



Senate Meeting  
4 May 2006

I. Prayer/Minutes/Roll

- Casey: Congratulations to all the new Senators. Welcome Dr. Carilli and Ed Steinmetz.
- Please read over your minutes while Noreen takes roll (Ian Mullin absent)
- O'Hagan: Please note an amendment to the minutes. Under section VI. Senate Forum, the last point should read, "Dean McShea: I just want to reiterate that we embrace opportunities to educate and sometimes it means consequences."
  - Motion to approve minutes (Allen Zelno)
  - Motion seconded (Dan French)
  - All in favor, minutes approved

II. Executive Reports

A. President's Report (Solomeno)

- I would like to welcome all the new faces and welcome back to our returning Senators. It is a privilege to work with you this year. I would also like to welcome Dr. Carilli and Mr. Steinmetz, and also representatives from Amnesty International and CAC.
- Each year we name the campus club and organization of the year that goes above and beyond expectations. Colleges Against Cancer was a new club this year, and they have done great things, such as relay for life. I would like to present a certificate and thank you for your work. Your name will be added to the plaque.
- I would like to update you on the status of the Legal Assistance Program. We have hired an attorney, Alan Brian Jones, after several months. This process has been painstakingly slow, but worth it. He will be taking appointments and I encourage you to take advantage of it. To make an appointment contact Mary Alice Fenwick at x7680. He is developing education programs, including attorney offering consultation advice, a list of area attorneys that offer service at a low price, and education about landlord/tenant relationships.
- There is an expansion of library hours during finals week. It will be open for 24 hours Sunday – Thursday. Ian did a great job advertising the extended hours in a press release, the Aquinas and bulletin boards. It is a good opportunity. You will need to bring your royal cards during extended hours.
- Today we have appointments to make in the executive positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Technology and Director of Communication. I'm blessed to have had the service of people in these positions this past year, Walter, Noreen, Ian, Joe, Sam and Tessa.
- I would like to nominate Walter as Treasurer.
- Casey: There is a nomination on the floor to make Walter Banta Treasurer of Student Government.
  - Motion to approve (Dan French)
  - Second (Christy Joswick)
  - Votes in favor: 18, Votes against: 0, Abstentions: 0; Nomination Approved
- Casey: Congratulations Walter
- Solomeno: I would like to nominate Noreen O'Hagan as Secretary of Student Government
- Casey: There is a nomination on the floor to make Noreen O'Hagan Secretary of Student Government.
  - Motion to approve (Colleen Rengert)
  - Second (Tim Hayden)
  - Votes in favor: 18, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0; Nomination Approved
- Casey: Congratulations Noreen
- Solomeno: I would like to nominate Ian Mullin as Director of Communication.

- There is a nomination on the floor to make Ian Mullin Director of Communication of Student Government.
  - Motion to approve (Alison Bauer)
  - Second (Mario Ferrise)
  - Votes in favor: 18, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0; Nomination Approved
- Casey: Congratulations Ian.
- Solomeno: Joe Casabona has done an extraordinary job supporting the needs of Student Government. I would like to nominate him as Director of Technology.
- There is a nomination on the floor to make Joe Casabona Director of Technology of Student Government.
  - Motion to approve (Chris Molitoris)
  - Second (Mike Hernandez)
  - Votes in favor: 18, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0; Nomination Approved
- Casey: Congratulations Joe.
- Solomeno: There is a photographer here today who will be taking photos for the admissions office.

#### B. Treasurer's Report (Walter Banta)

- The year is winding down and a lot of money spent during the last 2 weeks. People are finishing up, and the end of year budget done around June and July when all the appropriations stuff is in.

#### C. Secretary's Report (Noreen O'Hagan)

- I would just like to thank you for all coming to the Mass and dinner last weekend. It was a nice day, and I hope you all enjoyed it.

#### D. Director of Technology's Report (Joe Casabona)

- During the past two weeks I have been updating the website, and working on the office computer.

