

Senate Executive Summary
October 12, 2005
Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order 6:05 p.m.
- B. Brad Tucker led the invocation.
- C. Suj Pandaya was absent.
- D. Chris Garibaldi moved to approve the minutes; Archita Patel seconded. *The minutes from the October 5, 2005 meeting of the Student Senate were approved at 6:08 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

- A. Meg Hanzlik, Gulu Walk Day
 - i. She is the President of the Africa Faith and Justice Group. Gulu walk is meant to bring awareness to the situation in northern Uganda. Kids between the ages of 6-13 are abducted and trained as soldiers. In villages, the kids leave their homes each night and go to the city to sleep in abandoned buildings, bus stations, etc. to avoid being abducted.
 - ii. Lindsay explained that the Gulu Walk is taking place in cities around the world, and we are hosting one here in South Bend. The walk will start at Legends and end at the Main Building. It will be on October 23 at 3pm. They have been working with IUSB and lots of other on-campus groups like the CSC. She asked all senators to help promote this. She will be sending an email to Lizzi with a clip of a video about what is going on in Uganda. They are trying to get as many people turned out as possible.
 - iii. Meg added that the movie *Invisible Children* is a good documentary about what is going on also.
 - iv. Carol Hendrickson asked how long the walk is. Lindsay replied that it is a "mile", and will just be a kind of tour around campus for students. Rhea Boyd asked if it will raise any money. Lindsay said that it is supposed to draw national attention. They will have a box for funds for a group that helps to rehabilitate abducted children. You can look at ugandacan.org and guluwalk.com for more information.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

- A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President
 - i. Tomorrow they will be presenting to the Board of Trustees. He and Lizzi will be attending the session at 11 and eating lunch with them.
 - ii. He will be meeting with Peter Quaranto to talk about zoning laws. In a single family zone, only 2 people from different families can live in a house, and multiple family zones are many people. They aren't being enforced right now. If they were enforced, students would be living near other students and not families.
- B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President

- i. She is currently working on greater review of the Carry-Forward Account and the football ticket exchange policy.
- C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant
- i. Liz Kozlow said that the BOT report is online.
 - ii. Catholic Think tank letters went out and they are in negotiations with speakers.
 - iii. There won't be stall notes this week, because halls aren't doing that either.
- D. Mr. Philippe Collon, Faculty Senate Liaison
- i. Professor Collon reported that they had a Faculty Senate meeting last week. One point of concern was the accessibility of book lists. There was some concern about what happens when somebody changes the book list at the last minute. They also looked at academic freedom. It is becoming an issue for faculty and will be one for students. They are looking at the situation and trying to find out how that works.
 - ii. Matt Walsh asked what he meant by academic freedom. Philippe said that they want to clarify what is possible and what is not possible. This issue goes both ways and addresses difficult subjects, but it is one of the most fundamental things to a university.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Chris Harris said that they will be discussion the fee increase in few minutes. He has met with professors about the disconnect between faculty and students here and what can be done to alleviate that.

B. Committee on Diversity Affairs

- i. Sarah Liu reported that they are working on International Education Week. They are also planning events for next semester, like a film on GLBT issues.

C. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Ali Wishon announced that they have risen over \$10,000 for Eating Disorders Awareness Week. The theme will be "Shaping Perfection"; there will more information about the schedule after fall break. She will be meeting about blue lights later this week.

D. Committee on Residence Life

- i. Mark Seiler said that he met with Gary Shoemaker who will investigate the drainage problem in D6 and will be getting pricing back soon. Hopefully something will be done by Christmas.
- ii. He will be meeting with Phil Johnson about making the lighting situation better as well. The Carroll crosswalk looks feasible. Mark yielded the floor to Patrick Knapp who asked everyone to get the focus group information back to him.

E. Committee on University Affairs

- i. Matt Walsh reported that a basketball letter will be going out with lottery distribution that will advertise the ticket share program. The people from Living Wage met with Fr. Jenkins' people and they agreed to release a document on university wages.

