

**Student Senate Minutes**  
**September 28, 2007**

1. Prayer (S. Muth)
2. Minutes/Roll
  - 2.1. French motions to approve minutes.
    - 2.1.1. Meyer seconds.
3. Executive Reports
  - 3.1. President's Report (C. Molitoris)
    - 3.1.1. We have some new faces present at today's meeting. I would like to welcome our Freshmen Senators for the Class of 2011. Why don't we all introduce ourselves to our newest members. (Student Senate members introduce themselves)
    - 3.1.2. We also have Jen Sidari here to talk to us about her charter for the photography club. Dr. Voltzow will also be giving a presentation on the Middle States.
    - 3.1.3. I want to remind everyone that the Alma Mater Showdown is next Tuesday, October 2. Dan French will speak more about that in the Senate Forum. Also, the Office Convention is approaching. For volunteer coordination go to [www.scranton.edu/sg](http://www.scranton.edu/sg).
      - 3.1.3.1. Meyer: Can you elaborate on how we will be volunteering?
      - 3.1.3.2. C. Molitoris: Volunteers will do anything from crowd control, running, serving events, or setting up. If you go to the Office Convention website you can look at the schedule for the weekend. That will give you a clue as to what your volunteering will consist of. All events are mainly in downtown Scranton.
      - 3.1.3.3. Jordan: Are we strapped for volunteers?
      - 3.1.3.4. C. Molitoris: No, we need as many as possible.
    - 3.1.4. We are also creating a new committee. D. Jones is the chair. This committee will work with Dean Welsh, the Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education. He is also in charge of Summer Session classes. He wants to make summer classes more student driven. He wants to improve the Summer Session by having students fill out interest surveys to increase enrollment. Some ideas include classes where a student does research at home and then field research in Scranton or other major cities. He is also looking into adding more long-distance education, such as conference classes. Speak to Jones if you are interested. There will be a meeting next week. The deadline for the planning the Summer Session is mid-October.
    - 3.1.5. There was a President's Cabinet meeting this week. We discussed a Good-Bye Gunster event. Is anyone interested in planning?
      - 3.1.5.1. French: The Dinning Services/ResLife Committee already started planning.
      - 3.1.5.2. McShea: Many people are excited about the idea of this event. Student Government should stay in contact with other larger organizations such as USPB and Alumni Affairs. This way everyone is on the same page.
  - 3.2. Director of Communication's Report (M. Hayden)

- 3.2.1. The Heritage Calendar is finished. I have a table reserved on Gunster. Please sign up to help sell calendars. There are times for today and Saturday. The calendars are \$10 each.
  - 3.3. Director of Technology's Report (E. Speelman)
    - 3.3.1. Recently, I put up the Office Convention volunteer form on the Student Government website. There will soon be other updates to the website, including a news story page, slideshow or streaming video. There will be links to pages for clubs and each Student Government Committee. We are looking into doing a podcast and perhaps a fireside chat with Chris.
      - 3.3.1.1. C. Molitoris: We'll have to talk about that.
      - 3.3.2. There may also be a blog where students can post their ideas. If you would like to see any features added, please let me know.
  - 3.4. Treasurer's Report (J. Beech)
    - 3.4.1. The report is in the packet that you received today. It lists the spending for the last thirty days. We are on budget. We are currently working with clubs on appeals. I have also just completed an updated Club Handbook. Next week there will be a clubs meeting to which all presidents and treasurers must attend.
      - 3.4.1.1. Meyer: Did you email both the club presidents and treasurers about the meeting?
      - 3.4.1.2. Beech: I emailed the presidents, but I did not have a contact list for treasurers.
4. Senate Standing Committees
  - 4.1. Academic Affairs (D. Jones)
    - 4.1.1. We did not meet officially. Issues that we are working on include: timing for finals, finals study days, and gym class credits for varsity sports.
  - 4.2. Appropriations (K. Meyer)
    - 4.2.1. We have had no official meetings. However, I do have everyone's schedules and will email everyone for possible meeting times. We have had one club appeal. We are excited to find out who our new freshman committee member will be. Do you know what appropriations is? We take the Student Activities budget and allocate it to the clubs. They propose the money they will need for the next year. We check their paperwork and required community service projects and then allocate funds appropriately. We are now going through the appeals process.
  - 4.3. Ignatian Awareness (P. O'Leary)
    - 4.3.1. We did not meet officially this week. In the near future, we will propose legislation for community service for clubs. Also, we feel that assigning people for prayer is working really well.
  - 4.4. Dining Services/ResLife (D. French)
    - 4.4.1. This has been a big week for our committee. Last year we had a Dining Services/ResLife night. We met with people in the cafeteria and talked to them about what they want. We want to invite everyone in Student Government to work at Center Stage.
    - 4.4.2. Also, we tried to fight for take-out on third floor. Ted said no unless "there's a riot." So far, the Good-Bye Gunster event is scheduled for

