recognize the unique needs and goals of the vision of Our Lady University and our essential responsibilities. In order to achieve the greatest possible benefit to our community, we will endeavor to make efficient use of the resources available to us. We will willfully and willfully communicate student concerns to the faculty, administration, and the university community. We will work diligently to ensure that the student reaches his/her potential in an intellectual, spiritual, and emotional and resolve to sustain it. Therefore, we, hereby ordain and establish the Board of the Student Body of the University Union.
Initiatives rearrange student government

Creation of Constituent Services, merger between COR and Senate set tone for change

The outside of the student government office on the second floor of the LaFortune Student Center looks the same as always. But adjustments inside that office have changed student government’s appearance from the inside in dramatic ways this semester. Student body president Pat McCormick has led several projects throughout his administration so far that changed the structure of student government. The changes were McCormick’s attempt to better address the problems that matter both day-to-day and on a larger scale.

“I am very proud of the record that our team had put together, and it has been the team, around trying to advance these issues simultaneously, both issues of convenience and issues of consequence,” McCormick said.

‘Issues of convenience’

McCormick attempted to connect to the day-to-day lives of students specifically through the creation of the Department of Constituent Services in April. “What we wanted to try and do was to create a committee whose sole job it was going to be driven by the voices of students whenever they spoke,” McCormick said. “I think architecturally that was a critical move.”

Director Heather Eaton said the new department serves primarily as a gathering place for student opinions. “Constituent services is really meant to make sure that what we’re doing are the things students want, and we want to make sure students know that they can always talk to us and voice their concerns or what they would like brought up,” she said.

Eaton stepped into her role as the department’s chair with some uncertainty. “Because it was a new role ... at first, I’m not sure everyone had a clear idea of exactly the purpose I was going to serve,” Eaton said. “That was probably what took the longest time, figuring out how I fit in and what I was exactly responsible for, but now that I’ve gotten there, the Constituent Services committee has been a great help to all the other committees in helping them plan for their year.”

Eaton said students can submit their complaints about day-to-day life at Notre Dame to her group. “I know I have a lot of complaints, and I go through the list, and I’m like, ‘Amen! That bothers me too,’” Eaton said. “You kind of think about it, but when the moment that’s inconvenient passes, you forget about it.”

Constituent Services collected over 900 responses to a December survey. Eaton said this feedback allows the group to act on the student body’s ideas. “We asked what people wanted to see sold at the Huddle, and our department actually acted on the student body's ideas.”

The survey resulted in discussions with the Huddle staff. Eaton said, and students will soon see 24-packs of water bottles and more visible price tags on the shelves. Eaton also organized Hall Council visits from the student body president, vice president and chief-of-staff. “It was just an opportunity for them to meet students and become more of a familiar face so people feel comfortable getting in contact with them,” she said.

While the department has been successful collecting student feedback and addressing small concerns, Eaton said cutting through red tape in the administration could still be a problem. “It’s not sure necessarily that we have had a big impact on administration and making changes that allowed for us to do differently that other student government administrations,” she said.

‘Issues of consequence’

The most dramatic change for student government organization this semester occurred in the semester’s 11th hour. Student Senate passed a 13-page resolution during its last meeting of the semester that resulted in a merger between the Council of Representatives (COR) and Senate. The Department of Internal Affairs led the fusion between the groups and wrote the constitutional reforms that made their fusion official. Department members Brendan Noe and Paige Becker pushed the changes forward through the process. “We realized more and more, perhaps the role of the Council of Representatives was created to fill was not being fulfilled, possibly even couldn’t be fulfilled the way it was currently set up,” Becker said.

Becker said some people struggled to admit COR could be obsolete or inefficient. “There were occasionally places where we would run into the perspective that this is the way it’s always been,” she said.

With the new resolution, Senate morphed into a new body that McCormick said better represents the student body. However, the new Senate is currently untested and next semester will reveal how effective the change is for the group. As the office plans more organizations, Noe said he hopes everyone will continue to cooperate.

“I think the majority in general is in favor of change, but I think there is also going to be going a small but vocal minority opposing some changes, just in general,” Noe said. “I know there are some people that are not entirely satisfied with the changes made here, and I would hope that those people don’t use that bitterness or that irritation with this change to hurt future changes that could help student government.”

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu

By MEGAN DOYLE News Editor

Athletic director Jack Swarbrick addresses an Oct. 13 meeting of the Student Senate. Next semester, eight new members will join the group when the Council of Representatives dissolves and merges with Senate.

By MEGAN DOYLE News Editor

Athlete director Jack Swarbrick addresses an Oct. 13 meeting of the Student Senate. Next semester, eight new members will join the group when the Council of Representatives dissolves and merges with Senate.

