

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

I. Opening Business

- a. Andrew called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- b. Andrew led the invocation.
- c. Conor, Daniel, and Mariah were absent.
- d. Andrew entertained any motions to change the February 23, 2011 executive summary. *The February 23, 2011 executive summary was approved at 6:07 p.m.*

II. Officer Reports

- a. Ms. Catherine Soler, Student Body President
 - i. CLC just passed a resolution calling for administrative support to be directed towards off campus students and issues; this was sparked by recent and past occurrences with off campus situations.
 1. This will be sent to Father Doyle and a response is required within the next two (2) weeks.
- b. Mr. Andrew Bell, Student Body Vice President
 - i. The final pep rally meeting was held today (Wednesday); Andrew thanked everyone for their input.
 - ii. Andrew welcomed all of the new senators.
- c. Mr. Nicholas Ruof, Chief of Staff
 - i. The administration will be meeting with the police in the community to continue working on the agreement drafted between the Notre Dame community and the South Bend community.

III. Committee Reports

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs [AJ McGauley]
 - i. AJ had nothing to report.
- b. Committee on Campus Technology [Casey Cockerham]
 - i. The advertising campaign for the new calendar and mobile websites has been relatively successful considering that site activity has increased.
- c. Committee on Community Relations [Claire Sokas]
 - i. Community Summit invitations will be sent out Friday, so work and planning is well on its way; the Summit will be on March 25, 2011.
 - ii. CommUniversity Day is still set for April 2, 2011; new projects have been planned for dorms that still need them.
 1. The beND Campaign will be the logo and theme for advertising and the event this year.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues [Mariah McGrogan and Timothy Castellini]
 - i. Tim is working on organizing another lecture with a Biology professor on gender differences in partner selection.

- e. Committee on Multicultural Affairs [Brigitte Githinji]
 - i. Discussions on revamping the Diversity Council are concluding; hopefully the product will be MAC focusing on more direct and concrete things in the future.
- f. Committee on Oversight [Paige Becker]
 - i. Paige welcomed the new senators and reminded the current senators to tell them that the newly elected senators should be attending the rest of the meetings for this term.
 - 1. If senators have not been elected, this should happen as soon as possible, particularly since they were required to be elected by March 1.
- g. Committee on Residence Life [Matthew High]
 - i. Matt will be meeting with Brian Coughlin to talk about the split in the Office of Residence Life and Housing and how this will affect students in the dorm life.
- h. Committee on Social Concerns [Patrick McCormick]
 - i. A first round of surveys for the eND Hunger Campaign was done and work is still being done to ensure the project is everlasting.
- i. Committee on University Affairs [Ellen Carroll]
 - i. A proposal for more lights on the road to and from Saint Mary's College is being done; hopefully this proposal will be submitted sometime in the next two (2) weeks.
- j. Ad Hoc Committee on Off Campus Concerns [Emily LeStrange]
 - i. More TRANSP0 t-shirts have been ordered; they will probably be in early next week and be distributed in the LaFortune Elevator Lobby at some point.
 - ii. Emily will be meeting with representatives to talk about a heated bus stop for Notre Dame; this sounds like it should be a feasible idea.
 - iii. Emily also met with OIT about creating a mobile app that tracks the real-time location of the Trolleys on campus; hopefully this will be expanded to the buses and the Midnight Express.
 - iv. On March 23, 2011, there will be some kind of discount event in the LaFortune Ballroom, similar to the Lease Fair, where students can see what places are in the program and businesses can have an opportunity to promote their products.

IV. General Orders

- a. Discussion of Student Representatives Across Campus
 - i. Andrew opened the floor for discussion about certain groups across campus that need more student representation; he mentioned that a representative for the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education has been proposed.
 - 1. Kevin suggested a representative for the dining halls that could relay complaints and suggestions to those places.

- a. Catherine suggested promoting that there is someone in Student Government who already deals with these issues.
2. Brigitte suggested expanding the proposed OADE representative to deal with all health issues including Saint Liam's Hall.
3. Leslie thought that outlining existing roles in Student Government to the student body would be most important, particularly since so many issues and things are covered by Student Government representatives already.
 - a. Tegan agreed and mentioned that many students do not realize there are so many liaisons that are working for many different things around campus that are done or accomplished.
 - b. AJ thought that this might be done by having a central point of contact that students can contact and relay their suggestions or questions.
 - i. Andrew mentioned that there are outlets for students to do this, but perhaps they could be better advertised.
4. Tim mentioned that the role of senators in the dorms should be emphasized for things concerning these issues, since much of what has been mentioned in order to improve disconnect is, in fact, already the role of the senator.
 - a. Whether senators are not aware or just not doing their job, much could be changed by the role of the senator being accentuated and promoted.
5. Alex thought there was some perception of a disconnect between SAO and students.
6. Casey asked his Committee how Student Government could approve its work and advertising, and they suggested two things:
 - a. Senators should be more involved in the dorm fielding questions and getting suggestions from residents.
 - b. Whine Week seemed successful but should occur more often or more consistently.
 - i. Andrew thought The Wall could be better improved and more utilized to do this.
 - ii. Brigitte suggested using the LCD screens in LaFortune as well.
 1. Yiting thought that the information cycling through the screens might be a deterrent though.
- ii. Andrew then asked what could be done better in the Student Government Office to help senators do a better job.
 1. Pat said a deterrent to getting information out in his dorm is that he does not have access to the listserv in each dorm.

- a. Michael Ferguson agreed, adding that in his dorm the rector hardly uses the listserv.
 - b. Tegan mentioned that in her dorm the hall clerks have access and most girls seem to be more responsive to e-mails coming from students, where e-mails from the rector are noted as more important.
2. Hallie mentioned that e-mail formats and templates to send out are helpful.
3. Hallie also mentioned that having information ahead of time to relay to dorms is helpful.
 - a. Yiting thought that committee report information could also be sent out earlier in order to relay that information as well.
4. Erin mentioned that at Hall Council, she does not have much opportunity to start a discussion in her 'rushed by the rector' meeting; this prevents her from really getting valuable feedback.
 - a. Marina added that when she proposes questions at Hall Council, she usually gets blank squares.
5. Ellen liked having questions available beforehand to talk about, as done in the second semester.
6. Catherine suggested connecting with the Hall Presidents and Vice Presidents in order to get things advertised and out in the dorm.
7. Kelsey thought there should be a better connection between Hall Presidents' Council and Senate.
 - a. Alex mentioned the quilt square situation as an example of the disconnect.

V. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

VI. Announcements

- a. Marina announced Lewis' Signature Event, LHOP, on Saturday, March 5 from 9:30pm-1:30am; there will be a different type of breakfast food on each floor of Lewis for \$3/person, with proceeds going to the Food Bank of Indiana.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Andrew entertained a motion to adjourn. Yiting moved to adjourn. Jessica seconded. *The March 2, 2011 Senate meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Kimberly
Student Body Secretary