December 10<sup>th</sup>, but if we want to make the event bigger we might have to push it back. We want to do something similar to the President's Breakfast but bigger.

4.4.2.1. Mailen: Will this take the place of Finals Frenzy?

4.4.2.2. French: Yes

4.4.2.3. Meyer: That might conflict with the plans of USPB.

4.4.2.4. McKeane: This is exactly why we need make a committee and coordinate with other organizations.

4.4.3. We also want to bring back themed music nights in the cafeteria. Bruce Springsteen will be playing Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights. We are also looking to have Sinatra and Elvis nights. Please send us your ideas.

4.4.4. Cervi: What reasons are there for not allowing take-out in the cafeteria?

4.4.5. French: It's because in the new DeNaples center, it will be all you can eat, all the time.

#### 4.5. Safety and Crime Prevention (C. Cervi)

4.5.1. We didn't meet officially this week. At Mulberry and Madison Apartments there are a lot of people crossing the street that runs between Jarrett House and Brennan Hall. Because of all of the parked cars, it is very dangerous. We talked to Tim Briggs from Public Safety about putting in a crosswalk. He said that the city would not be in favor. It would take away parking spots. Does anyone else think that we should pursue this issue further?

4.5.1.1. Beech: Isn't Jarrett House being demolished? That will eliminate a lot of pedestrian traffic through there. A crosswalk would also give pedestrians a false sense of security. People would stop looking both ways before they cross the street.

4.5.1.2. Meyer: There are also crosswalks at both ends of that block. I do not think that the city would approve putting a crosswalk in the middle of the block also.

#### 5. University Wide Committees

##### 5.1. President's Cabinet (Christopher Molitoris)

5.1.1. At this President's Cabinet meeting we focused on facilities. We discussed the new buildings currently under construction such as the DeNaples center and Condron Hall. We will have a second tour of the DeNaples for those who could not attend the one this past week.

#### 6. New Business

##### 6.1. Petition for Charter: The Photography Club

6.1.1. McKeane: Ryan Molitoris worked with Jen Sidari, the official representative, of the proposed Photography Club.

6.1.2. Sidari: I have a great interest in photography, but do not have any formal training. Most of the clubs currently at the University are academic. I had an informational meeting to survey interest for a photography club. 32 people attended the meeting and others email me about their interest in joining. I am open to any questions that you may have.

6.1.3. R. Molitoris: I encourage everyone to read the mission statement. They have great goals for the club and good funding ideas.