By MEGAN DOYLE News Editor

The Observer is a comprehensive review of the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s student governments. This issue is intended to illustrate for students what elected officials are doing in their name, so they can enter the election season fully informed. Its intent is to provide an illuminating, unbiased assessment of the state of the Student Union.
Office of the Student Body President and Vice President

Administration works to fulfill campaign goals

McCormick, Rocheleau strive to achieve lofty ambitions, balance day-to-day concerns with larger projects

By MEGAN DOYLE

Thirty-two pages.

The first and most ambitious goal in the duo’s platform was to “make Notre Dame the premier forum for nationally-recognized events uniting athletes, entertainers and policy-makers of behalf of social justice.”

This semester, McCormick’s administration has continued and developed its Playing 4 Peace movement that combines Notre Dame athletics with Notre Dame’s tradition of “Whine Wednesday.”

“The athletics department as a result of Playing 4 Peace has also invested professional staff support into Playing 4 Peace, which was originally just a project between two athletic teams, student government and social concerns through (the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies),” McCormick said.

The fledging project now hosts regular events, like a soccer tournament earlier this fall, that are well attended by both students and local community members.

However, McCormick’s campaign touted his plans for a large charity concert in Notre Dame Stadium, which has been relatively unspoken of this semester. McCormick still promised the concert is in the works in student government.

Action has to be done, I am very excited about what is going to happen in January and February of this year,” McCormick said.

Fighting for quarter dogs

Another major item on the McCormick-Rocheleau platform is the promise to bring back quarter dogs and Puppy Days, for example — have come out of this administration and its constituent services projects so far.

Taxi reform

Student safety both on and off campus was another priority for this administration, and McCormick said he has tried to develop the strong relationships the previous administration built with local officials and law enforcement.

“We’ve been trying to update dorm by dorm on the progress we’re trying to make in building a new student government this year.”

Pat McCormick student body president

The administration’s final promise in its campaign was its most vague — to “amplify student voices in charting a course for the Notre Dame project.”

The promise to “amplify student voices” has seen some concrete results as the administration tries to include the student body in larger conversations.

McCormick and many sustainability clubs on campus participated in conversations surrounding the University’s recent comprehensive sustainability strategy.

However, these conversations began in the Office of Sustainability in 2008, and McCormick’s involvement only began this summer when the plan was in its final stages.

Overall, it is commendable that McCormick and Rocheleau set a high bar for their administration and have made strides toward achieving even the most ambitious goals. However, the student body has yet to see the monumental vision that the duo campaigned on come to fruition.

Next, the administration should target its energy into a few actionable projects to leave its legacy on the student body.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle1@nd.edu

Grade: B+

McCormick and Rocheleau campaigned on ambitious goals and a sweeping vision of change in student government. While the team has accomplished some of its promises, the two have not met the bar they set for themselves when they assumed their positions in April. Their dedication and energy have produced some results, but their initiatives have not gone above and beyond the norm as anticipated. The duo should narrow the focus of their efforts to achieve lasting and tangible results in a few of their projects.
Student Senate

Group debates, approves merger

By MEL FLANAGAN
News Writer

Student Senate has focused its terms on improving the structure of student government by approving several constitutional amendments that are designed to increase clarity and efficiency within the organization. Senate members have been working throughout the semester to culminate in the merger resolution that combined Senate with the Council of Representatives (COR).

Student Senate President Brett Rocheleau, who chairs the Student Senate, said the senators engaged in more discussion related to the resolution being passed.

“Senate has restructured and it was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet,” said Professor Pat Thomas, former vice president for Student Affairs. “I think the Senate has a different view.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

“The resolution is an important step in our transition to becoming a single student government,” Rocheleau said. “It’s all linked to increasing efficiency and effectiveness.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”

The resolution dissolved COR and added six new voting members to Senate. Senate was the resolution COR was saying. It became a topic of discussion earlier times in the spring to further discussion on the matter yet, he said. “The Senate is the only group that has been working on this issue.”
COR dissolves, transfers some members to Senate

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

The Council of Representatives (COR), a diverse advisory group to student body president Pat McCormick for the last two semesters, is scheduled to dissolve this semester due to the death of McCormick in his “State of the Student Union” address.

“The first pillar is uniting the Student Union to make it a more effective advocate, the second, delivering on constituent services and ... (this will) strengthen the student government’s ability to work on issues of consequence,” McCormick said.

This semester was the group’s last as the COR’s last and most significant topic of debate resulted in its consolidation with the Student Senate.

“There was something of a contradiction in COR,” McCormick said.

“Any way we frame that these members of the Student Union should advise the president on student policy and programming. But while we allow them to advise on policy, there was no architecture within student government to let them engage in policy terms,” McCormick said.

McCormick said the group’s debates focused on how to expand representation in student government.

