



21 September 2006
Student Senate Minutes

I. Prayer/Minutes/Roll

- Motion to approve minutes (Bauer)
- Second (Rengert)
- Roll (Jessica Planchock absent)

II. Executive Reports

A. President's Report (Solomeno)

- Welcome. I'm happy to see you all came back. Just to get you up to speed on what has been happening. Freshman elections are starting. Campaigning starts tomorrow at 8:00am, and goes through Tuesday. Voting will be Friday, at 8:00 am until 8:00 pm. I invite you to come join us at 8:30 pm on the Gunster patio for the results.
- Congratulations to Amy and Joe for their work with Camp Democracy. There were a good number registered to vote and registered for absentee ballots.
- The Legal Assistance has been increasingly utilized. It is on track now to be used seven times a month. Attorney Jones is now at about 6 meeting a month. We look forward to bringing him to the Senate next meeting.
- Tonight we have two resolutions to make changes, one about class office and one about budget. Really consider the budget so as we go forward we can provide for clubs and organizations. Amy has a plan so that in the future will better be able to predict club spending.
- In the back of packet, there is a list of appointments. There are some changes.
- Tonight we have guests from library to discuss exam hours for the library.

B. Treasurer's Reports (McKiernan)

- I'll start with Camp Democracy. This past Saturday we registered 75 people to vote, and 50 absentee voters. It was really exciting. The International Politics Club won during the voter drive. You can still register by October 10 to vote in the November 7th election.
- There will be club information sessions. Clubs must attend one. The meetings will outline the allocation process. If you know club members, please bring it to their attention.
- Meyer: Will you send out an e-mail?
- McKiernan: Yes

C. Secretary's Report (O'Hagan)

- Senate training will be held on Thursday, September 28th, Thursday, October 12th and Saturday October 21st.

D. Director of Communication's Report (Mullin)

- Thank you to the Senators for hanging flyers.
- I will do publicity about the meetings with the times.
- I'm working with Joe Casabona on a Student Government e-mail newsletter.
- Bauer: What will it be? The minutes from the meetings?
- Mullin: It will have important information, and press releases.
- Solomeno: You took the lead with your class newsletter. Get in touch with Ian and Joe with information. This will be a professionally designed newsletter where we can put all Senate information. Just for your information, there was an issue identified that student senate needed to communicate more with constituents.
- Mullin: Send us content you would like in the newsletter.

E. Director of Technology's Report (Casabona)

- Thanks for sending me your bios. I'm updating the website. I designed a prototype for the newsletter, but we're working on content. I need to retake the Senate photo after the meeting.

III. Senate Standing Committees

A. Academic Affairs (Rengert)

- Nothing to report, except Mario had an idea. A question was brought up about the library. Is it possible to have a Royal Card swipe for the copy machine?
- A long time ago, printing was free. We would pick up barrels of unused paper everyday. We decided to limit printing by making it cost. At that time the cost of photocopying was 10 cents and we reduced it to 7 cents.
- We're losing money on photocopies because of e-reserves and e-journals. Now journals are online and print for free. We don't make revenue on photo copies.
- We just try to break even, but we can consider it. We know have a microfilm printer with scanner.

B. Appropriations (Joswick)

- Nothing to report.

C. Ignatian Awareness (Molitoris)

- Nothing to report. Freshman retreats are starting. They currently need more males to attend.

D. Residence Life and Dining Services (Bauer)

- We met last Thursday and our main concern is finding a way to publicize ourselves. We had a meeting with Ted and Joe, and talked about options with food and theme nights. We talked about having a dining service night where we would be on stage, and having our pictures on the comment board.

E. Safety and Crime Prevention (Hayden)

- I will hand this one over to Ali.
- Bauer: We had a meeting with Chief Pomager and talked about problems with the walk back from the parking lot. There are a lot of available Redington spots. If spots continue to be open, maybe we could work something out that students with academic concerns could park in Redington.
- Mullin: What do you mean by academic concerns?

