

- I. Opening Prayer - Rocco Giannotti
- II. Roll Call: If you could live the life of someone else for a week, who would it be?
 - A. Pick One
- III. Approval of Minutes - [6 September 2023](#)
- IV. Executive Announcements
 - A. Hunter Brooke: I have been doing an investigation in parliamentary procedure. I have created a document of all the things you can do and motions you can make. If you want access let me know, but it will hopefully be sent out in the Senate email next week.
 - B. Aidan Rezner: The procedures can be complicated, so specific rules will be helpful.
 - C. Exec Cab
 1. South Bend Farmer's Market (Fieldhouse Mall) 9/14: 1-5 pm
 - a) Aidan Rezner: There will be 7 vendors from the local South Bend community.
 2. Sustainistyle Event 9/15: 1-3:30 pm (134 Duncan)
 - a) Aidan Rezner: The Sustainability Cup started last week, but events continue. Come to this event, which will teach about sustainable fashion. The person with the most points wins a Patagonia gift card.
 3. Email agenda items to arezner@nd.edu, hbrooke@nd.edu and mduoyl10@nd.edu

4. Proxy Form Available [here](#)

V. General Orders

A. [SS2324-05: A Resolution to Raise the Student Activity Fee](#)

1. Aidan Rezner: Although I am the primary author, I will stay mostly out of it because I am the Chairman of the Senate, so Daniel Jung will be answering most of the questions.
2. Questioning
 - a) Paul Stoller: For the writers of this, where did you come about the increase of a single dollar? I do have some thoughts.
 - b) Aidan Rezner: The Notre Dame administration came to Daniel, Collette, and I at the beginning of the year. They said when students get billed a \$95 Student Activities fee, it is split over two semesters, so the total semester bill is x dollars and 50 cents. People got upset and thought we were trying to get extra money with the 50 cents. So, all they want is to keep it minimal and to a round number. Because the Student Union is under funded, this would bring \$8,000 and help significantly. We want to raise the fee by only one dollar.
 - c) Paul Stoller: Follow up. You said they presented it to you. Did they make it sound like a dollar raise was a cap or did they just want to rectify it?

- d) Daniel Jung: It is up to us. We can raise it by \$20 or not. We didn't want to raise tuition more than we had to, so we decided to keep it minimum at \$1.
- e) Thomas Kluck: If the main goal is to keep it even dollar on the books, why not minimize it by a dollar?
- f) Daniel Jung: We can't afford to lose \$8,000.
- g) Thomas Kluck: Do you think Notre Dame is pretty expensive as it stands?
- h) Aidan Rezner: This is more of a debate question and personal question. We are questioning the content of the resolution.
- i) Jayden Espinoza: If we lower it a dollar and have \$8,000 less. Would the university not be able to provide that on their own?
- j) Daniel Jung: The university would not give it to us. They couldn't.
- k) Jayden Espinoza: What would you do with the extra \$8,000?
- l) Daniel Jung: That would be up to the Financial Management Board?
- m) Jayden Espinoza: Where does the Student Activity fee go?
- n) Daniel Jung: It is collected by each student and allocated by the FMB. They allocate funds to all of the Student Union groups, including SUB, CCC, Judicial Council, Student Government, and Class Council.

- o) Aidan Rezner: There is a huge spring allocation process. Everyone submits to the FMB and it is allocated accordingly. The funds that get requested are far beyond what we have as a Student Union.
- p) Amelia Forrest: Do we know if the Student Activity fee is covered by financial aid or not?
- q) Aidan Rezner: It can be. It depends on what your package is. But, it is considered part of your tuition.
- r) Andrew Ryan: Have we considered why it never raises to 100?
- s) Aidan Rezner: I did a lot of research on this, but the record was not super conclusive. It was supposed to raise to \$100 and be revisited. But, the students wanted to keep it under \$100. Maybe they intended to raise it to \$100, but decided to lower it to \$95. 2002 is the public record we are working off of.
- t) Joseph Tunney: Can you state a clear example of when a lack of funds has monstrously hurt the Student Union?
- u) Daniel Jung: Hannah would know more, but I can say Student Government requested a certain amount and we got a lot less. FMB is always in a tough position.
- v) Aidan Rezner: Also the CCC has over 500 clubs and many are chronically underfunded or not funded at all.
- w) Sam Godinez: If Notre Dame came to the Executive Department and wanted you to raise it, but resolutions are practically a “make a

wish” to the administrators, why didn’t the administration raise it unilaterally?