“We tried to think through whether there might be a way to accomplish two objectives,” he said. “First, to cut through the red tape in student government that had increasingly come to be extraneous to the work of the Student Union itself, and secondly, to see whether there might be a way in doing so to unite the Student Union once and for all.”

Following several months of revisions to the constitution led by COR member and Internal Affairs chair Ben Nee, the Council debated the merger for two weeks before holding a trial meeting with Senate. The senators approved the reform of COR.

Before the merger, the Council did also address the second pillar, which McCormick refers to as “issues of convenience.”

Council debate resulted in clarifying policies regarding student use of local taxi services, McCormick said.

“We were excited to have the opportunity to discuss taxi reform and to get people's feedback on transportation in general,” he said. “Providing more effective transportation to and from campus is routine, but important.”

McCormick said the group’s conversations often centered on ensuring a safe school environment, and Notre Dame leprechaun Mike George even attended one meeting.

“I extended that (invitation) to George in order to bring stakeholders together to talk about focusing on both student safety and school spirit,” he said. “We used COR to talk about sustainability, modernization, and things like canned music.”

McCormick said the group was being effective in gauging student sentiment on the controversial game day updates. “COR serves as a sounding board to get a feel about where students stand,” McCormick said.

The Council’s final area of focus this semester, McCormick said, was “issues of consequence” relating to both University and external policy matters.

“We talked about the education Forum, to discuss what worked in past years and how the Forum can be improved,” he said. “We talked about immigration reform in COR before Cardinal Mahoney came to speak at Senate, where we had the opportunity to bring ideas from COR.”

One of the most tangible results of dialogue in COR, McCormick said, was the passage of a comprehensive sustainability strategy by the University.

“We had the chance to talk about sustainability, which contributed to my own approach toward working for a sustainability strategy at Senate, which resulted in our fourth resolution,” he said. “That was followed up with a report to the Board of Trustees, and now we have, for the first time in Notre Dame history, a public commitment to sustainability.”

McCormick said the group’s greatest purpose this semester was to advance students’ role in policy change.

“The representatives embody why the argument is so important, that students can be part of the project of building a Notre Dame consistent with the size of our hopes for the University,” he said.

This semester on three primary goals (COR), a diverse advisory group to student body president Pat McCormick for the last two semesters, is scheduled to dissolve this semester due to the death of McCormick in his “State of the Student Union” address.

“The first pillar is uniting the Student Union to make it a more effective advocate, the second, delivering on constituent services and ... (this will) strengthen the student government’s ability to work on issues of consequence,” McCormick said.

This semester was the group’s last as the COR’s last and most significant topic of debate resulted in its consolidation with the Student Senate.

“There was something of a contradiction in COR,” McCormick said.

“Any way we frame that these members of the Student Union should advise the president on student policy and programming. But while we allow them to advise on policy, there was no architecture within student government to let them engage in policy terms,” McCormick said.

McCormick said the group’s debates focused on how to expand representation in student government.

“We tried to think through whether there might be a way to accomplish two objectives,” he said. “First, to cut through the red tape in student government that had increasingly come to be extraneous to the work of the Student Union itself, and secondly, to see whether there might be a way in doing so to unite the Student Union once and for all.”

Following several months of revisions to the constitution led by COR member and Internal Affairs chair Ben Nee, the Council debated the merger for two weeks before holding a trial meeting with Senate. The senators approved the reform of COR.

Before the merger, the Council did also address the second pillar, which McCormick refers to as “issues of convenience.”

Council debate resulted in clarifying policies regarding student use of local taxi services, McCormick said.

“We were excited to have the opportunity to discuss taxi reform and to get people's feedback on transportation in general,” he said. “Providing more effective transportation to and from campus is routine, but important.”

McCormick said the group’s conversations often centered on ensuring a safe school environment, and Notre Dame leprechaun Mike George even attended one meeting.

“I extended that (invitation) to George in order to bring stakeholders together to talk about focusing on both student safety and school spirit,” he said. “We used COR to talk about sustainability, modernization, and things like canned music.”

McCormick said the group was being effective in gauging student sentiment on the controversial game day updates. “COR serves as a sounding board to get a feel about where students stand,” McCormick said.

The Council’s final area of focus this semester, McCormick said, was “issues of consequence” relating to both University and external policy matters.

“We talked about the education Forum, to discuss what worked in past years and how the Forum can be improved,” he said. “We talked about immigration reform in COR before Cardinal Mahoney came to speak at Senate, where we had the opportunity to bring ideas from COR.”

One of the most tangible results of dialogue in COR, McCormick said, was the passage of a comprehensive sustainability strategy by the University.

“We had the chance to talk about sustainability, which contributed to my own approach toward working for a sustainability strategy at Senate, which resulted in our fourth resolution,” he said. “That was followed up with a report to the Board of Trustees, and now we have, for the first time in Notre Dame history, a public commitment to sustainability.”