- 6.1.4. Meyer: You did a great job with the mission statement. Dues are an excellent idea. I also like that you plan to submit to *Aquinas* and *Esprit*. This is a great example of cycling back into the University. Once you are a chartered club you will be asking for money from Student Government. What do you look to spend money on?
- 6.1.5. Sidari: Well we have a darkroom already. Also, we do not need to buy cameras because not everyone has a need for one. We already have a lot of the supplies for the darkroom. We would just need chemicals and paper. Most people have cameras already. If not they can work in the darkroom. I also own an extra camera that I plan to donate to the club. The club is also about the appreciation of photography, not just taking pictures. We hope to visit the two local art galleries. We want to go to Nay Aug and the Cape Horn galleries. We hope to submit to the student gallery. It's not all about the camera.
- 6.1.6. Escue: Congratulations on your mission statement again. I think the idea of submitting to *Aquinas* and *Esprit* is a great idea. How do you plan to deal with digital cameras? How do you use darkroom and use the digitals?
- 6.1.7. Sidari: I actually talked about this Dr. Voltzow, our moderator. We could have sessions on learning about both the old and new cameras. Digital is an important aspect of photography and it won't be left out.
- 6.1.8. McGovern: What sort of community service projects do you plan to do?
- 6.1.9. Sidari: We are having difficulty in this category. We wanted to participate in the University Success program. We would buy cameras for local children and have our own gallery. However, this project takes over the summer, which means there will be difficulty in getting students to volunteer. We do plan to participate in on-campus activities such as Race for the Cure.
- 6.1.10. French: I motion to approve the charter for the Photography club.
- 6.1.10.1. Cervi: Seconds
- 6.1.10.2. Senate vote to approve charter: unanimous.
7. Senate Forum
- 7.1. Middle States Guest Speaker: Dr. Voltzow
- 7.1.1. As an institution of higher education, our University must be accredited. If not, your diploma would be worthless. Every ten years we prove to the accrediting board that we deserve our accreditation. Our accrediting board is called the Middle States. Dr. Ellen Casey is our commissioner. She meets with others to determine standards for accreditation. I have with me a book that includes the standards that each institution must comply with. Every ten years we must do a self-study. This is to demonstrate to our visitors that we merit accreditation. We started the process one year ago and it goes for a total of three years. I was asked to direct the accreditation process and steer a committee of faculty members. Staff, students and faculty look for evidence of University's mission and commitment to Ignatian education. They look at surveys, documents, and reports so that we can continue to function. We turn this evidence into a draft for the University Self Study Report which is currently 180 pages. This is then reviewed by Fr. Pilarz and

others on the evaluation committee. A report is developed and sent out for feedback from others on campus and turned into a final draft. This is sent to outside evaluators. A team will then come for three and a half days at the end of March. They meet with groups on campus to see if our report reflects the University. Dr. Dennis Murray, the chair of the committee, is coming on October 10 to make sure that the report goes with how the campus represents itself to make sure we are prepared for evaluation. He will ask students if they are informed about this process. I would appreciate it if you could all come to meet with him. There was a similar visit last spring that had a small turnout but was a very good discussion. We want to show off how wonderful our school is. There will be soda and pretzels if you are interested. Thank you for letting me come.

7.1.2. C. Molitoris: How often is accreditation done?

7.1.3. Voltzow: Every ten years and a midway report at five years.

7.1.4. C. Molitoris: Who was the person who came last year?

7.1.5. Voltzow: It was our liaison to the Middle States. The spring meeting next year will be the final one. Documents will be available on the University website. When we distribute the documents to campus, we would love your feedback.

## 7.2. Alma Mater Showdown

7.2.1. Mooney: Do we have the t-shirts?

7.2.2. C. Molitoris: The shirts are not in. They had a problem with printing so many at one time. The minimum is 100 shirts total.

7.2.3. Dean McShea: Why don't you explain this event to the freshmen?

7.2.4. French: This is a competition between classes. The Alma Mater is often overlooked so we want to see how many kids we can get to sing the Alma Mater together on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon. We want this to become a tradition. We have shirts and a trophy. The class with the most students present will be engraved on the trophy.

7.2.5. C. Molitoris: I spoke to Kevin Dugan. We were supposed to get the shirts today. We might split the job among different vendors. There was a miscommunication between myself, Dan, and the committee. I didn't get a solid confirmation for the design until too late.