- Bauer: Nursing and education students who will need to drive to do observation and clinical hours.
- Jones: There is probably an average of 60 spots available, but 112 sophomores park at Fitzpatrick field. Academic concerns seems like the most fair way to decide who can park there.
- Solomeno: what's your major?
- Jones: Business.

IV. University Wide Committees

- The President's Cabinet met. Some issues that were discussed were the Senior class speaker, the Intersession task force is still working, and an assessment of the freshman year experience.

V. Senate Forum

A. Presentation on library

- On the chart we handed out, you will see a count of people in the building at midnight, and a count of how many were left each hour. Every hour on the half hour we counted how many left.
- Solomeno: We had a meeting and went over the numbers, and the concern is not enough students used it. Think about that and give feedback.
- The majority of students were sleeping. Is that the best use? People literally moved in.
- We are delighted you like our library, but want to make sure we have proper staff. There is no way to rope off or close off floor. This head count represents all of the library. It is always open until 2:00am during exam week. A lot of people came between 6:00am and 7:00am. Maybe we could consider opening at 7:00am.
- Joswick: Based on this evaluation, it is premature to make a decision because it was brand new. It is good to keep open for commuters. Maybe we could wait one more this semester to evaluate it.
- Malloy: How many people does it take to staff?
- One at circulation desk, one at the reference desk, and public safety visits. Public Safety, however, didn't come through. It's hard, because when staff is hired you can't tell them you have to stay overnight. It's left to staff volunteers.
- Mullin: I agree with Christy. Is it possible to expand the opening hour?
- How do you feel about 7:00am.
- Rengert: I think that is good, or even 6:00am. It is common to wake up early to study. I go to the 2nd floor cafeteria, but there's music there.
- I think it will be easier to get staff to volunteer early rather than late at night. This was in May. In December there are issues with snow. The library tries to stay open in snow, and we make accommodations as best as possible. A related issue is that on the 3rd night, most people were asleep. Does that really help you to do better on exams? Were any of you in library?
- French: I was. It was really scary and eerie because no one was there. The no Public Safety is a concern. As for work, on the 2nd night people were doing work.

I think we should push it this semester and publicize more. Maybe we could shoot for a 6:00am opening.

- Jones: I remember it was changed for a while to not going to be open. People showed up with pillows and took power naps. The Pro Deo room was packed. Maybe more than just the Pro Deo room should be extended during Dead Week.
- Dean McShea: This raises a philosophical issue as well. The library always offers the Pro Deo room with 24 hour access. What kind of academics are we promoting at 4, 5 and 6 am? Is it appropriate when sleep and wellness are just as important?
- Meyer: Regardless, I think we should open the library early. If you have an 8:00AM exam, you might want to wake up and go to the library before it. I personally would rather see it open early, than close at 2:00am or 3:00am and have to walk home in the middle of the night. I would rather see it close at 2 and open early. Either 24 hours, or close at reasonable time because of safety concerns.
- French: We're in college. We should know some have 8:00am exams, sleep all day and then study all night. If you don't want to walk home at 3:00am, we should give the benefit of doubt that we are in college and should know when to walk home.
- Hayden: I'm not the best at timing. It is hard to study before finals. They say dead week, but it's really a time to pile on 15 page papers. I never had chance to study until finals week. It helps me staying up late.
- Ferrise: The Pro Deo room holds 58 people?
- 51
- Ferrise: Between 53-80 people were in the Pro Deo room. Later, we have more there. Do you plan on bringing more chairs into the Pro Deo. Instead of opening early, push it back later. Unfortunately on the 2nd day 30 more people than can fit were in the Pro Deo Room.
- Jones: As far as the academic community, what are the guidelines for dead week?
- Dean McShea: The exact information in the academic catalog, so you can refer to it. I believe quizzes are fine, but tests are issue and any new papers that had not already been assigned. So if you had paper and knew about it, it's allowed. It's my understanding that quizzes are fair game.
- Solomeno: Colleen worked advocacy for student about this. There is the option available to contact the Dean or contact CAS. Students need to be more proactive approach because there are issues with it.
- Casey: Let's end discussion with this and give feedback for the ladies. By a show hands, do we want it open early or late?
- Molitoris: There is a concern about staff. What do staff do at those hours?
- There is a circulating clerk, and one at the reference desk. There is no reference service after 2am.
- Molitoris: Could a work study student do this?
- What if they have an exam? They also need sleep. It's hard to get them to work until 11. It becomes study work, not work study. We always have at least 2 adults in the building. We closed the building to public at 10pm. We make sure