McCormick said the group’s greatest purpose this semester was to advance students’ role in policy change.

“The representatives embody why the argument is so important, that students can be part of the project of building a Notre Dame consistent with the size of our hopes for the University,” he said.

Contact John Cameron at jcameron2@nd.edu

Professors debate classroom policies, disability services

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

Student behavior during class, disability services and a new master’s program sparked debate at Faculty Senate this semester, chair Michael Masi and secretary Katie Baker listen during an Aug. 31 meeting of COR.

Eskildsen said the group acts as a voice for faculty interests on campus.

“[The representatives] embody what the argument is so important, that students can be part of the project of building a Notre Dame consistent with the size of our hopes for the University,” he said.

Contact John Cameron at
jcameron2@nd.edu

College of Representatives

Grade: A

Conversations in the Council of Representatives (COR) produced few immediate or tangible results. While the group did support reform on taxis and pep rallies, most of its other suggestions were geared toward long-term projects. However, the group covered a wide range of topics in its discussion and effectively fulfilled its role as an advisory group to the student body president. The group will dissolve next semester and pass only some of its members to Student Senate, but many of this semester’s suggestions will impact projects that will outline COR itself.

From left, student body president Pat McCormick, vice president Brett Rocheleau, parliamentar-ian Michael Masi and secretary Katie Baker listen during an Aug. 31 meeting of COR.

FACULTY SENATE

Professors debate classroom policies, disability services

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

Student behavior during class, disability services and a new master’s program sparked debate at Faculty Senate this semester, chair Michael Masi and secretary Katie Baker listen during an Aug. 31 meeting of COR.

Eskildsen said the group acts as a voice for faculty interests on campus.

“[The representatives] embody what the argument is so important, that students can be part of the project of building a Notre Dame consistent with the size of our hopes for the University,” he said.

Contact John Cameron at
jcameron2@nd.edu

College of Representatives

Grade: A

Conversations in the Council of Representatives (COR) produced few immediate or tangible results. While the group did support reform on taxis and pep rallies, most of its other suggestions were geared toward long-term projects. However, the group covered a wide range of topics in its discussion and effectively fulfilled its role as an advisory group to the student body president. The group will dissolve next semester and pass only some of its members to Student Senate, but many of this semester’s suggestions will impact projects that will outline COR itself.

From left, student body president Pat McCormick, vice president Brett Rocheleau, parliamentar-ian Michael Masi and secretary Katie Baker listen during an Aug. 31 meeting of COR.

FACULTY SENATE

Professors debate classroom policies, disability services

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

Student behavior during class, disability services and a new master’s program sparked debate at Faculty Senate this semester, chair Michael Masi and secretary Katie Baker listen during an Aug. 31 meeting of COR.

Eskildsen said the group acts as a voice for faculty interests on campus.

“[The representatives] embody what the argument is so important, that students can be part of the project of building a Notre Dame consistent with the size of our hopes for the University,” he said.

Contact John Cameron at
jcameron2@nd.edu

College of Representatives

Grade: A

Conversations in the Council of Representatives (COR) produced few immediate or tangible results. While the group did support reform on taxis and pep rallies, most of its other suggestions were geared toward long-term projects. However, the group covered a wide range of topics in its discussion and effectively fulfilled its role as an advisory group to the student body president. The group will dissolve next semester and pass only some of its members to Student Senate, but many of this semester’s suggestions will impact projects that will outline COR itself.

From left, student body president Pat McCormick, vice president Brett Rocheleau, parliamentar-ian Michael Masi and secretary Katie Baker listen during an Aug. 31 meeting of COR.
**Government in brief**

**Graduate Student Union focuses on families**

The Student Union hopes to increase students’ awareness of its ability to provide support for students and the community.

**Board regulates undergrad student clubs**

The Board of Student Affairs (SAO) has approved a new rule that will help regulate student clubs on campus.

**Club Coordination Council allocates funds**

The Club Coordination Council (CCC) has allocated funds to student groups, with some groups receiving more than others.

**Hall Presidents Council discusses pep rallies**

The Hall Presidents Council discussed the success of pep rallies on campus and the importance of security and safety.

**Freshman Class Council**

Freshman class council (FCC) unit- ed the Class of 2015 through a series of different activities, president Tim Scanlon said.

**Senior Class Council**

Senior Class Council (SCC) aimed to bring together different groups of sen- iors through its events this semester, senior class president Anne Huntington said. Our goal for this semester was to try to branch out to different parts of the senior class and try to find ways to cater to their needs, Huntington said. We had a really good response and we were seeing seniors and meeting students we didn’t know before. McCormick said. “It’s an op- portunity for a forum, where students can come together with faculty and students to discuss ways to tangibly improve campus life.”