7.2.6. McKeaney: Class affinity is a big thing we want to foster as Student Government. Each class has an account for such things, which is where the shirt money comes from.

7.2.7. Meyer: Freshmen, you can ask any questions throughout the meeting if you don't understand.

7.2.8. DiLeo: Is this the first time for this event? I didn't hear anything about it in the Residence Halls.

7.2.9. Walsh: I actually sent an email out to all of the RA's earlier this week. They have the information and it is up to them to pass it on to their residents.

7.2.10. Lamb: How will we count the classes?

7.2.11. French: Tally the people who get the shirts.

7.2.12. Meyer: How do you know people won't just grab a shirt and leave?

7.2.13. French: We'll trust that they stay.

- 7.2.14. Jordan: What if we run out of shirts?
- 7.2.15. French: This is the first time so we'll have to see what happens.
- 7.2.16. Hayden: Did you talk to Jane Lucas about getting a piano?
- 7.2.17. French: Yes.
- 7.2.18. Lamb: Do the classes sing individually or together?
- 7.2.19. French: Together!
- 7.2.20. DeRosa: Are you going to send out an email with the Alma Mater?
- 7.2.21. French: It will be on the back of the shirts.
- 7.2.22. C. Molitoris: I had a conversation with Fr. Pilarz. He won't be here next week. I talked to him about putting fire around the seal on the shirts. He doesn't have a problem with it. Public Relations said the design was only for Presidential Initiatives. He said he would see what we he could do.
- 7.2.23. McShea: The essence of the event is fabulous. There is potential for it to be phenomenal. However I feel there is a whole class, the freshmen, who don't know about it. There is a way with timing to make this great.
- 7.2.24. Mooney: If we push it back we will have shirts and Fr. Pilarz will be here.
- 7.2.25. French: It was supposed to be just me and three weeks ago. So, I hesitate to push it back again. Everyone is losing interest because they don't think it's actually going to happen.
- 7.2.26. Hayden: Could we make it the same day Al Roker comes?
- 7.2.27. DeRosa: We talked about that, but is it feasible?
- 7.2.28. C. Molitoris: No, because of the convention there will be other shirts.
- 7.2.29. DeRosa: I also think this event deserves a separate day.
- 7.2.30. French: Does everyone agree that we should push it back a week?
- 7.2.31. Mooney: We will need to change the flyers.
- 7.2.32. McKeaney: Freshmen, should we wait?
- 7.2.33. Lamb: Yes, I didn't know about it.
- 7.2.34. French: We'll push it back to the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 7.2.35. C. Molitoris: I'll talk with Fr. Pilarz.
- 7.2.36. McShea: Where are we having it?
- 7.2.37. French: Royal Way.
- 7.2.38. Meyer: How about the Founder's Green? It's bigger though it isn't as central.
- 7.2.39. Mooney: Yeah, the commons is the best location for the community aspect.
- 7.3. Legislation Discussion
- 7.3.1. McKeaney: There is no legislation. At the training session there were a lot of great ideas. We want to remind you to put them into action. Writing legislation is part of being a senator.
- 7.3.2. McGovern: I was thinking about making course evaluations public. However, I talked with Dr. Whittaker and he is concerned about the sensitivity of the comments.
- 7.3.3. Mailen: What will be the benefit?
- 7.3.4. McGovern: This might make people take course evaluations more seriously.
- 7.3.5. Meyer: This came up as an issue before. What was the outcome?

