

**Student Senate Meeting
October 16, 1996**

Meeting called to order by Seth Miller at 4:32 p.m.

I. Opening Prayer given by Seth Miller

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Seth Miller, Megan Murray, Erin Hoffman, Mike Gaffud, Mark Leen, Joseph Lang, Mike Irvine, Brendan Tobin, Allyson Luck, Mike Tobin, Bill Hammonds, Matt Griffin, Peter Cesaro, Tony Siefring, Julie Lyzinski, Stacey McNulty, Roy Gallagher, Ryan McInerney, Brendan Kelly, Joe Cassidy, Nerea Arrien, Mary Slatt, Shane Bigelow, Deborah Hellmuth.

III. Approval of Minutes
Unanimous approval moved by Deborah
Second by Mike Irvine

IV. Old Business:

A. WVFI

-Erin: The budget committee decided to give WVFI funds should they go FM as long as the university approves.

-Deborah makes motion to approve.

-Erin seconds.

Unanimous approval.

B. Shirt Fund

Erin: Right now it stands that the shirt money is divided into two parts up to a point and then the rest goes to charity. We want to remove the cap because that would give us a lot more money. Professor O'Hara feels that we need to re-evaluate how we are distributing the funds to the clubs. I don't think that Professor O'Hara will ever go for a fifty-fifty split. We thought that two-thirds of the fifty-fifty split should go to the clubs - that took a lot of compromise. From the budget aspect, we just need a clear distinction as to how much money goes where.

-Shane: What was the old allocation to clubs?

-Erin: One-third

-Mike Tobin: I originally thought that the amount of money divided up amongst the groups would be greatly affected. All it means is that the big organizations - like Student Government and the Student Union Board - will take the biggest cut. I think the bigger organizations will have to look elsewhere for funds in order to maintain proportionality.

-Deborah: It seems that some of the organizations that are going to a cut might be failing for a while.

-Allyson: That's true but it also brings together different groups for co-sponsorship.

-Seth: the main thing is the fifty-fifty split instead of the cap because if we sell more shirts, we get more money. If we had not had a cap this year we would have more money.

-Brendan Tobin moves for approval.

-Erin seconds.

Unanimous approval.

C. Support of National Coming Out Day

-JP Conney: (Guest Speaker) Student Affairs would not register the GLND-SMC picnic, so the College Democrats did it for them. We then received a letter from Bill Kirk saying they could not have it and would not accept the registration.

Two rights were violated:

1. Free speech 2. Non - discrimination rights.

-Ryan Guillen: Please look at our resolution and think about it for the next senate meeting. We are your support in the basic student gay and lesbian rights.

D. Judicial Rights/du Lac

-Ryan McNerney: I want to give you a brief overview of du Lac in the last 20 years. Originally put together by students, faculty, and administrators. Originally, students were included in the policy making and the judicial decision making process. This was a result of a case in 1977 (we believe.) At the time, appeal was possible - that is no longer the case. A survey of other Catholic Universities all have student/faculty/administration groups involved in the process. We are missing this larger interaction. Also, in comparison to other University handbooks, it is clear that the focus is rights, life, activities, etc. du Lac is mostly "Thou shalt not." My opinion is the du Lac is written from an outside legal perspective as a safeguard against litigation. The most recent deletion from du Lac is the list of student rights that consisted of 13 items - the list was tapered down to five rights and in 1993 all the rights were removed. My attention today is to elicit a response from you on student rights and the judicial process.

-Mike Irvine: A lot of people said it was changed because students were bringing in outside lawyers.

-Ryan: The University really discourages that - it is not permitted in du Lac and lawyers have been brought into the hearings.

-Mike Gaffud: My understanding was that a sexual assault case was appealed in a St. Joseph County Court.

-Ryan: The judge said they had to include that their rules were specific to the Notre Dame community and not society in general - sort of a disclaimer. Notre Dame responded by removing all student rights - not stating that these were community rights.

We feel that the University does not have the confidence in the student body to give us a Bill of Rights - they just call them "expectations."

-Shane: One suggestion - If the proposal is drawn up as following Catholic Doctrine - following Catholic Universities - that may be the most well-received. They took the rights away on a legal point ask for them back on a Catholic point. An ideal is better than a rule.

-Deborah: At University of Virginia it is a mutual respect set-up. There are no set, outlined rules. If it's a respect issue, more give-and-take, then that might be well-received too.

-Ryan: Telling us what we can't do instead of what you can and should do is a really negative approach.

-Mike Toxin: The University is not going to change the legal terms in du Lac. Maybe we need another volume that is more inclusive and along the lines of the other Universities.

-Deborah: I'm not sure it should be Separate - they are definitely interrelated.

-Brendan Tobin: Off-campus is such a different world. That's why we moved off-campus ourselves because we have more basic human rights.

-Matt Griffin: What was student response in 1988 and 1993?

-Ryan: When students were taken out of the judicial process there was quite an outcry. No one seemed to notice the removal of all the rights in 1993. We could form a committee in Senate, we could suggest that Prof. O'Hara head up a committee on du Lac and revisions. From all meetings amongst members of Student Senate, Faculty Senate and the Administration would be affective in my opinion.

-Seth: From a procedural stand point, I suggest we route this through the CLC - it has to be recognized and it's an inclusive campus group.

-Ryan: The issue would still be our issue but it would have to be answered by Prof. O'Hara because it comes from the CLC.

-Shane: It might be a problem in CLC as Bill Kirk sits on that body.

-Mark Leen: It's important to take it to the CLC but we need to keep it as a senate issue as well.

-Mike Irvine: Let's get a committee together.

-Stacey: Let's start it in the Senate and if Prof. O'Hara does not respond then we can take it to the CLC and ensure a response. Even if it comes down to a roll call and Mr. Kirk objects, more liberal members will ensure our success in the CLC.

-Ryan: And this is a major du Lac revision year. It's a good year to do it.

-Seth: Should we form a sub-committee?

Mark Leen moves to establish a committee.

Mike Irvine seconds

Unanimous approval

E. Amendment

-Brendan Kelly: We want to have an official seat on the faculty senate. That's the basic summary of the amendment.

(Mark Leen makes some minor adjustments on text.)

(See attachment)

Deborah moves to introduce the amendment

Mary seconds.

Deborah moves to table the issue.

Mike Gaffud seconds.

Unanimous approval.

V. Closing prayer by Peter Cesaro

Mark Leen moves to adjourn

Deborah seconds

Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. by Seth Miller.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Stacey McNulty