**Junior Class Council**

Apparel was the main focus for Junior Class Council (JCC) this semester. We really emphasized apparel this semester, which was a big part of our platform, junior class president Nicholas Schilling said. We’ve gotten bro tanks, pint glasses and a bunch of new stuff on order that should come in as soon as we get back.

**Sophomore Class Council**

Sophomore class council (SCC) strove to create memorable experiences for stu- dents through programming this semes- ter, president Nicholas Schilling said. Our primary goal was to put on events where people can look back on next year, they’re going to say, ‘Remember when we went to that dance,’ Schilling said.

**From left, student body chief of staff Claire Sokas, president Pat McCormick, vice president Brett Rocheleau and parliamentarian Michael Masl lead a CLC meeting this fall.**

By Emily SCHRANK

The Council Life Council (CLC) did not begin meeting until October because the group did not receive rector recommendations from Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Tom Doyle until that time. Once the students and rector representatives were able to converse, McCormick said the group began to focus on the major areas that they would like to work on — student safety, ex- panding inclusion and student activities.

Council members have divid- ed into three subcommittees based on these priorities. The subcommittees meet bi-weekly.

The subcommittee on stu- dent safety will work to bring to- gether experts to discuss how to improve campus safety, McCor- mick said. The major thing we’re recom- mending right now is more lighting on campus, McCormick said. Especially in plac- es like Mod Quad, we think that maybe isn’t as much [lighting] as there could be.

McCormick said the goal of the subcommittee on expand- ing inclusion is to enable all students “to serve as partners in the project at Notre Dame.” Students have a unique role in the course for Notre Dame, he said. “They are ready and willing to serve as partners, but that requires mutual respect from both staff and other students.”

The expanding inclusion subcommittee has identified specific areas its members would like to address, McCorm-ick said. “One area they’re looking at is undergraduate and students and their faith traditions,” he said. Another is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students and how we can further extend the life of the University.

McCormick said the student activities subcommittee would make recommendations on both the process and the quali- ty of student activities at Notre Dame, including improvements to SAO online and pep rallies, as well as the modernization of the football stadium.

McCormick said the hope for the year is to produce a report to the Board of Trust- ees and the vice president for Student Affairs detailing CLC’s recommendations on impro- ving these areas of life at Notre Dame.

Contact Emily SCHRANK at eschrank@nd.edu

Delayed start prevents council from concrete accomplishments

Group works on safety, inclusion

**IN Focus**

**Student Union**

**Safety, inclusion**

**The Student Union**

**SAO Online**

**SAO**
Gans, Zupanic reorganize Student Government Association, work toward new structure next semester

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Learning, leading and listening have been key and will continue to be the goals of what Saint Mary's student body president and vice president have labeled the "transition year." President Nicole Gans and vice president Jacqueline Zupancic began the year in fall by presenting the Student Government Association’s (SGA) constitution and bylaws.

"This year [Nicole and I] felt as though we were setting our positions ready to go and fired up," Zupancic said. "Everyone had all these great things they wanted to do, and then we slowly started to realize that our time was being consumed with financial things, with different committees and mending the bylaws.

As we restructing the Student Government Association (SGA), Gans and Zupancic researched how to make the board more effective. Currently, the voting members of SGA are divided into five separate committees headed by the five executive officers: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and director. Zupancic said the goal of this series is to increase the number of positions ready to go and fired up for next semester.

"We definitely have our work cut out for us, and we want all of this to be in place as soon as possible," she said.

Gans and Zupancic said these "transition positions have made them realize the many facets of leadership.

"This semester, Nicole and I realized how long the path is to becoming leaders," Zupancic said. "We're still becoming to becoming leaders," Zupancic is also happy with the "transition position that have made me realize how long the path is to becoming leaders," Zupancic said. "We're still becoming leaders and still honing our leadership skills everyday because problems come up, and we have to exactly be on our game and problem-solve everyday.

For this reason, Zupancic and president Nicole Gans began a monthly leadership program this semester.

"We wanted to create some sort of series that [teaches] students who may not be in leadership positions, who are aspiring to be in them or who are currently in them ... about the different components of leadership and how to motivate and organize different structures and focus on your goals," Zupancic said.

The program started in November and will run through March. It consists of talks held by current Saint Mary's professors, coaches, staff and alumnae.

"We don’t really have leadership classes, so we wanted to bring in different professors from the school," she said.

Zupancic said the program has been a success thus far. Led by Gans and Zupancic both major a goal would be to tie the program in with the student body.

"The goal of this series is to increase the number of positions ready to go and fired up for next semester is to spread awareness that SGA values the needs of the student body," Zupancic said.

