

Senate Executive Summary

March 1, 2006

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. OPENING BUSINESS

- A. Lizzi Shappell called the meeting to order 6:07 p.m.
- B. Lizzi Shappell led the invocation.
- C. Archita Patel was absent.
- D. Chris Garibaldi moved to approve the minutes; Dan Mannion seconded. *The minutes from the February 22, 2006 Student Senate were approved at 6:09 p.m.*

II. PODIUM

- A. State of the Student Union, Dave Baron
 - i.

III. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Mr. Dave Baron, Student Body President

- i. Dave Baron was spent from his speech.

B. Ms. Lizzi Shappell, Student Body Vice President

- i. Lizzi Shappell reminded Senators that Fr. Jenkins will be attending the Senate meeting on Friday at 4pm. She will be emailing out a format. She and Dave met with Fr. Jenkins to talk about the format and their own ideas about academic freedom, CLAP and fundraising issues for the YWCA.
- ii. There will be a pep rally meeting update next week.
- iii. Next week they will be meeting with Fr. Poorman to finalize the BOT report ideas for approval and there will be a discussion of scholarships.
- iv. Members of CoR went to the South Bend Common Council meeting on Monday. 6 members spoke about the different aspect of our community relations issues and initiatives. They were well received by the council. There is still a lot of work to do.
- v. Their resolution was passed onto their Community Relations Committee and we will have a representative at those meetings.

C. Ms. Liz Kozlow, Chief Executive Assistant

- i. Liz Kozlow reminded senators to pick up stall notes and put them up!
- ii. The Bishop Gumbleton speech was very successful; she thanked her committee for all of their hard work. She will be announcing the next speaker next week.
- iii. Only senators will be on the committee to choose the Student Government awards.
- iv. Rob Lindley moved to send the award selection to the Oversight Committee; Pat Knapp seconded. *It was sent to the Oversight Committee at 6:28 p.m.*

D. Mr. Philippe Colon, Faculty Senate Liaison

- i. Philippe Collon said that Faculty Senate will be meeting with Fr. Jenkins next week and there will be a faculty forum next Wednesday.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Committee on Academic Affairs

- i. Chris Harris asked everyone to read the report about the TCE process that was put together by the Academic Council. They will be bringing a resolution on it next week.
- ii. Many dorms have contacted Katie McHugh about putting together academic programs in their dorms, so the interest is a positive sign.
- iii. Met with OIT about insideND about comments, both positive and negative. OIT is working on a lot of the negative aspects, and there should be changes by next semester
- iv. Library hours will be 24 hours next week, let people know!

B. Committee on Diversity Affairs

- i. Sarah Liu said that revised letter will be discussed later in the meeting.
- ii. They are also working on a hate crimes discussion panel.

C. Committee on Gender Issues

- i. Ali Wishon said that they will bring a resolution next week about a position in the health center.
- ii. They are meeting with Ann Firth about possible changes to the health center website.
- iii. SAAW has risen more than enough money. She is asking for senators to help with one of the events. It is a brother/sister dorm event and was a popular event last year. Please contact Erin Hankins if your dorm is willing to participate.

D. Committee on Residence Life

- i. Mark Seiler said that we are in the midst of Safe Spring Break/Alcohol Awareness Week. There is a speaker this evening in DeBartolo.
- ii. They will give away t-shirts tomorrow.
- iii. They have gotten a moderator's guide for the college town market research that they will be doing very soon.

E. Committee on University Affairs

- i. There have been some changes with the GLBTQ issue and the press release online has more information. The standing committee has become the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students. The core council will have 8 students that mostly will be gay and lesbian students and the chair will be from Student Affairs, most likely will be Sr. Sue who is the new VP of Student Affairs. They will be talking about how student government works in this new format.
- ii. The committee met with Fr. MacDonald about the commencement speaker selection process. University Affairs will organize a meeting with all the class councils. Each class can have its own way of coming up with names. They will forward the lists onto Fr. MacDonald and they will be used by MacDonald for that class' speaker.
- iii. Matt will be meeting with John Haynes about DPAC usage tomorrow.

