

NOTRE DAME STUDENT SENATE

Executive Summary

November 28, 2007

Notre Dame Room, La Fortune

I) **Opening Business**

- a. Maris called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. Bob led the invocation.
- c. Liz, Rachel, Cipriano, and Jim Lockwood were absent. Scott had an excused absence.
- d. Maris entertained the motion to approve the November 14th minutes. Ian motioned, and George seconded. *The November 14, 2007 minutes were approved at 6:07pm.*

II) **Podium**

III) **Officer Reports**

- a. Ms. Liz Brown, Student Body President
 - i. Liz was absent. Maris reported that on December 6th and 7th Student Government will be hosting a blood drive in the La Fortune ballroom. Thursday 9am-10:30 pm, and Friday 10am-4pm in the Notre Dame Room. Maris asked for volunteers, over 3 people per shift.
- b. Ms. Maris Braun, Student Body Vice President
 - i. Maris met with the student chair of the university honor code committee. Will be handing off to this committee as they are more fitted to host the awareness/ethics week. The week will most likely be coming in February or March. Last week there was a follow up meeting with the ticket exchange, and Maris described it as a fruitful discussion, that will in the future be hopefully run by more student groups.
- c. Ms. Sheen Plamootil, Chief Executive Assistant
 - i. Sheena will be meeting to discuss the possibility of the airport shuttle.
- d. Mr. Thomas Noble, Faculty Student Liaisons
 - i. John Shafer and the faculty senate have agreed upon a general mechanism, to enhance communication between students and faculty. The Clocks in the Classroom resolution has been given to the administration committee of the faculty senate.

IV) **Committee Reports**

- a. Committee on Academic Affairs
 - i. Carol had good news to report about the course packets. Parker has volunteered to come to Senate to talk about everything there is to know about E-reserves, how they work and how much they are used. Spoke to David Harr, President of Auxiliary Services, who has discussed the issue of course packets with intentions of changing ways next year. Projected date of new bookstore renovations is in June so that next year it will have a whole new

look geared at a general bookstore feel over an apparel store. Finally discussions have been had over the TCEs.

- b. Committee on Community Relations
 - i. Colin discussed that his committee has continued planning tastes of South Bend. the draft letter has been made and will go out before the end of the semester. Has also continued work with an idea of a Night bus.
- c. Committee on Social Concerns
 - i. Karen said that in relation to the issues in Darfur, there is an organization called STAND that is planning a Darfur Fast. In order for Notre Dame to get involved on December 5th. The idea is that individuals will give up an extra snack and donate that money to help those in the refugee camps in Darfur. Several new topics have been discussed in the CSC committee. Anticipating early next semester to have posters ready to educate the student body about the benefits of buying local and what food services is already doing to aid this effort.
- d. Committee on Gender Issues
 - i. Brenna said the next initiative is the Health and Body Image conference next semester. Have gotten great responses from grad students and different bodies on campus that are looking to get involved. Brenna requested the help of a graphic designer to help with posters.
- e. Committee on Residence Life
 - i. Mariana, discusses how we can integrate iTunes U into the academic curriculum. next week is looking to have report and resolution on fitness facilities in the dorms. OIT has approved 3 locations for blue lights around campus.
- f. Committee on University Affairs
 - i. Callie said her committee is looking at launching an energy campaign. Had an idea about coordinating in the dorms a battery disposal.
- g. Committee on Oversight
 - i. Ian reserved comments for the 2 resolutions on agenda.
- h. Committee on Multicultural Affairs
 - i. Ninny said that the committee is putting all data in 1 form to make it easier to compare. The question is whether we want to be leaders in a new way of education or if we want to see how others do it first and we can see how to do it better The next thing on the agenda in MLK day.

V) **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Student Senate Resolution SS0708-19
 - i. Ian introduced the resolution and took out the restrictive language. Ian read Liz's comment on this resolution. She encouraged a vote in favor if the amendment. Maris opens the floor to question son content or general questions and debate. Proceed to voting.

Resolution SS0708-19 passed with vote of 25-0-0 and 1 proxy vote.

VI) **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Student Senate Resolution SS0708-21

- i. Ian discussed that this resolution came out of some committee discussions. The idea is that senators don't realize my abstaining then they are in fact voting for the negative because a majority (2/3) is needed. Instead those that are voting, not including the abstaining senators, will now be counted in majority calculations. Sheena said that something to think about was that the reason we have abstention is so you do have to have a majority of the senators, so that 7 people are not given the ability to change the constitution. point of information is that this amendment would not effect constitutional amendments. Ryan said that if we don't pass this we would have to strike the notion of abstaining and force people to take a stance on it. Kelly said that she has already realized that by abstaining is reflecting negative, and that it isn't a "cop out" but rather "I need more information," and because of that it is still an important option. By striking this option is striking a voting right of the senators. Ryan said that if there is not enough information that they should say that instead of voting against that. Right now there is no difference between and abstention than voting in the negative. Carol asked if there was anything in Robert's Rules that gives a quorum of voters. Steven said that he feels that this resolution is fairly consistent with the amendment that was passed in the spring. Denise said that by having enough abstentions it send the message that it can be brought up again fixing the issues. If some thing is voted down then it send the strong message that this is to open ended. Ian quoted Roberts rules saying that an abstention by this new resolution protects the neutrality of abstention instead of lumping it into the negative vote as well. Sheena said that in practice the abstention vote is speaking for the negative but it sends a very different message, and in her opinion that stand that is different from a no should be protected. Matt wanted to agree with Denise and Sheena because, whatever we pass here should be pretty close to unanimous yeses. To make an abstention not count toward voting is making it count more toward the yeses. Erdina said that the way the system now is there a certain time frame that a resolution can't be reconsidered again. Ian said that there is really no time limit and may be brought up again after a minute. That being said every time in this senate is that it must be reintroduced through formal channels. Robin moves to the previous question. Motion fails and debate resumes. Ian says that the new resolution does not help the positives because the majority is simply changed. Gus moves on the previous question. George seconded. The motion passes with a vote of 19-7-0. Move

into voting. Resolution SS0708-21 does not pass with a vote of 16-7-2.

- ii. Erdina asked if there was any way to get a projector in the La Fortune, NDH, and SDH advertising sections. Brian said that La Fortune is looking to get flat screens that will be along the lines of what she is talking about.
- iii. Matt asked about the wireless connections throughout campus. Marianna and her committee will look into it.

VII) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

VIII) **ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Maris entertains a motion to adjourn. Victoria motioned. Stephen seconded. *November 7, 2007 Senate meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Zaldana
Student Body Secretary`