- the restrooms, and back stairs are clear of the public. Only students who swiped are present.
- Zelno: Maybe 2:00am is the ideal closing time. Look at the hours. 40 students out of 4,000 were present. That's less than 1% of the University.
 - Hernandez: We have no sufficient numbers to make assertions. We have only one example, from one final exam week. We need more to judge.
 - Solomeno: My question, optimally the library would open always 24 hours, if that was possible. If there are staff issues, is it feasible to even have staff for this exam week?
 - I think people who volunteered last time, would not again.
 - Solomeno: The Pro Deo Room has not enough room, and is noisy. Can you open the 2nd floor and lock the rest?
 - You will still have same number of staff.
 - Solomeno: The desire was to open 24 hours. Can you open at 6:00am?
 - In ideal world we would open for 24 hours, but we don't have the staff.
 - Casey: We appreciate you for coming today.

VI. Old Business (No old business)

VII. New Business

A. Senbill 020.06

- Molitoris: This legislation if passed would affect our current election system. It would change to 4 Senators. The situation in the Freshman election that is currently going on, is there are 9 ballots running for 2 spots and 2 people running for 2 spots. People think there is more responsibility as President and Vice President. We all know that there is no added responsibility. Our election system is misleading. That said, I appreciate comments.
- Casey: If you refer to the bolded line, this is a new addition to constitution. It also adds Directors of Communication and Technology.
- Dean McShea: There is only one person running for two spots.
- Lecours: When we meet with representatives, the president and vice president take leadership role and facilitate meeting. We're not below them, but they initiate a lot.
- Casey: This is something that changes every year.
- Hayden: Maybe that is the situation in your class. I ran unopposed. Realistically, there's no different between me and Colleen. There are 18 people running for 2, and 1 for 2. This is sad because the best people are not getting the job because of power hunger. I think tickets are cool, but you could still have an unofficial ticket. Me and Colleen have never disagreed until about a minute into the future.
- Rengert: I don't totally disagree, but I kind of do. I do not necessarily think there should be a President and Vice President and 2 senators. Most things have a title. I disagree with having 2 people run. I think you should run on ticket. Maybe we could consider having 4 senators with 2 tickets.
- French: I ran both ways. Running with someone else adds to it. It's a whole new experience. I like where you add director of technology and director of