### III. Presentation on the 2006-2007 Budget

- Casey: Why don't we skip ahead in the agenda to the presentation on the 2006-2007. Welcome Dr. Carilli, and Ed Steinmetz, Assistance Vice President of finance.
- Dr. Carilli: We are here in regard to Senate resolution asking for explanation of the upcoming 2006 - 2007 budget. We will do our best to answer questions.
- Steinmetz: The 2006-2007 budget is \$138.4 million. There is a tuition increase of 7.95% for full-time students and 7.88% for part-time students. The University fee increases 7.14%, Room Rates increase 3.94-3.99%. The maximum meal plan rate will increase of 3.97% and one plan decreases 5.02%. Our goal is a consistent value program.
- Dr. Carilli: This coincides with this meeting last year about meal plan inconsistencies.
- Steinmetz: Our Freshman enrollment target is 890 and our transfer student target is 90. There is an increase in salary budget for faculty and staff, and a net increase of 6 positions. We have a financial aid increase of 2.8%. There is no contingency budget. 77.5% is comprised of tuition/fees, auxiliary enterprise is 15.9%, endowment is 2.7%, grants and fees is 2.7%, and other sources make up 1.9% (including investment, income and parking). This chart shows the rate of tuition increase since the 1970s. There were big increases back then and then it flattened out for a while. This chart of competitors' tuition and fees shows how we stack up against competitors. In terms of room and board, our numbers were a little higher. We are trying to monitor this increase and drive it back down in line, but that will take a few years. The total cost is about half way between competitors, and we will continue to monitor this. In terms of our expenditures: salaries and fringes total 50.9%, supply and service is 16.9%, financial aid is 22.9%, 2.5%, capital endowment is 1.3% (this handles PC, lab equipment, vehicles). The freshman tuition discount rate is about 36%. This is thirty six cents on every one dollar in aid, and sixty four cents applied to other. We are about below average, but it is a volatile thing. It varies from 31.1 – 43.2. It is a very competitive process and we compete with others who are in low 20s. In terms of debt service, we look at new campus center and continue to make sure it doesn't dominate. Debt service actually drops this year to 5.5%. The distribution of overall budget increases and

- decreases. This is a quick summary. I am happy to entertain questions. This over simplifies process. There are many meetings to minimize cost increase and at times certain factors are with us, and sometimes pressures is on, for example utilities and staff costs
- Joswick: The tuition increase is 7%, and financial aid increases 2%. We have seen tuition increase from \$29,000 to \$35,000. The cost of attending is one of the most driving factors for choosing a school. Other schools offer a flat rate for tuition. Is this possible?
  - Steinmetz: Yes, some groups considered differential tuition plans. Some schools have an increase for freshman and lower for others. Look at our financial plan. We are looking into it to see what is best.
  - Dr. Carilli: We are looking at options like this. We do not know if this is the best option. Some are good, but have draw backs. There is no cure all, but could be useful in situations
  - Steinmetz: Loyola and Villanova offer different plan for freshman class. We're looking into it.
  - Hayden: We try to keep tuition in line with competitors. I notice we're below some schools, but we are way above other schools in this area. Do you consider the cost of living in other cities and the cost of living here?
  - Steinmetz: It is not specific to the cost of living in the area. You need to consider the cost of resources, instructional costs, faculty to student ratios, better staff, more personalized, technology, physical resources. We offer more.
  - Dr. Carilli: The difference is quality. Quality of experience and education. Not to sound pompous, but we are better than other local schools. We are more on level of schools like Villanova.
  - Zelno: Will there be an increase in the cost of a parking permit?
  - Dr. Carilli: No, there was one last year but not this year.
  - Molitoris: The budget is made up mostly of tuition. Is that what others do?
  - Steinmetz: Most private universities are heavily tuition dependant. Some have more endowments. We have had some small success, probably for most private schools.
  - Dr. Carilli: It is an industry struggle. We are heavily dependant on tuition. Other larger private get more research, and federal grants. We have less.
  - Solomeno: You presented a percentage increase. How does that translate into dollars?
  - Steinmetz: The tuition increase is about \$9 million.
  - Solomeno: What is that in dollars for the individual students?
  - Steinmetz: \$25,638
  - Solomeno: What is the cost with room and board?
  - Steinmetz: It depends on the meal plan. With 19 a semester, it costs 5,000/semester for a total of \$35,600.
  - Solomeno: What is the average endowment of institutions of our size?
  - Steinmetz: \$105 million. Some are \$28 million and some are up in \$200 million. It is really spread out.
  - Solomeno: How is the cost of room and board moderated?
  - Steinmetz: Cost increases drive the creation of the budget. We try to minimize the increase in tuition, but have to rely mostly on tuition. We look at market surveys. We are sensing that we are increasing with room and board and so are trying to decrease.
  - Solomeno: How much will the campus center cost us?
  - Steinmetz: That is part of debt service, and will add \$300 to \$400 only. New debt is minimal.
  - Solomeno: What was reason for increase if not the campus center?
  - Steinmetz: Salary and benefit increased, debt service decreased, supply and service increased. It is a combination of all factors.
  - Solomeno: What is the expenditure total of 2005 – 2006?
  - Steinmetz: \$128 million.
  - Solomeno: Our discount rate less than average?
  - Steinmetz: We trail a bit.
  - Solomeno: Isn't an increase rate better for students?
  - Steinmetz: Yes, but if that was a 2 or 3% increase, how do you fund that? You would need to raise tuition.

