shirts are 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 did not meet, yet the committee had one item on the agenda: Letter S9899-60: A Letter Reacting to the Non-Discrimination Clause.
4. Multicultural Affairs (Senator Karen Boselli, Chairwoman)
  - Ms. Boselli reported that the Multicultural Committee was working in conjunction with the Hall Presidents' Council regarding Prejudice Reduction Workshops.
5. Residence Life (Senator Matt Mamak, Chairman)
  - Mr. Mamak reported that the Residence Life Committee was preparing a twenty-four hours space resolution for the March 03, 1999 meeting.
  - Mr. Mamak talked with Mr. Cassidy about current problems in Reckers, and the solution agreed to will have a random security officer to prevent future late night problems.
  - Ms. Gloss reported that Parietal Surveys are coming in like crazy, so Friday, February 26, 1999 will be the day that sorting and computing will take place.
  - The Residence Life Committee has one item on the agenda: Resolution S9899-62: A Resolution Calling for the Opening of Alumni-Senior Club during Friday Lunch Hours.
6. Oversight (Senator Rhea Gertken, Chairwoman)
  - Ms. Gertken reported that the Oversight Committee was reviewing the Student Union Budget Allocation Meeting process.

### III. PODIUM

#### A. Tutoring in South Bend

- Mr. John Costina, who lives in 162 Dillon, talked about a place in South Bend that needs tutors and a woman in South Bend gathers materials to tutor. He asked all senators to take this information back to their respective residence halls. She would like a donation of approximately \$300.00 made to the Center for Continuing Education.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Formal Approval of 1999-2000 Assistant Student Union Treasurers: Ms. Katie Reicher and Mr. Joseph Lomangino

- Senators motioned to consider the formal approval of 1999-2000 Assistant Student Union Treasurers: Ms. Katie Reicher and Mr. Joseph Lomangino
- Mr. Doyle motioned for unanimous consent. There were no objections.
- The Student Senate unanimously approved Ms. Katie Reicher and Mr. Joseph Lomangino as 1999-2000 Assistant Student Union Treasurers.

### V. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Resolution S9899-55: A Resolution Requesting the Placement of Left-Handed Desks in All Notre Dame Classrooms

- Mr. Costantini motioned to consider Resolution S9899-55: A Resolution Requesting the Placement of Left-Handed Desks in All Notre Dame Classrooms; Mr. Olejnik seconded the motion.
- Mr. Costantini explained the rationale for this resolution. One in ten people are left-handed, but this resolution asks for one left-handed desk for every twenty right-handed desks. He noted that right-handed desks force left-handed students to take notes and exams in an unnatural position, resulting in discomfort and potential physical problems.
- If this resolution passes, it will be sent to Facilities and Purchasing.
- Ms. Roberts noted that at her Hall Council meeting, she gained support for this resolution.

- Ms. Roberts motioned for previous question; Mr. Linster seconded the motion.
  - The Student Senate passed Resolution S9899-55 with a 23 to 1 to 1 vote margin.
- B. Letter S9899-60: A Letter Reacting to the Non-Discrimination Clause
- Mr. Ogorzalek motioned to consider Letter S9899-60: A Letter Reacting to the Non-Discrimination Clause; Ms. Fortin seconded the motion.
  - Mr. Ogorzalek stated that the letter basically criticizes the Board of Fellows' decision regarding the Non-Discrimination Clause.
  - The letter criticizes the Board of Fellows for not having the atmosphere of an "enlightened democracy" but instead having an "oligarchy."
  - Mr. Linster supported the idea behind this letter, but he noted that the letter sounded militant. To Mr. Linster, the letter will anger the Board of Fellows when this is not our intention. We should want to work with them cordially.
  - Mr. Mamak likewise agreed with the spirit of the letter, but felt the tone of the letter was too harsh.
  - Mr. Foy, on the other hand, explained that the committee had tried to soften the tone of the letter, but he felt that the letter needed to present a strong argument.
  - Mr. Bedell felt that the Student senate needed to rethink this letter through and respect the dialogue that students and the Board of Trustees has.
  - Mr. Linster motioned to send Letter S9899-60 back to the Gender Relations Committee; Mr. Doyle seconded the motion.
  - The Student Senate sent Letter S9899-60 back to the Gender Relations Committee with an 18 to 7 vote margin.
- C. Order S9899-61: Order to the Office of the President about Commencement Speaker Selection
- Mr. Costantini motioned to consider Order S9899-61: Order to the Office of the President about Commencement Speaker Selection; Mr. Linster seconded the motion.
  - Mr. Costantini stated that the rationale behind this order was so the Office of the President had a voice in the selection of the Commencement speaker.
  - Mr. Olejnik offered a friendly amendment to the Order: change the title to "Order to the Office of the President about Commencement Exercises." Both Mr. Costantini and Mr. Linster accepted the friendly amendment.
  - Ms. Gertken motioned for previous question; Ms. Roberts seconded the motion.
  - The Student Senate passed Order S9899-61 with a 25 to 0 vote margin.
- D. Resolution S9899-62: A Resolution Calling for the Opening of Alumni-Senior Club during Friday Lunch Hours
- Mr. Doyle motioned to consider Resolution S9899-62: A Resolution Calling for the Opening of Alumni-Senior Club during Friday Lunch Hours; Mr. Mamak seconded the motion.
  - Mr. Doyle explained the rationale behind Resolution S9899-62 as wanting to open Alumni-Senior Club for lunch to both encourage responsible drinking and for fun. This had been a tradition of the past, but during Mr. Doyle's freshmen year, people were going there just to drink. This became a problem, which is remedied by the second Therefore Clause: students who are twenty-one must purchase food in order to be served a drink.
  - Mr. Doyle rejected a proposed friendly amendment offered by Ms. Gloss.
  - Mr. Mamak motioned for unanimous consent; Mr. Linster objected.
  - Mr. Olejnik motioned for previous question; Ms Gertken seconded the motion.
  - The Student Senate passed Resolution S9899-62 with a 24 to 1 vote margin.

## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Gertken announced that Class Elections as well as Off-Campus Elections would take place on Thursday, February 25, 1999 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Ms. Fortin announced an open invitation to all senators wishing to attend a Letter Revision Session on Monday, March 01, 1999 at 9:00 p.m. outside of the Student Government office.
- Mr. Linster announced that the Boys and Girls Clubs are looking for volunteer coaches. The time commitment would be around two hours a week. There is a meeting on Tuesday, March 02, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Mr. Linster.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

- The Student Senate adjourned at 6:50 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 1999. Its next meeting will be Wednesday, March 03, 1999 in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Palumbo  
Student Union Secretary