"I wish students saw SGA as their ally and us fighting for them. If it's a class, or even if it's (that) people want to get paid every two weeks instead of monthly, is beneficial." Ultimately, Gans and Zupancic said their biggest goal for next semester is to spread awareness that SGA values the needs of the student body, Zupancic said.

"I wish students saw SGA as their ally and us fighting for them. If it's a class, or even if it's (that) people want to get paid every two weeks instead of monthly, is beneficial." Ultimately, Gans and Zupancic said their biggest goal for next semester is to spread awareness that SGA values the needs of the student body, Zupancic said.

"We definitely have our work cut out for us, and we want all of this to be in place as soon as possible," she said.

The Board currently consists of 25 commissioners, but officers said they like to see that number increase.

"We would instead like to see Class Boards, Clubs, Commissioners, Big Boards, and Student Academic Council as committee headed by the five executive members of student government," Brink said. "The information and concerns would then be filtered to a senate of elected students who will vote on the major issues at hand, hopefully eliminating any bias held by current members."

Zupancic is hopeful for the reconstruction of SGA.

"A lot of hours and manpower, research and collaboration will go into the reconstruction of the Association."

Emily Skiritch, chief of staff

A lot of hours and manpower, research and collaboration will go into the reconstruction of the Association.

Emily Skiritch, chief of staff

The Board currently consists of 25 commissioners, but officers said they like to see that number increase.

"We would instead like to see Class Boards, Clubs, Commissioners, Big Boards, and Student Academic Council as committee headed by the five executive members of student government," Brink said. "The information and concerns would then be filtered to a senate of elected students who will vote on the major issues at hand, hopefully eliminating any bias held by current members."

Zirch is hopeful for the reconstruction of SGA.

"A lot of hours and manpower, research and collaboration will go into the reconstruction of the Association," Brink said.

"Despite working in an interim stage, we still plan to be as committed to student issues and concerns as always," Brink said.

Contact Madeline Miles at mml01@ saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s College Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a variety of successful events this semester, including an inspirational leadership series called "Proud Past, Promising Future." While these workshops were informative and productive, much of SGA’s efforts were focused on projects that take effect next semester — such as student government restructuring and the Le Mans Tunnel Project. These projects distracted the group’s attention from its more immediate duties to the student body. Next semester, SGA should try to balance day-to-day event planning and long-term projects more effectively.

Gans and Zupanic have done an excellent job of restructuring their platform goals to better meet the needs of SGA today. Campus pride and community outreach were two top points both girls expressed interest in during their campaign. However, student government housekeeping tasks — amending the SGA constitution, re-writing by-laws and restructuring the process of SGA — have taken precedent over student communication. Next semester, the Board should refocus on campaign goals and concentrate on improved student communication.

Contact Madeline Miles at mml01@ saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s Student Body President and Vice President

Gans, Zupanic reorganize Student Government Association, work toward new structure next semester

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
Saint Mary’s Editor

Learning, leading and listening have been key and will continue to be the goals of what Saint Mary’s student body president and vice president have labeled the “transition year.” President Nicole Gans and vice president Jacqueline Zupancic began the year in fall by presenting the Student Government Association’s (SGA) constitution and bylaws.

“This year [Nicole and I] felt as though we were setting our positions ready to go and fired up,” Zupancic said. “Everyone had all these great things they wanted to do, and then we slowly started to realize that our time was being consumed with financial things, with different committees and mending the bylaws.

As we restructing the Student Government Association (SGA), Gans and Zupancic researched how to make the board more effective. Currently, the voting members of SGA are divided into five separate committees headed by the five executive officers: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and director. Zupancic said the goal of this series is to increase the number of positions ready to go and fired up for next semester.

“We definitely have our work cut out for us, and we want all of this to be in place as soon as possible,” she said.

Gans and Zupancic said these “transition positions have made them realize the many facets of leadership.

“This semester, Nicole and I realized how long the path is to becoming leaders,” Zupancic said. “We’re still becoming leaders, and still honing our leadership skills everyday because problems come up, and we have to exactly be on our X game and problem-solve everyday.

For this reason, Zupancic and president Nicole Gans began a monthly leadership program this semester.

“We wanted to create some sort of series that [teaches] students who may not be in leadership positions, who are aspiring to be in them or who are currently in them ... about the different components of leadership and how to motivate and organize different structures and focus on your goals,” Zupancic said.

The program started in November and will run through March. It consists of talks held by current Saint Mary’s professors, coaches, staff and alumnae.

“We don’t really have leadership classes, so we wanted to bring in different professors from the school,” she said.

Zupancic said the program has been a success thus far. Led by Gans and Zupancic both major a goal would be to tie the program in with the student body.

“The goal of this series is to increase the number of positions ready to go and fired up for next semester is to spread awareness that SGA values the needs of the student body,” Zupancic said.