- x) Aidan Rezner: The Notre Dame accounting department does not have that power. This needs to go to Senate. They cannot just raise it by a dollar. It is a clause in the dollar
- y) Mo Doyle: That is because the Student Activities fee goes directly into the account of Student Government. Senate is the entity of the university that collects them.
- z) Yara Obeidi: How much greater is the request for funds than we have?
- aa) Aidan Rezner: We need to wait until debate. We do not have access to FMB records.
- bb) Clay Chauncey: What percentages does the Student Union get from this fee?
- cc) Aidan Rezner: All of it.
- dd) Mo Doyle: Yes, all of it.
- ee) Clay Chauncey: I assume it will be accurately allocated. What percentage does Student Government get?
- ff) Aidan Rezner: That depends on the requests. Hannah can answer that once we get to debate.

3. Debate

- a) Jayden: How much do we exceed \$8,000?
- b) Hannah: By \$100,000.

- c) Jayden Espinoza: Was there any request to raise more than that amount?
- d) Aidan Rezner: To interject, the point is the cost of attendance is already high. We did not want to bring in a huge lump sum, though we were open to it. We really just want an even number. Getting \$8,000 this way shouldn't be a huge financial burden.
- e) Hunter Brooke: Technically we are in debate, so no one cannot question individuals. You would need to ask the general Senate.
- f) Paul Stoller: I have been doing this for 4 years and have had an intimate experience with budgeting and CCC allocation. Right now, we are getting squeezed. Correct me if I'm wrong, but there is a three or four year delay on return from the total pool we pull from. This year's allocation was tough. Considering the fee hasn't been raised since 2002. I just looked up that the dollar has depreciated to 70% of that by now. \$8,000 would go a long way. Even if we go up by \$5. If the entire pool is an extra \$50,000, it would be a lot. I don't think this raise would prevent anyone from coming. One dollar is a snack from the vending machine. I know that Student Life has \$12,000 for the entire year. That would be 4 Student Life events, including the movie showing in the stadium. Keep in mind that renting the stadium is \$10,000. A \$5 increase would be a tremendous benefit for Student Government.

- g) Thomas Kluck: I know a dollar is nothing, but comes down to principle. I'm not saying I want to raise student fees. But, fees are fees and this is money that I'm spending. Notre Dame is expensive as it stands. \$8,000 among 500 clubs is \$16 per club. That's a Chick-Fil-A order. For me, it comes down to a moral thing. I don't want to say that I raised the fee. If we want to make it an even number, then why not lower? That is definitely not going to prevent anyone from coming. Fees are fees and I can't raise that.
- h) Max Feist: How the bill is originally phrased is not ideal. The University is coming to balance a number, but it looks like it is squeezing money out of the pockets of students. The way Paul framed it makes a lot of sense. Molly, the treasurer from last year told me as much about FMB that she could and she said how difficult it was. I am split about this bill, but wanted to make that insight.
- i) Justin Aguiar: I agree. It is only a dollar. But we already pay an insane amount when a billion dollar endowment just sits there. The University could figure out a way to get that money.
- j) Clay Chauncey: My concern is how much good \$8,000 would really do. Because of the way FMB allocates to tons of student groups, they would get \$100-200. It is only a marginal amount. How would it really help? Snack for club meeting. Maybe FMB has more insight that I would love to hear.

- k) Ava DeCroix: Two things. FMB does not directly allocate to clubs. They give to CCC and CCC gives to clubs. FMB allocated to different parts of the Student Union. To add information about funding situations in the past, CCC requests are multiple times the amount of money we have to allocate. There is a tangible negative impact. Clubs have to pay out of pocket for a national sports competition. Some clubs are not able to compete on a national level because they can't afford it. It negatively affects the Student Body.
- l) Hannah Blaskiewicz: FMB spring allocation comes from the Student Activity fees and the fiscal year return, which includes the endowment and shirt sales. We have to allocate to the Student Union Treasury,, CCC, senior week, senior class council, junior class council, sophomore class council, HPC, SUB, Student Government, and more.. For the fiscal health of the Student Union, it would not make sense to lower the Student Activity fee. We should either keep it consistent or think about this proposal. The amount allocated each year is already less than what is requested.
- m) Jayden Espinoza: It is weird to go to a school with a billion dollar endowment and operating on a billion dollar budget. Asking students for more money is crazy, especially without being told. If it was raised because of the people in this room, that is a tough spot for me. Let's say we raise it and get \$8,000, clubs still can't

participate on the national level. Does that mean \$8,000 would go to one club and no one else benefits?