- communication. It takes away from the election experience. Maybe we could let people know how many are running or advertise we are equal.
- Molitoris: We're all equal. I ran freshman year on a ticket and sophomore and junior by myself. We are all equal. If you are running for the experience, you are hurting the system. It's better having to work for the position. This way you will have four people who are equals with the same name. Having 4 Senators brings in a bigger pool and makes a more diverse, equally qualified Senate.
 - Solomeno: Who ran unopposed? In some cases, this is because of a lack of interest, some cases the classes thought you were doing well. In the case of the Freshman, is it better to have 19 to 2 and 18 for 1, or 19 for 4? What do you say to other 16 that are not elected? The new girl is immensely qualified. When Joe and I were here as freshman, I opposed it, and I see now that it had a lot to do with my ego, not realizing how our job is to have qualified Senators. The emphasis is that we are 4 equals who will join 22 equals.
 - Prizeman: I completely agree. The numbers speak for itself. It is easier to run on ticket. President and Vice President are more like figure heads. Take that away and you have 4 people that are recognized.
 - Motion to move to second reading (Meyer)
 - Second (Malloy)
 - Meyer: I'm fully behind this bill. I have run on a ticket and by myself. I remember during my re-election, when I talked to people they didn't know who the senators were. This will create more class cohesiveness. The title puts them beneath even though you don't want to admit.
 - Casey: Chris, would you implement date?
 - Molitoris: It would take effect next election cycle. I'll accept an amendment for Spring 2007 election cycle, social class representation in effect.
 - Hayden: Last year I was on an ego trip and this voted down. We are representing the student body and the way things work, we are equal. This prepares us for real life. What happens when we have real jobs? We work together and make progress. We have to accept it will happen. It will be good to have 4 viewpoints. It will be a great learning experience.
 - Joswick: I'm voting against this because this prepares us for the real world. The truth is, in real world, there are people above us. Some people are willing to work harder and they deserve the title.
 - Bauer: I have no idea how to vote on this. I see both sides. At Senate meetings we are equal, but when we are separated by class, and when we work with our class, there is a distinction. All of us work together, but the President and Vice President are facilitators to initiate the meetings.
 - Solomeno: I understand the President/Vice President dynamic. Hypothetically, when you meet with your class, you would still step up regardless of title. That can happen. Joe and I were together here Freshman year. Look at the system. It produces uncontested elections in representative positions when there is no distinction between the 2.
 - Casey: Please note that this is a constitutional change and will need $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to pass.

- Ferrise: In our class, the election changed. We ran against 3 other tickets, and the representatives ran unopposed. This year different was different. Each individual is different. The idea of 19-4 seems like a popularity contest. I don't agree.
- Casey: It's even less of popularity contest.
- Ferrise: You will be less likely to learn what each candidate is like.
- Hayden: It is absurd to say 19-4 is, but 18 -2 isn't popularity contest.
- Konzman: I'm in favor. It clarifies a common misconception. There is no difference. Why make a difference in the election. This helps clarify what we do
- Malloy: We need a fair playing field and need to make this clear to voters.
- French: My opinion swayed because I realized maybe I was on an ego trip. How would people vote? How many votes/ballot?
- Molitoris: There will be later discussion for election guidelines.
- French: The only bill I wrote last year was for the student class speaker at graduation.
- Solomeno: We will discuss that issue. We're not losing the class speaker, but moving away from it necessarily being the senior class president.
- Jones: I'm voting against because it will hinder the system, and it's important to have someone in the leadership position. Freshman are blind-sighted during the election process. We need more advertising. The process is expatiated too much. I know someone who wanted to run but didn't know about it.
- Dean McShea: In general, students who knew deadlines show accountability. All freshman received an e-mail. Accountability is critical.
- Mullin: I had 74 posters sent to every dorm, every building except the library. There were over 80 posters.
- Solomeno: It is publicized. It is a discussion with election commission.
- Rengert: I have a concern with 10 people on ballot getting lost in shuffle. Could we look into holding primary elections?
- Solomeno: That's a good idea.
- Casey: Yes it is.
- Motion to vote (Hernandez)
- Second (Hayden)
- 14 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 2 abstentions (Bauer, Zelno), constitution amended

B. Senbill 019.06 – budget

- McKiernan: My idea is to establish a 10% reserve on student reserve. At the beginning we will immediately reserve 10% that will become available again at 1st meeting. It is good for additional emergencies.
- Zelno: I think this is excellent.
- Motion to move to second reading (Zelno)
- Second (Konzman)
- Dean McShea: Just to clarify. For those that have materials on time, how are they treated?
- Solomeno: Clubs and organizations that are late receive an automatic deduction in funding. We are working to re-do the allocation process. There is a 33%

deduction. In the upcoming weeks, we are going to Dr. Carilli to lay out current our situations and show we're being responsible.