“I wish students saw SGA as their ally and us fighting for them. If it’s a class, or even if it’s (that) people want to get paid every two weeks instead of monthly, is beneficial.” Ultimately, Gans and Zupancic said their biggest goal for next semester is to spread awareness that SGA values the needs of the student body, Zupancic said.

“We definitely have our work cut out for us, and we want all of this to be in place as soon as possible,” she said.

The Board currently consists of 25 commissioners, but officers said they like to see that number increase.

“We would instead like to see Class Boards, Clubs, Commissioners, Big Boards, and Student Academic Council as committee headed by the five executive members of student government,” Brink said. “The information and concerns would then be filtered to a senate of elected students who will vote on the major issues at hand, hopefully eliminating any bias held by current members."

Zirch is hopeful for the reconstruction of SGA.

“A lot of hours and manpower, research and collaboration will go into the reconstruction of the Association,” Brink said.

“Despite working in an interim stage, we still plan to be as committed to student issues and concerns as always,” Brink said.

Contact Madeline Miles at mml01@ saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s College Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a variety of successful events this semester, including an inspirational leadership series called "Proud Past, Promising Future." While these workshops were informative and productive, much of SGA’s efforts were focused on projects that take effect next semester — such as student government restructuring and the Le Mans Tunnel Project. These projects distracted the group’s attention from its more immediate duties to the student body. Next semester, SGA should try to balance day-to-day event planning and long-term projects more effectively.

Gans and Zupanic have done an excellent job of restructuring their platform goals to better meet the needs of SGA today. Campus pride and community outreach were two top points both girls expressed interest in during their campaign. However, student government housekeeping tasks — amending the SGA constitution, re-writing by-laws and restructuring the process of SGA — have taken precedent over student communication. Next semester, the Board should refocus on campaign goals and concentrate on improved student communication.

Contact Madeline Miles at mml01@ saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s College Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a variety of successful events this semester, including an inspirational leadership series called "Proud Past, Promising Future." While these workshops were informative and productive, much of SGA’s efforts were focused on projects that take effect next semester — such as student government restructuring and the Le Mans Tunnel Project. These projects distracted the group’s attention from its more immediate duties to the student body. Next semester, SGA should try to balance day-to-day event planning and long-term projects more effectively.

Gans and Zupanic have done an excellent job of restructuring their platform goals to better meet the needs of SGA today. Campus pride and community outreach were two top points both girls expressed interest in during their campaign. However, student government housekeeping tasks — amending the SGA constitution, re-writing by-laws and restructuring the process of SGA — have taken precedent over student communication. Next semester, the Board should refocus on campaign goals and concentrate on improved student communication.
SAB hosts seasonal events, engages community

Board begins fall on high note, plans ahead for SMC Tostal and spring concert in upcoming semester

By JILLIAN BARWICK
News Writer

Saint Mary’s Student Activities Board (SAB) successfully paired traditional favorites with new events this fall. Board president, senior Allie Courtney said, “We think we have accomplished that this year. We hosted different events this semester for a new change and appealed to a different part of the student body.”

The year began on high note with the Belles Bash, Courtney said. She said over 400 students enjoyed inflatables, a DJ and laser tag in August for the Belles Bash that kicked off the school year at Saint Mary’s.

“Undoubtedly the best event of the semester was Belles Bash, our giant kick-off event,” Courtney said. “It was a great way for SAB to help students begin their year at Saint Mary’s. After this successful start, SAB drew crowds to its first Fright Fest right before Halloween. The evening featured a haunted house, pumpkin-carving contest and a 1920s-themed Murder Mystery dinner party. The semester concluded with its annual Winter Wonderland, a holiday service event, which included a pep rally and canoe races. We paired traditional favorites with new events this semester. We definitely encouraged community throughout our campus by collaborating with a variety of clubs in Winter Wonderland,” Courtney said.

Courtney said she expects more successful events from SAB in the spring to brighten up the dreary winter months. “For next semester, Midnight Madness will be returning,” Courtney said. “The spring concert in April and SMC Tostal are also in the works for next semester.”

After wrapping up the fall semester, Courtney, a senior, said she is nostalgic about heading into her last semester with SAB, but is focused on planning successful events. “We will finally host an outdoor movie, scavenger hunt, canoe races and more SUNDAYS on Sunday,” Courtney said. “It’s very bittersweet for me to be going into my last semester on SAB, but I know SAB vice president Jackie Zupancic is determined to make it special and full of great events.”

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

RHA hosts spirit, service weeks

From Harry Potter Trivia Night to community service events, the First-Year Board’s (FYO) Residence Hall Association (RHA) has hosted a number of successful events this semester. “RHA, along with the Hall Councils, have helped put on some amazing events so far this year,” Nelson said. “For RHA, we have had two very successful events this fall. The first event was Spirit Week, which included a pop rally and canoe races. We also put on a Service Week for those who serve the Saint Mary’s Community in a variety of capacities.”