- n) Ava DeCroix: An increase would go to FMB and be split between all groups. CCC would get a percentage. The funding process is set up with a lot of details. We try to keep it fair and make sure one club does not get an unfair amount.
- o) Hannah Blaskiewicz: The funds would go to a large pool. There are different things in the Constitution in place for this. Right now there is a hard line. No less than 45% which the \$8,000 would be a part of.
- p) James Bradley: I would like to add a clarifying point. The idea of raising a dollar is abstract. It doesn't seem as if it is the greatest benefit. In your introduction you talked about how the university came to you to fulfill this goal. The largest goal was to get rid of the 50 cent line on the bill that provides confusion and questions and hassle. It is not the best looking thing. All of the people in this room would agree that the extra \$8,000 would only go so far. I wish I could hear from the University themselves. How much do they want to raise it and how? How would it be used? \$8,000 would go a long way, but the University itself is not saying they recognize a need for more funds beyond the 50 cent disparity.
- q) Daniel Jung: Keep in mind this is a student fee that is going entirely to the students. The students are in charge of their own

destiny with FMB allocation. This is killing two birds with one stone. We would be getting the whole dollar and getting more funds. It would only be 50 more cents each semester. All of the affected organizations are student run. We control it. The University is not going to give a hard opinion. It is our idea. We have not raised the fee since 2012. Cumulative inflation is 20% from 2012, meaning a dollar then is 79 cents now. I know the premise of raising is not attractive, but at the same time we need to keep up with raising prices and how expensive things are.

- r) Maura Meyers: It is our money. This is not going to the university, FMB decides. Everyone is looking at it negatively. It could only benefit the students. I'm a McGlinn Senator and a few girls complained to me about this. People in smaller clubs and club teams had to pay out of pocket. For McGlinn, there are girls who would want to see this happen. I know we would be raising a fee, but it would only benefit. The University is not taking more money.
- s) Amelia Forrest: I know we would be raising tuition, but there are students who really can't afford to pay extra and have financial aid or are getting more money somewhere else. Plenty of people want to participate in activities but can't because they can't pay out of pocket costs. This evens things out a little bit.

- t) Thomas Kluck: When I think about it, I don't agree with the logic of an inflation increase. The raises in 2012 far outpaces tuition. I can't go back to my dorm because of inflation and, although we haven't raised tuition a lot, they wouldn't understand. FMB gets money from our endowment, which is \$20 billion. It is hard to understand why students have to pay.
- u) Hannah Blaskiewicz: Most of the funds allocated to the Student Union is the Student Activity fee. The endowment is only a little amount.
- v) Mo Doyle: Just to clarify, there is a separate endowment for the Student Union that Student Government set aside years ago. It is a small endowment established by the Student Government a long time ago. Our endowment is not part of the \$20 billion.
- w) Sam Godinez: Through the week I met with Hannah, Ava, and Daniel. Thank you for your time in explaining the matter. I think the bill has good intentions. We are trying to raise the fee so we have more money. It is a contentious and controversial topic. Many of you don't know what is going on and sometimes I feel this needs further review. I propose not voting yes or no. We should send it to an ad hoc committee composed of fiscal policy experts who would be reviewing this resolution thoroughly. I am not killing off the bill. I am suggesting we postpone the vote until we get all the facts. It would be a better compromise.

- x) Sam Godinez motions to send the SS2324-05: A Resolution to Raise the Student Activity Fee to an ad hoc committee.
- (1) The motion fails.
- y) Louis Cornett: To respond to the people who are saying \$8,000 can go to a club team that needs to go to nationals, I agree with Thomas. If there are 500 clubs, \$16 won't make a difference. This is the equivalent of band aid on a broken leg. This would pay for a few extra balloons. If the University isn't going to give us money, and Daniel if you want to clarify go ahead, if they won't give us money, then do we even need it? I already wonder why we pay so much and to increase it is crazy.
- z) Daniel Jung: The Student Activity fee is what we oversee. The money goes 100% to students. The University doesn't fund student activities.
- aa) Paul Stoller: I agree with you guys. In principle, it is super weird to be at a private school with the top 5 endowment. I ask why can't we pay for this? The reason is that this pool is for us and is totally separate from the endowment.
- bb) Libby Meister: I think we are looking at it from wrong perspective. We are not trying to raise by \$8,000 to raise it by \$8,000. We are just trying to fix a \$47.50 charge per semester. Raising it by \$8,000 is better than defunding the Student Union by \$8,000. The issue is really if the extra 50 cent charge is a problem enough that we

should change it. It would be way worse to lower it and defund us.