- 7.3.6. McShea: Legislation, via Carilli, went to the Faculty Senate. They said “No” but it was during a transition from paper to online evaluations. They thought their focus should be on the transition.
- 7.3.7. Meyer: Were there other reasons?
- 7.3.8. McShea: No, but we can find out.
- 7.3.9. Hayden: We all go to ratemyprofessor.com. This would be more legitimate.
- 7.3.10. Mailen: This might go against the purpose of the evaluation. Anonymity is important. This is only for the professor and departments, not for students.
- 7.3.11. Cervi: It might turn into a popularity contest.
- 7.3.12. Tenazas: You need to factor in students who fail the class and dislike their teacher.
- 7.3.13. Muth: You may have that but you’ll get a general idea of the average student’s thoughts.
- 7.3.14. Jones: Is this attached to rank and tenure? Wouldn’t it be a violation of privacy?
- 7.3.15. C. Molitoris: Teachers are nervous that if they went public it would affect rank and tenure.
- 7.3.16. McShea: The departments and deans would be allowed access to the evaluations. It could affect them but not officially.
- 7.3.17. DeRosa: Do think professors take them seriously?
- 7.3.18. McKeaney: Yes, some do.
- 7.3.19. C. Molitoris: I was contacted by a group called Pick-A-Prof. They work with the school. It’s an official version of Rate My Professor. You should check it out. I’m not sure of its credentials. Think about it. It might be something we could pursue.
- 7.3.20. McShea: Our Student Government is different than most schools. Some are private entities. Ours is cooperative.
- 7.3.21. DiLeo: What if the professors could type a response of how they responded to an evaluation? Perhaps defend the comments? Students might get a better idea of the teacher.
- 7.3.22. McGovern: I think they were more worried about personal comments.
- 7.3.23. Jones: Anyone interested in joining the committee to work on the summer class schedule, we will meet next week.
- 7.3.24. Escue: I talked to Dean McShea and Carl about the idea that all freshmen get computers. It would be worked into their tuition. Everyone would have the same laptop. I know it is more for Academic Affairs. I was wondering if I could have your support. A lot of schools do this. After two years you have to take all of your information off. You then get a new laptop for you to keep. It will provide everyone with the tools to move forward. We don’t want to be in the pack that doesn’t have this. I’m trying to gather information.
- 7.3.25. Jones: Is this optional?
- 7.3.26. Escue: No. Colleges determine it and it is worked into tuition. All the computers are the same. ResNet would already be downloaded. You can customize them.

- 7.3.27. Jordan: At the last school I attended, it was not mandatory. Everything was already installed. It was a Toshiba and everyone was on the same page. Mandatory is not a good idea because people need different computers for different reasons.
- 7.3.28. Meyer: I think it is a good idea, but not if it is mandatory. Tuition is already high. Some students already have laptops. It isn't the place of the University to force them to buy one.
- 7.3.29. Escue: The cost wouldn't be that much because of the mass quantities ordered. The overall cost of tuition would not increase much.
- 7.3.30. Mooney: Doesn't the school already offer this type of program?
- 7.3.31. Escue: Yes, through Dell. But you have to pursue it on your own. You still pick the computer. With this program everyone would have the same one.
- 7.3.32. Hayden: As an OA, this is the question everyone asks, "How do I get a computer?"
- 7.3.33. McGovern: Would there still be computers on campus?
- 7.3.34. Escue: Yes, but reduced numbers. It would be an extra \$500 for tuition for freshmen and junior years. You have the option to trade in you first computer. Everyone would have the same one and this would be a huge discount, more than just the 10% discount in the individual program that Mooney spoke of.
- 7.3.35. McKeane: This project could be passed onto Academic Affairs.
- 7.3.36. Jones: Yes that sounds great.
- 7.3.37. Cervi: Prior to the 2004 Presidential Election was there Rock The Vote on campus?
- 7.3.38. C. Molitoris: Yes, there is every year. I've been talking to people about voter registration.
- 7.3.39. DeRosa: For the next senate meeting we will review Dan's legislation about the Financial Aid notification?
- 7.3.40. McKeane: I know that Dan is working on it.
- 7.3.41. French: I motion to adjourn the meeting.
- 7.3.42. Meeting adjourned.