Nelson said the annual all-school Saint Mary’s formal on Jan. 28 and Li’l Sibs Weekend next semester are expected to be popular due to the success of other events this year.

“I am looking forward to watching RHA continue to grow this year,” Nelson said. “Many of the women who volunteered this year are very passionate about what RHA does and enjoy taking part in planning our events, putting on exciting events and ideas we build our organization.”

-Sophomore Board

SBDS raises awareness at College

Saint Mary’s Student Diversity Board (SDB) will continue to bring inspiring and informative events to Saint Mary’s during the spring semester, president Kelly Reidenbach said.

“The mission of SDB is to create awareness of diversity in order to educate, provide support, celebrate differences within the Saint Mary’s College community by creating social events, educational programming and opportunities to initiate change,” she said.

Reidenbach said the board, which has met weekly since August, has a busy but productive semester. “Our biggest events this past semester were the International Meet and Greet in August and the Annual Bonfire in October,” Reidenbach said.

SDB draws crowds to its first event featured a beer garden, silent disco and a wine tasting event. “For next semester, Midnight Madness will be returning,” Reidenbach said. “The spring concert in April and SMC Tostal are also in the works for next semester.”

After wrapping up the fall semester, Reidenbach, a senior, said she is nostalgic about heading into her last semester with SAB, but is focused on planning successful events. “We will finally host an outdoor movie, scavenger hunt, canoe races and more SUNDAYS on Sunday,” Courtney said. “It’s very bittersweet for me to be going into my last semester on SAB, but I know SAB vice president Jackie Zupancic is determined to make it special and full of great events.”

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu

First-Year Board

The First Year Board’s top priority this semester was adopting a charity cause, class board president, junior McKenna Schuster said.

The class adopted a family of five and is purchasing Christmas gifts for the family. Tonight, the class board will have a benefit event called “Holiday Belles,” where the class will gather to wrap presents for the family while enjoying Christmas cookies and hot chocolate. “We think it will be a great way to take a quick break from studying to bond as a class and get together for a good cause,” Schuster said.

Next semester, the Board will begin planning their formal, which is set to take place in February. Schuster said the class plans to hold two events next semester, including class scavenger hunts, fundraisers and additional charity work.

-Sophomore Group

Sophomore Board

The Sophomore Class Board was hard at work this semester planning their class formal, which was held Nov. 18 in the Haggard College Center. Elliot Miller said the Sophomore class board president, said the night was a big success. “Even though we have nearly 60 class members, this semester the formal had a great turn out,” Miller said. “Everyone seemed to enjoy the night tremendously.”

Miller said this year, the Sophomore Class Board wanted to be more financially responsible. She said that so far, they have met that goal. Miller’s expenses were completely covered by the costs of tickets, Miller said.

Next semester, the board will host Sophomore Parents Weekend in February and Miller said she hopes they can cover the cost of the money saved on this semester’s formal.

-Sophomore Group

Junior Board

The Junior Class Board spent the semester planning the Junior Formal, which took place Dec. 2. Class board president Torrie Thompson said the formal was a success.

“We are also considering planning another casual dance,” she said.

Next semester, the board will focus on planning for Junior Mom’s Weekend, which will take place in April. The weekend will include a wine and cheese party, a formal dinner with President Carol Ann Mooney and a mother-daughter social event.

Belles and their mothers will also have the opportunity to tour the Riedinger House and there will be a silent auction to help raise money to cover the cost of Senior Week next year.

-Sophomore Group

Senior Board

Fall semester, the Senior Class Board focused primarily on planning for Senior Dad’s Weekend. The event featured a beer garden, silent auction and a Wake Forest game watch at the College Football Hall of Fame.

The weekend concluded with a special Mass on Sunday for Belles and their families.

Class board president, junior Maggie De-Paola said the weekend was a success.

“This is an exciting weekend to plan and is always a special time for the seniors and their dads,” she said.

Next semester will be especially busy for the Senior Class Board as it prepares for events for Senior Week, including their senior class formal.

-Sophomore Group

IN FOCUS

Government in brief

We discuss issues such as class schedules, class times and other problems or concerns about students, Zupancic said. “SAC’s purpose is to be the voice and liaison between the students and administration for issues of academics.”

Next semester, SAC will host “Major Week,” which will promote the College’s different departments and majors, and “Choose Your Major” night, which will allow underclassmen to discuss major options with faculty and fellow students.

For the changes in the structure of the Student Government Association, I am excited to see SAC take on a stronger role for students’ issues in their departments,” she said.

-Sophomore Group

Contact Jillian Barwick at jbarwi01@saintmarys.edu