Vote no if you think the 50 cent charge isn't enough to raise it, not if you don't see the added benefit of \$8,000.

cc) Isabel Rodriguez: I have the same idea. I'm surprised they see how many people have an issue with 50 cents. One dollar doesn't work. We are not killing two birds with one stone. \$8,000 isn't enough to be a huge change for the Student Union. Also, I don't think 50 cents is a big deal. It won't have a plausible effect. No one is getting that much benefit. 50 cents is not going to make a difference.

dd) Aidan Rezner: The 50 cent charge has definitely got complaints. The University looks like we are nickel and dimming, though I appreciate your point.

ee) Ava DeCroix: I do think that this means you should be in favor of the bill, but think about rising inflation. We have been losing money in comparison to history. Tuition fees increased but Student Activity fees are not increasing. We can do less now than we could have done in 2012. We are playing catch up.

ff) Amelia Forrest: This is a general question: Can the Student Enrichment Office cover the fee for those who cannot pay?

gg) Jayden Espinoza: There is a Student Experience Fund that has a list of things you can get from there. I am not sure, but they might be able to pay for it.

hh) Joseph Tunney: This seems like a circular feedback loop. Everyone is saying the same things and it does not seem to be changing anyone's opinions.

4. Vote

a) The resolution is not approved.

B. [SO2324-06: An Order to Suspend FYCC Elections](#)

1. Clay Chauncey motions to move SO2324-06: An Order to Suspend FYCC Elections from New Business to General Orders.

2. Questioning

3. Debate

4. Vote

a) The order is passed.

C. [Nominations for Committee on the Constitution](#)

1. Clay Chauncey motions to move the Nomination for Committee on the Constitution from New Business to General Orders.

2. Questioning

a) Sam Godinez: What are you most excited for in CommCon?

b) Caroline Knox: To be a part of Student Government.

c) Elizabeth Coleman: Being more involved in the university.

d) Derick Williams: Discussing the validity of clauses in the Constitution and Student Government actions.

e) Matthew Amante: Learning about the Constitution.

f) Madison Denchfield: Getting involved in Student Government.

- g) James Baird: I love the Constitution.
- h) Max Feist: I love the Constitution.

3. Debate

- a) Hunter Brooke: I conducted very thorough interviews. Each applicant was told to write interpretations of a constitutional question and the people selected had very strong applications and a great interpretation of the Constitution. It is a good group. They all have unique and individual personalities. I believe it will be a strong committee this year.

4. Vote

- a) The nomination is approved.

D. [Nomination for Sophomore Class Council Vice President](#)

- 1. Clay Chauncey motions to move the Nomination for Sophomore Class Council Vice President from New Business to General Orders.

E. [Nomination for Sophomore Class Council Treasurer](#)

- 1. Clay Chauncey motions to move the Nomination for Sophomore Class Council Treasurer from New Business to General Orders.

F. [Nomination for Sophomore Class Council Secretary](#)

- 1. Clay Chauncey motions to move the Nomination for Sophomore Class Council Secretary from New Business to General Orders.
- 2. Paul Stoller motions to vote in block for the Nomination for Sophomore Class Council Vice President, the Nomination for Sophomore Class

Council Treasurer, and the Nomination for Sophomore Class Council
Secretary.

a) The motion passes.

3. Questioning

a) Sam Godinez: What happened to Mike?

b) Max Feist: He was too busy. He also accepted a part time job.

These were all logistical nominations.

c) Sam Godinez: Were you specifically picking a replacement whose
name starts with the letter M?

d) Max Feist: No, that was a coincidence. I had worked with her
before and knew she was great.

4. Debate

5. Vote

a) The nominations are approved.

VI. New Business

VII. Announcements

A. Lily Condodina: Acousticafe is this Thursday on Library Lawn. There will be
food trucks.

B. Isabel Rodriguez: Howard Hall's Totter for Water is this Thursday and Friday. All
benefits support Engineers Without Borders.

C. Hunter Brooke: I will be holding office hours from 2-4 pm on Wednesday in the
Blue Room of LaFun and from 2:30-4:30 pm on Fridays also in the Blue Room of
LaFun. It is on the third floor in room 312. Come by if you have any questions.

D. Collette: Student Government holding our first Coffee Chats on Monday from 8-10 am. Stop by the office.

E. Koran: Just a reminder to not endorse any First Year Class Council elections.

VIII. Adjournment

A. The meeting is adjourned.