- Solomneo: During 2002-2003 it was at 43.2%. It is 31.8% now. It will be 36% next. What will it be after that? 36.5%?
- Dr. Carilli: This is all the art and science of admissions. It depends on who applies, depends on financial packets, depends who will take us up on our offer. We can only set a target for each year.
- Solomeno: Has this target decreased?
- Steinmetz: It is consistent on about the 36% level.
- Solomeno: Have you considered staff cut down, for example with physical plant?
- Steinmetz: Yes. We had cut down 5 positions, and added those back in different areas. It is not an easy process.
- Solomeno: Where does the budget sit for 2007 -2008? Is it possible to determine?
- Steinmetz: No. There are so many factors. It depends on the markets. We will monitor it, but too early to tell
- Solomeno: Is there any way for the Senate to participate in a constructive dialogue regarding the next budget?
- Dr. Carilli: We would sit down and discuss it, but process will start by next September and the budget will be approved in February. As we begin late summer and early fall, we would be happy to discuss it.
- Casey: Any more questions? Thank you.
- Dr. Carilli: If you have any questions, e-mail me and I will answer them.

#### IV. Senate Standing Committees

- Casey: Moving on, I would like to explain Senate Committees. You will each be placed on committees. We have made the following Senators committee chairpersons:
  - Christy Joswick: Appropriations
  - Chris Molitoris: Ignatian Awareness
  - Ali Bauer: Residence Life and Dining Services
  - Tim Hayden: Safety and Crime Prevention
  - Colleen Rengert: Academic Affairs
- In coming weeks think about this and see what these are about. In the course of the year, let us know what you're interested in. We will make the appointments to these committees in September.

#### V. University Wide Committees

- The President's Cabinet met. We discussed the issues of sophomore parking, intersession, and the Ignatian College. Dr. Baillie asked us to talk about the future of intersession.

#### VI. Old Business (No old business)

#### VII. New Business

##### A. Senbill.015.06

- Kat Thullen: When making this year's budget, I used old budgets, as well as this year's proposals from each committee. We have a series of educational and commuter programs. We're requesting 146,425 for the fall and 147,375 for the spring. We added \$7,000 for a speaker and diversity, a battle of bands in the fall, increase for welcome back, which will have a beach theme. Overall there is an increase \$14,200, which doesn't even cover Ignatian programs.
- Hayden: The spring concert cost \$50,000 last year?
- Thullen: Yes, for OAR.
- Solomeno: Kat sat with me, Walt, and Joe and discussed this budget. The focus on mission identity is excellent. Thanks for collaborating with clubs and organizations. United Colors asked for \$32,000 and you were able to cut some of that by collaboration with them on events.
- Rengert: I see there is a battle of the bands in the fall. Will there still be one in the spring?
- Thullen: We're looking to have something like last year when we had Matt Nathanson come.