- Hernandez: Under 3.A, it says emergencies. Is this Hurricane Katrina?
- McKiernan: Last year we donated to a Jesuit High School in New Orleans. It is not necessarily for disasters like this, but we're looking for space to breath and make decisions.
- Jones: We aren't allowed to approve allocation to fundraise for clubs?
- Solomeno: Last year Fr. Pilarz asked us to part with some funds for Hurricane Katrina. We donated \$1,500. We gave money to international and domestic service and raised money with calendars. We donate on behalf of club and organizations.
- Rengert: Is it a significant decrease to change what to give?
- McKiernan: There is about a \$40,00 reserve. This is our 1st action.
- Motion to Approve (Hayden)
- Second (French)
- 15 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 0 abstentions

VII. Senate Forum

- Solomeno: I would like to discuss the senior speaker issues. Fr. Pilarz indicated that there will be student speaker. Who should be speaker? An individual who writes the best speech? Should it be thrown open to class? All these ideas were thrown out. What is your opinion?
- Hayden: Can we grandfather this in for this year, and then have further discussion for next year?
- Solomeno: That's what we were talking about. It's not permanent unless we decide differently.
- Rengert: I didn't assume I am speaking. I am against writing speech and then reading them to see which is best. I don't want to know ahead of time what I'm going to hear. It loses the element of surprise.
- Hayden: It's a good honor for someone and I think it's a privilege Colleen has earned through the work she has done for our class. Also, we're faces that are recognizable. Someone could write a great speech, but you wouldn't recognize them on the commons. It's that kind of charisma you want to have in the speaker.
- Casey: Maybe Academic Affairs should meet and talk about ideas.
- Solomeno: Within month you should have some legislation to forward.
- Rengert: For this year or for the future?
- Solomeno: Everyone understands the situation you are in Colleen. If you feel uncomfortable let someone else take the lead with this. Mike can write legislation and you can choose to abstain from voting.
- French: I wrote bill and submitted it, but withdrew it because it is a bill that if passed wouldn't be approved. It involved all residence halls that allow students to live in them for more than one year. These are Leahy, and the Apartments. Students have to move out and move back. My bill said that students would claim their room, so it just wouldn't be available in housing lottery for the next year. Also, they would be able to leave something there.

- Konzman: The reason students have to move out is these buildings provide summer conference housing.
- French: I knew there were camps during summer, but I didn't know they stayed in Leahy or the Apartments. This would mean they could just reserve rooms.
- Rengert: I think that is unfair. It would be great for Juniors with a great lottery time, but then they would automatically get a great time again. It's great if you have a good time, but not if you have a bad time as a Junior.
- French: The lottery is already unequal. I was just trying to please some people.
- Solomeno: I'm glad you took the time to write this bill. My concern is that we would just be spinning our wheels. What is the likelihood that we could invite the new Director of Residence Life and talk about the lottery? I got kicked out of my housing by rising Sophomore. Why not have them come explain?
- Casey: We can try to set that up for next meeting.
- Konzman: It's Barb 1st weeks. It might be easier to invite someone else.
- Rengert: What are we going to do about the Freshman election?
- Solomeno: We'll leave it to the election commission. The Senate will consider it a vacancy and fill it. Andrea, the new member, and the other 2 position elected will be elected and we will entertain motions for nominations.
- Dean McShea: Will people who submitted on time be the ones who are nominated, rather than in general?
- Solomeno: Our constitution says that everyone is eligible.
- Dean McShea: Doesn't that contradict students having paperwork in on time?
- Solomeno: It will be up to the election commission, after Tuesday at 8 pm.
- Jones: How do we pick?
- Solomeno: We take votes to eliminate candidates until we have a winner.

VIII. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn (French)
- Second (Molitoris)
- Adjournment at 6:27 PM