- ii. He met with Mr. Paladino about transportation for CSC. Things are going better now and he will be going to Circle K and the next service commissioners meeting to address any other concerns about transportation.
- F. Committee on Oversight
- i. Suj reported that they are continuing to look at transition dates for student government.
- G. Committee on Community Relations
- i. Nick Guzman said that he has a couple of meetings for the various projects his committee is working on. This will give them an idea from South Bend's point of view about what can be done. Committee members have talked to the assistant webmaster of the University who said they'd be willing to listen to a proposal about our ideas about getting information about South Bend on the ND website. This would include things like Transpo, South Bend events, etc.
- H. Committee on Minority Affairs
- i. Rhea Boyd met with Dr. Shavers on Monday and got the final draft of the letter to Senator Obama which will be signed by Jenkins. They will be presenting to the Social Values and Responsibility Committee of the Board of Trustees.
 - ii. They are looking at learning goals for the diversity requirement proposal. They will work on narrowing down four major goals. They will be meeting with their advisory board on October 31st.
 - iii. The theme for Black history month is "let it shine", with a focus on great black Americans.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Student Activity Fee Increase Proposal SS0506-07
- i. Chris Harris explained that this would raise the fee \$15 with \$10 for Collegiate Readership Program. He thinks that it is a fair proposal for all because other clubs and organizations will also get a revenue boost.
 - ii. Carol Hendrickson said that she would like to propose an amendment. Added to the end of the resolution would be: "Be it furthered resolved that in the event that the ND student union chooses to discontinue the Collegiate Readership Program, it shall reevaluate the distribution of the increased student activity fee fund as allocated in this proposal" Carol explained that this would safeguard the clubs' revenues in the event of the end of this program. Steve Tortorello urged the Senate against this because another amendment will be proposed that will address all issues and will be brought up shortly. Andrew Beatty seconded this amendment. Steve Tortorello moved to vote; Rob Lindley seconded. *The amendment did not pass.*
 - iii. Steve Tortorello moved to propose an amendment. In the third stanza from the bottom, he would like to strike \$95 dollars and change it to \$100; Chris Garibaldi seconded. Christina Lee asked why the change was proposed. Steve explained that it is the result of a debate over the last few weeks. Student clubs are already \$8 behind their purchasing power due to inflation. In his amendment, \$11 would go to the

Collegiate Readership Program, which means that there would be more papers to go around. The other \$9 would go to clubs and organizations. Christina Lee pointed that if you increase readership by \$1, it would lead to papers being wasted and this would be an inefficient use of money. Chris Garibaldi acknowledged that this is valid concern, and doesn't know if he supports this 100%, but would like to get the papers closer to equilibrium. Pat Knapp said that there is a lot of concern about people paying \$10 and not getting a paper if they get to the dining halls late. The addition wouldn't much money compared to the \$40,000 that we already pay. Philippe Colon pointed out that trying a recycling program might also help that. Pat Knapp pointed out that still wouldn't be at the equilibrium set by USA Today. Carol Hendrickson said that she likes the idea compensating for the clubs, but she is also an advocate of the recycling program. Chris Harris agreed that \$20 isn't that much money, but if you look at it as a percentage, it is a huge raise up from \$80. He is wary about going into this program with a lot of money, after a three week trial period and that is why they chose just a \$10 increase. Dave Baron worked over the summer with treasurer and people who make decisions on this. It was made clear that \$15 would be the optimum raise and would be supported if it is passed. Carol asked Chris Harris what the opportunities for an outside individual donation are to implement this program, rather than a permanent increase. Chris said that there is a letter going out to local companies asking about sponsoring the program this spring. He can't really say whether or not they are optimistic, but he is looking at that avenue. Steve Tortorello said that it may be more difficult to pass, but he does believe that it is a better proposal because it fully covers the needs of the student body. Katie McHugh moved to limit debate to 10 min; Dan Mannion seconded. *A motion limiting debate on the amendment to 10 minutes was passed at 6:48 p.m...* Pat Knapp said that the constitution isn't political football to be kicked around and this is not a transitory program. Student government shouldn't be tailored to accommodate a specific need. He is still fuzzy on the timeline and why we need the plan by October 25. He would rather have a good plan tomorrow than a bad plan today. Lizzi Shappell clarified that we need it by October 25 in order to enact it by next year. Drew Beatty said that if we don't do it now, we will not get it next year. He also stressed the need to realize what is in our limits. Lizzi said that last year only \$7,000 was added to the Carry-Forward Account because usually clubs use all of their money. They need to have \$15,000-50,000 in the account, but it is at about \$180,000 now. They are looking into assessing that account. Chris Harris yielded the floor to Vijay Ramanan. Vijay said that he is a senior and speaks as former academic chair and the current academic representative. He said that we need the ability to have a proposal passed by all levels of the university. Things aren't going to happen if you keep asking for the perfect solution, you will end up with nothing.