- Joswick: To reiterate what Vinny said, I worked with her on this. It looks like big number, but we had to make a lot of cuts.
- Hayden: For the Ignatian thing, are you paying for things along with other clubs or are they on their own?
- Thullen: We often share the cost, for example when we had Rainy Jane come.
- Solomeno: Can you explain the mission of month?
- Thullen: We are going to have a theme every month, for example D.C. trip, self-awareness, man for others.
- Bauer: That was going to be my question.
  - Motion to move to second reading (Joswick)
  - Second (Rengert)
- Molitoris: In recommendations part 1, is this enforced in any way?
- Solomeno: We met with Kat and talked with Walt about this. So much happened on campus that doesn't say "funded by Student Government." This is to show Student Government paid for these events, and shows that they use the student activity fee. Most clubs and organizations submit reports about funding, and USPB does not. Now they will give Walter monthly reports.
  - Motion to approve (Zelno)
  - Second (French)
  - Votes in favor: 18, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0; Senbill 014.06 approved
- Solomeno: Anyone interested in mission identity contact Chris.

#### B. Petition for Charter – Amnesty International

- This club involves concerns with human rights. We work for those neglected, and those who need a voice. We spread awareness of genocide in Sudan, and fundraise for victims of genocide. We are a human rights organization.
- Solomeno: Thanks for sitting through this meeting and for having patience with process. This is important to have on campus.
- Hernandez: Do you plan on having any activities?
- Yes. There is a company in California making t-shirts and profits go direct to Red Cross. We plan to sell these, have an awareness day. We will wear shirts, and have candle lit vigils. Mtv.com has a documentary about problems, and we can have a viewing. We can talk about women's rights, and so many other ideas.
- Hayden: I see no reason not to charter.
- Dean McShea: Can you differentiate from the Justice Club. They seem related.
- We focus on same thing. Their membership has decreased, and I spoke to some members and there is not much action in the club right now. This is an international club with large backing.
- Solomeno: The justice club seems to be having trouble with student transition. You should contact them and consider merging. They have resources you may be able collaborate.
- Meyer: You have the backing of 1.89 million. Some of same things you plan are the same as the justice club. How can you ensure backing from the people here? How will you get members? I want to make sure to not charter without specifics, such as recruitment. Being an officer in a club, I know it is hard to get members to stay involved.
- As of now, we have a lot of members interested. We will have email list, and as of now publicity will be flyers, word of mouth, a table on commons, and brochures.
- Solomeno: We have two accounting, clubs, and other numerous clubs with same focus. Don't lose sight of greater good.
- Meyer: I'm not saying that we shouldn't, I'm just seeing what they plan, based on executive comments.
- Malloy: Will the University of Scranton be connected with other branches?
- There are regional offices. We will be part of the North East local office in Pittsburgh. We have been in touch with them and they have sent me information and ideas for fundraisers. It has been a big help.
- Bauer: In my high school we had similar club. When I was looking for clubs, I looked for ones that I was associated with. I think there will be a good response to have a table.