F. Committee on Oversight

- i. Suj Pandaya said that we are in the midst of transition month. He urged Senators to meet with the new candidates if you haven't done so and talk to new senators that are elected.
- ii. Next week they will have the revised election section.
- iii. They are working on the apathy argument, and will tackle laziness next!

G. Committee on Community Relations

- i. Nick Guzman said that the city council meeting went really well and one of the things is that they are interested in our progress that we have made. So we are moving in the right direction. They were very happy about what we have done.
- ii. He will meet with Bob Jones about the legal fair that will be run by law students. There will be more details later.
- iii. On Thursday at 8pm in the student government office there will be the first meeting for the South Bend guidebook.

H. Committee on Minority Affairs

- i. Rhea Boyd said that the Native American letter will be here next week.
- ii. They are working on focus groups on the needs of minority students.
- iii. They want to create a MAC pamphlet about who they are and how you can contact them.
- iv. They are working with CLAP and Progressive Student Alliance to plan a week long Caesar Chavez celebration called a "Week of Action." They will be planning a panel discussion.
- v. MAC's open to all students...not just minorities!

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Rainbow Flag Letter

- i. Erin Hankins said that they have made a few changes to the letter. She wanted to emphasize that the purpose of this letter is to say that you back that idea. Obviously they don't have the ability to make rectors do it. The flags will be going up from March 20-24 with the Stand Against Hate Campaign. Jess Zarra said that the flag encompasses all minorities, not just GLBT issues. They want a way to materialize the spirit of inclusion statement.
- ii. Liz Brown said that she likes the changes made. She asked if they will be having an explanation about the flag hanging up. Erin said that they are hoping that hall presidents and senators will work within the dorm to start conversation, and a letter will be going to rectors. Carol Hendrickson was concerned that people would assume that it is the GLBTQ flag and there would need to be information about that. Sarah Liu said it will be part of the Stand Against Hate campaign and there will be information spread around and hopefully people will know what is going on. Rhea Boyd says that it is ok if people do assume it is for GLBTQ students, because it's all about student acceptance. Sarah said that the goal is to have it up for the week. They will be trying to write a resolution or talk to CLC and see about willingness of permanent flags. Steve Tortorello said that he spoke to hall council and hall staff. Two of

AR's were against flag because it will be assumed to be a gay pride flag, and that is not supported by all. He asked if it would be possible to design a dorm's own flag of inclusion. Jess said that the flag is not the GLBTQ flag; please inform your hall that this is the case. Nick Guzman liked the changes to the letter. He said that he doesn't think that showing pride is condoning an act not supported by Catholic teaching. The flag should ruffle feathers and this is a good thing, it should spark discussion. There is a high level of non acceptance in his experience if you are not a main stream person. Chris Harris didn't think that a flag will change much of people minds or spark the discussion. He asked if they are going to buy a flag for each dorm. Erin said that they would for all dorms that agree. Mariana Montes said that her hall council thought that we need to have a ND prominently displayed on the flag. Because that's who we are first. Mark Seiler asked if it matters if the flag is inside or outside the dorm. Sarah said that they left it ambiguous to leave it up to the discretion of the rector. Carol said that she is worried that the flag might arouse hate and confusion. Jess said that they are trying to reach every student here at ND any way that they can. It is better to bring up any feeling that you can then just sit on an issue. Erin said that they want to make sure people know that this is an issue on campus and this is part of the mission statement. Rhea said that having dorms create their own flag defeats the purpose of the dorms. The flag is of the spirit: accept me as I am, not as you want me to be. A flag is the first step, because they are symbolic and your identity is reflected in symbols. Chris Garibaldi didn't understand why they didn't like the idea of a dorm's own flag. It would be more personal. Jess said that they are trying to unite the university, not the dorms. Steve said that if people get to make their own flag they feel special and not imposed upon. He was also concerned about the precedence a flag would set. Rob Lindley motioned to limit debate to five minutes; Brenna Doyle seconded. With a vote of 17 yes, 6 no, and 1 abstention. *Debate was limited to five minutes at 7:07 p.m.*