This is a workable plan, and it addresses a worthwhile program. Doing more research to find a better plan won't happen. He said that the amendment is magnanimous, but it is not possible to give clubs all the money that they need. This is a good proposal that will be likely to be passed, so he stressed that we keep the current plan. *Debate was ended at 6:58 p.m. The amendment failed to pass.*

- iv. Carol Hendrickson said that it is important that we don't wait on this; we need to make a decision before the pilot program loses its status quo. This student body likes the program, and wants to see it in place before we all leave. Brenna Doyle asked what happens if the prices change. Chris Harris said that if they change the student government will have to decide to allocate more or get cheaper papers. That is a concern, but paper prices are low right now. Liz Brown pointed out that it is more important to get the program started in the coming year because of all of the positive feedback. Chris Garibaldi asked if we can set a price or a contract with USA Today and possibly look into getting the Wall Street Journal. Chris Harris said they haven't focused on the exact logistics of the program with USA Today, and we are getting the best price we can. Brian Coughlin said that USA Today will have to sign a contract for a year or two. Chris Harris said that the Wall Street Journal is not part of the program and would be super expensive. David Thaxton asked what the price to reach the equilibrium is and thought that we should try and get that. Steve Tortorello moved to vote; Lisa Rauh seconded. *With a vote of 22 for and 5 opposed, Resolution SS0506-07 was passed at 7:09 p.m.*

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution in Support of Creating an Atmosphere of Solidarity and Unity for all Members of the Notre Dame Community

- i. Matt Walsh read the resolution. He said that they want to discuss it today because National Coming Out Day was yesterday and he wants to recognize the efforts of these students. Every year we try to get club status for Gay-Straight Alliance. Sarah Liu said that there has been an environment of hatred and ignorance with students on campus toward gay students. This is unsafe and not accepting of ND students. She hopes for an attitude of solidarity. Ali Wishon said that there is a major need in the community for people who have friends or family members who are GLBTQ. There needs to be a support system in place for people like that. Dave Baron said that it is a part of Catholic Social Teaching to embrace all people and as student government we should be models of this. Great strides have been made in the GRC with starting dialogue. Not having a dialogue is hurting students who are straight and uneducated and dialogue can help people get more comfortable with the issue.
- ii. David Thaxton said that this is a great resolution. Rhea Boyd said that as leaders you need to set the precedent. She said that she would like to

get rid of "tolerance" and use "understanding". Rob Lindley asked if there will be a resolution for the club this year. Matt Walsh said that it hasn't been talked about yet. Ali said that she would like to look at other paths that would be more effective. Katie McHugh said that it would be more towards the end of the year. Matt Walsh pointed out that this is a rough draft and they will be working on it. Christina Lee pointed out that "tolerance" is a worthless word, because it doesn't have much significance. She thought that "more room for improvement" is kind of vague and doesn't recognize that some ND students are open to these people. Brenna Doyle moved to send the letter back to committee; Chris Garibaldi seconded. *A motion sending the letter back to the University Affairs committee was passed at 7:22 p.m.*

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Dave Baron announced that tomorrow Jesus is coming to ND. Jim Caviezel will be doing the rosary and speaking about spiritual journey at the Grotto at 6:45 p.m.
- B. Dan Mannion said that on Friday at 9 pm there will be the Sorin Talent Show.
- C. Ben Gunty reminded people that Mr. Siegfried died this past week and asked them to keep him in your prayers.
- D. Dan Bowen announced that he and Steve Tortorello will be performing at Legends with H.A.N.D.
- E. Drew Beatty said that last night at FMB they decided that reallocation of extra money requests are due by November 1st.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- IX. Jacques Nguyen moved to adjourn; Lindsay Meyer seconded. *The October 5, 2005 meeting of the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.* The next meeting will take place on October 26, 2005 in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyce Baumgartner
Student Body Secretary