- Hayden: It's an international club, and a well-known, active club. I think it is a good thing.
    - Motion to approve (Hayden)
    - Second (Valla)
    - Votes in favor: 15, Against: 0, Abstentions: 1 (Zelno); Charter granted to Amnesty International.
- C. Senbill 014.06 - Club Allocations
- Joswick: Vinny, Joe, Walter, Frankie, and Matt met two times, and we spent a lot of time on this. We looked at each club, and made a significant amount of deductions.
  - Meyer: What were the exact deductions, as Senator and member of CEC specifically?
  - Banta: See me about specific information.
  - Solomeno: The way deductions were made, based on club and organization procedures, by cutting funding on things not covered on documents.
  - Banta: Many clubs are on the same bus tours. We try to encourage collaboration, which saves money.
  - Meyer: If a club had not applied for funding for activities and had all service in, is there anything to be aware of?
  - Banta: No, we very rarely say no to something.
  - Konzman: There is an overlap between clubs. Is there any effort to reduce this?
  - Banta: In terms of academic clubs, usually one is on campus and one is a national. Professional organization have more cost to members so it is important to have both.
  - Solomeno: In terms of national vs. school, many academic departments require conferences for paid members of professional organizations.
  - Dean McShea: Looking at it, is there enough funding for next year considering over allocations?
  - Banta: Last year we over appropriated. These numbers are tags on money. It stays in the account, but is just reserved. I went through 2004-05 spending, and 44% of allocated funds is what clubs spent. This year proves that. There is significant roll-over. Compared to last year, we are in better position. At this point last year we only allocated \$80,000. More clubs got their papers in this year.
    - Motion to move to Second Reading (Zelno)
    - Second (Molitoris)
    - Motion to approve (Hayden)
    - Second (Konzman)
    - Votes in favor: 16, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0; Senbill 014.06 approved
- D. Senbill 016.06
- Casey: This bill appeared October 6, and has been resubmitted with changes
  - French: Welcome. I was approached by summer students. It is getting hot out and is hard to live comfortably. The Linden Apartments are Class A housing, and all others have air conditioning. Lindsey and I met with the Area Coordinator in Linden. Individual air conditioners were approved with a doctors note, but were then taken away. It is not needed for all must be available for those who need it.
  - Dean McShea: Under ADA law, we must accommodate for those with special needs.
  - Hernandez: There is an inequity between Gavigan and Redington and Linden. Linden should be allowed to have air conditioning during a hot summer. Gavigan and Redington have central air conditioning.
  - Meyer: The university needs to provide air conditioning for health reasons under ADA. Students should be able to provide their own, but maintenance should be there to install them for liability.
  - Casey: I agree. There was one point already mentioned, in section 4. Would you formulate an amendment?
  - Malloy: Would there be a limit on use? Gavigan's air conditioning was just turned on. Would it be only when Gavigan and Redington are on in terms of equity?
  - Solomeno: If there is success in achieving this change, the university would have limitations. The reason the air conditioning went on this year is because of severe allergies.
  - Casey: Do you accept this amendment?
  - French: Yes.

- Solomeno: I would like to make an amendment to that amendment. You should think about approach, which sometimes I am not the best at. Look at the way to phrase it, and say should rather than must.
- Meyer: God forbid something happens if someone installs their own.
- Dean McShea: It does not matter. Maintenance needs to be involved. We would not have students do this. Physical plant does this.
- Meyer: I accept the change in the amendment.
- Solomeno: In terms of these issues, the University General Council will make sure of liability.
  - Motion to move to second reading (Rengert)
  - Second (Joswick)
- Prizeman: What is Residence Life's counter argument? Safety? Utility costs?
- French: Someone installed one illegally, and incorrectly.
- Hayden: For all practical purposes, class A should be on par or moved to class B. I think this is a good bill now.
- Casey: Do you accept this amendment?
- French: Yes
- Ferrise: I recommend that if this isn't changed it is moved to class B. Dr. Carilli just made a presentation on rising utility costs. I don't know how the university feels about adding more.
  - Motion to approve (Hernandez)
  - Second (Joswick)
  - Votes in favor: 15, Against: 0, Abstentions: 2 (French, Ferrise); Senbill 016.06 approved

#### VIII. Senate Forum

- Dr. Baillie encouraged us to engage in a conversation about intersession.
- Solomeno: Just to give you some background on the topic: approximately one year ago, Fr. Pilarz formed a task force as the result of the inconvenient calendar because of meeting standards with intersession. Next year we have intersession and spring and Easter break. The committee is made up of Dr. Baillie, Johanna Bellissimo and Steven Bane. Things are very split on the issue, based on a survey of students. The results of the survey were inconclusive, with 43.5% vs. 43.7% difference in student opinion.
- Meyer: If someone plans their academic career around having it to graduate on time, there needs to be a 4 year transition.
- Valla: In the meeting with Dr. Dreisbach he made that point. That is what the task force is thinking about. Taking out would take away money. All these issues are being covered.
- Molitoris: I like intersession but not a lot that goes with it. There are expensive housing costs and credits. The university does a bad job of advertising. Only a certain type of student does intersession. If kept, maybe there could be better advertising, or incentives offered. What intersession is right now isn't used to what it could be.
- Jone: I know that accounting majors have an opportunity with Price Waterhouse Coopers because of intersession. The university has a good relation with the company, and they offer an internship in New York City over intersession with a condensed spring schedule.
- Casey: There are perks both ways. I'm in favor of it, but the education you receive in intersession is watered down.
- Hayden: It's ridiculous to cram in 3 credits in 3 weeks. I don't think I remember 3 hour classes. It just becomes a blur.
- Molitoris: I took a class and it was watered down. It would be good if the University developed specific courses for the intersession environment, for example field studies, instead of trying to fit it in.
- Prizeman: I agree. The nature of these classes is only for some subjects. You can study abroad during this time.
- Joswick: It is more common that students change majors. Intersession helps students change their mind, and provides an opportunity for travel, working to make money, and for those who live far away. Maybe we just need to reconsider the circumstances.