iii. Rob said that he thinks it's a good idea to have unity. Liz Brown moved previous question; Jim Grace seconded. *With a vote of 15 yes, 9 no, and 2 abstentions, the Senate moved into voting at 7:10 p.m.*

iv. *With a vote of 20 yes, 6 no, and 3 abstentions the Rainbow Flag Letter was approved at 7:11 p.m.*

B. SS0506-25 CCC Amendment

- i. Beth O'Shaughnessy presented the amendment. She said that last week she spoke about the request to raise the hard line of CCC. She wanted to focus the discussion on the amendment, and that she is not here to attack the College Readership Program. She knew that the hard line cut felt wrong and so she brought her concerns to Lizzi and Dave before the budget season starts. She believes that this is the best way to go. She supports this as a leader of 7,000 students in clubs. This proposal doesn't rob some groups for the sake of others. CCC provides

opportunities for leadership and creativity. The student activity fees should be for all students. There is no good reason for this percentage to be lower than last year. They have clubs on both ends of the financial spectrum. The CoR collaboration fund isn't useful, and CCC is experienced in assessing budgets. She asked the Senators to change their minds. She asked us to put principles before politics and students above the student union.

- ii. Liz Brown asked when the deadline for this to get this passed for it to be effective. Lizzi Shappell said that allocations aren't until April.
- iii. Erin Hankins asked a detail about the spreadsheet on allocations. Dave Baron explained the breakdown. Rhea Boyd asked why they are lowering the CoR collaboration fund percentage to zero. Beth replied that it is only available for collaboration with other groups in the student union. Rhea asked why they don't publicize it more. Beth said that they publicize the CCC fund and the CoR fund equally each year. Some clubs can't use it just by the nature of their club. Ben Guntz said that he was a part of SIBC and had success in getting enough money; there was plenty of money there. Beth said that the SIBC proposal was excellent, but they need more money is because clubs always request more funding then they allocate them. They deserve the money because of their contribution to the University. Chris Harris said that no one here questions the merits of the CCC. We are questioning the fairness of the proposal you are bringing before us. He doesn't know how he can justify giving CCC so much money and not giving more to other groups. The extra \$5 was meant for all other groups on campus. It isn't justified in this proposal. Mariana Montes moved previous question; Lindsay Meyer seconded. *The Senate moved into voting at 7:31 p.m.*
- iv. *With a vote of 0 yes, 23 no, and 5 abstentions, SS0506-25 CCC amendment was defeated at 7:32 p.m.*

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Lizzi Shappell said that applications for next year's committees are available online and you can sign up just for a semester. Interviews will be after Spring Break.
- B. From 12-4 p.m. in the LaFortune ballroom they will be handing out goody bags for Safe Spring Break Week.
- C. Mark Seiler said that they will be handing out t-shirts from 11-2 pm tomorrow and he will set Senator's shirts aside and leave them in the office.
- D. Jacques Nguyen said that the Knott basketball tournament is approaching and sign ups are in the dining halls. All of the money goes to Habitat for Humanity.
- E. Dan Bowen said he liked the fact that the budget allocations were brought to the table, this plan isn't perfect, and it is good to have discussion on it.
- F. Christina Lee thanked Beth O'Shaughnessy for coming to present.

- G. Katie McHugh asked the Senators to take the DVD's she handed out to their academic commissioners.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Lisa Rauh moved to adjourn; Rob Lindley seconded. *The March 1, 2006 meeting of the Student Senate was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.* The next meeting will take place on March 3, 2006 at 4 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room of LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyce Baumgartner
Student Body Secretary