- Dean McShea: These are all amazing insights. Intersession was created to create interdisciplinary studies.
- Zelno: Is there any progress with the new parking?
- Solomeno: Let's bring that up later.
- Rengert: I am all for intersession. It is a good experience. I agree with everyone about classes watered down. Since the majority of students take only one class, maybe there could be morning and afternoon sessions.
- Ferrise: It is a good idea but it could be a problem for commuters. Jessica Planchock has a 40 minute drive home.
- Rengert: It could work out to have an even hour lunch break.
- Lecours: I have never done intersession, but I like the way it breaks up the school year.
- Joswick: Fr. Pilarz said they will possibly do away with intersession because of the school year this year. There were a lot of other problems, and to do away with intersession is not way to resolve all these problems.
- Solomeno: I have never taken a class but I've been here, and it is a time to build community, and make up classes. It is that sense of community unique to Scranton, and allows service trips to Guadalajara, and opportunities such as Price Waterhouse.
- French: Some locals talk like it would be taking away Christmas vacation.
- Solomeno: Just to recap some ideas: there is concern about graduation, marketing it, affecting internships, pedagogical concerns, evaluation and ranking, 4 year graduation rank, no intersession turns into summer session, having morning and afternoon sessions.
- Bauer: Some worry that no intersession we get out later and so can't get a job. We can use that time to look for jobs.
- Solomeno: For the issue of rising sophomore parking, we received feedback, and were briefed on plans to promote safety. The background is that there will be satellite lots. This won't effect commuters or upperclassmen. It is the best of the worst scenarios. There will be a fenced in lot, with 24 hour surveillance, patrolled regularly, well lit path, trains moved.
- Hayden: Will Public Safety regularly patrol the path? If I'm a girl walking back to Redington, it seems shady.
- Solomeno: There will be heightened patrols, and increased attention. There have been no incidents of violence or vandalism in this area.
- Rengert: We should publicize the escort service.
- Solomeno: The area is equipped with blue lights.
- Molitoris: Do the restrictions apply Monday through Friday?
- Casey: Yes.
- Solomeno: Just a brief reminder – tomorrow at 1:30, there is a forum on the Ignatian College proposal. Meetings next year will be at 4:30 p.m. every other Thursday. Don't schedule class at 6:30. Our training will be at Chapman Lake this summer. When we meet individually, I will ask what date will work for you. We will have a conversation Monday with Dean McShea and Chief Pomager about public safety patrols and parking. Is there anything to add?
- Molitoris: I want to discuss RA and public safety relationships.
- Solomeno: Public Safety is spending too much time off not enough on. Things happen in Residence Halls, and Public Safety presence may be uncomfortable but could cause more trouble.
- Molitoris: The more Public Safety, the more incidents. Is the job of RA more of enforcer or more of mentor/helpful person? I'd rather be a mentor.
- Konzman: RAs must call Public Safety if dealing with alcohol. Public Safety is involved either way.
- Hayden: Safety should outweigh Public Safety walking through so not students are not cited.
- Solomeno: You say that not living in dorm for a year.
- Hayden: It's called public safety, not public illegal.
- Molitoris: They come to check doors, check cat-walk doors.
- Konzman: It is kind of a balance between mentor and enforcer. The persona of RAs are up to them. The reason to check the maintenance closets is that master keys that would compromise all dorms are in them.

- Solomeno: Thank you. This has been a productive first meeting. I have never seen as many people speak. Keep doing that. Great job and we'll be in touch.
- Dean McShea: I agree. This is fabulous. Please stop by my office on 1<sup>st</sup> floor Gunster anytime.
  - Motion to Adjourn (Molitoris)
  - Second (Rengert)