

**Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Student Senate**  
*Minutes: General Body Meeting Fall 2009 – September 3, 2009*

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**5:07 Call to Order**

**5:08 First Roll Call**

**Senators Present:** Natalie Morris (SCS), Thomas Tuttle (SCS), Eric Wu (SCS, .5 absence), William Zhang (SCS, .5 absence), Brandon Chock (CIT), Jake Flittner (CIT), Matthew Hwang (CIT), Matthew Kuhn (CIT, 1 proxy), Diane Lee (CIT, .5 proxy), Robert Piston Jr (CIT), Keshav Raghavan (CIT), Sonali Shah (CIT), Jarrett Adams (HSS), Eduardo J. Benatuil (HSS, 1 absence), Nikhil Iyer (HSS), Meghan Nahass (HSS, .5 absence), Stuti Pandey (HSS, .5 proxy), Nicholas Ferrell (BHA/BSA/SHS), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS, .5 absence), Toro Adeyemi (TSB), Stephanie Schneider (TSB 1 absence), Stacey Lu (CFA), Starsha Kolodziej (MCS), Kush Mangal (MCS, .5 absence), Dina Patel (MCS, .5 absence), Michael Yang (MCS)

**Senators Absent:** Jeffrey E Dahlen (MCS, 1 absence), Terry Michael Boyd (CFA), Nicholas Marcucci (CFA), Akshay Udiavar (CFA),

**5:07 Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

**5:07 Audience Participation**

**5:08 Committee Reports**

**Academic Affairs (Bassem Mikhael)**

- No report.

**Business Affairs (Jake Flittner)**

- Had first meeting; went over goals and discussed how budget cuts are effecting the campus.

**Campus Life (Jarrett Adams)**

- Had first meeting. Decided to start the campus gear sale next Friday. Also going to start a new sweatshirt/t-shirt design competition.

**Communications (Toro Adeyemi)**

- Made posters and handouts to get the word out. There will be two t-shirt designs.

**Internal Development (Eric Wu)**

- Come to the retreat.

**Chair**

- D-list used to update students on issues concerning Student Senate—good outreach effort.

**President (Rotimi Abimbola):**

- The cabinet was approved by GSA this week and by Senate last week.
- Working with CMU marketing; we can use “CMU” officially on Carnegie Mellon merchandise. Will try to get the message out soon.
- Committees will collaborate and also looking into getting corporate sponsors.
- Also, come to the football game and make sure you wear your Senate or house shirts.
- Loop bus is coming back September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**5:20 Special Business – Spotlight Speaker Kim Abel, Director of Housing and Dining Services**

- Key issue, especially with Housing and Dining,

- Look at everything as an advocate of the student and the only way to do so is to get the involvement of the students...we have four committees to accomplish this: Community Space, 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Room Selection, Collaborate Learning Spaces, and Wellness (look at fitness facilities in the halls).
- (Jake Flittner) Time commitment for the committees?
  - It depends on the group. Like for the room selection taskforce, they met 4 times, 2 hours each time.
- Introduce yourself to the new CullinArt employees—they are anxious to meet you and gain feedback.
- Transition from Parkhurst was a little bumpy but it's been pretty successful so far.
- Taste of the Tartans is next Thursday--can enjoy a formal introduction to CullinArt (\$1 food items).
- Improved Shatz, more “grab ‘n’ go” options” in Entropy, and many new options in Resnik.
- New café in Gates Center—will open after Gates Dedication, probably first or second week of October.
- Will renovate Gingers to make it look more “Tepper-ish”. The name will also change.
- Meal Plan Changes
- Receive 2 guest blocks.
- No Shatz guarantee.
- Flexible dollars lasts the semester, but the Dine-Extra plan is good for the year.
- Community meal plans are a set number of meals per semester.
- Striving to become more sustainable and beefing up nutrition initiatives—will be able to look at nutritional information online.
- To get involved with dining, complete a customer service card or email plaid @andrew.cmu.edu
- Rangos 1 and 2, September 8.

#### **5:42 Questions**

- If you were on D-SAC last year, does it carry over?
  - Yes
- (Eric Wu) The options for the community plan, who are they available to?
- Everyone other than first year students.
  - Have increased our meal plan participation significantly from last year.
- (Nick Ferrell) Some of the smaller meal plan options have been taken away, will that be changed.
  - Were looking into that, especially for the graduate students.
- Can we use Dine-X in the vending machines?
  - Only in the residences halls.
- (Diane Lee) Does that include Oakland?
  - No.
- Dining this year was the first year that we actually broke even—thus we must be strategic in decisions.
- We were 10 on Princeton Review's Dining Review for worst campus food—let's get off this list!
- (Diane Lee) What is the communication between Oakland and campus housing? (regarding recent changes)
  - Down one facility coordinator, Louis McCaully. Sometimes we have to be reactive to landlords' decisions and not be proactive.
- (Stuti Pandey) If we live in Oakland, can we use our cards for eSudds?
  - Looking into that.

#### **6:10 New Business from Committee**

**09-10 001: Special Allocation of \$150 to International Student Union**

- Had a BBQ last Saturday.
- At least 100 people attended.
- Request was \$150 and the Finance committee granted it.

**5:52 Questions**

- (Jarrett Adams) What does your organization do?
  - Make freshman and students from other countries feel more comfortable.
  - Letting people know/ interact with different cultures.
- (Toro Adyemi) What did you do last year?
  - Multicultural social last year.

**5:54 Move to Question. Hand vote. Passed.**

**5:55 Move to Vote. Hand Vote. 19-0-1. Passed. \$150 to International Student Union**

**09-10 002: Special Allocation of \$500 to Kappa Phi Lambda**

- Bringing a magician from Hong Kong.
- Allocation would be for the compensation

**5:56 Questions**

- (Jake Flittner ) Have you done this in the past, and how many people do you expect?
  - Never have done this before, but usually get around 100 people.

**5:57 Discussion**

- (Diane Lee) What is the compensation for?
  - Honorarium

**5:57 Move to vote. Voice Vote. Passed. \$500 to Kappa Phi Lambda**

**09-10 003: Special Allocation of \$2250 to Sigma Phi Epsilon**

- Open to everyone
- Will have four CMU bands.
- First big campus-wide event for freshmen to attend

**5:59 Questions**

- (Stuti Pandey) How are you promoting among freshmen?
  - Have a lot of RAs and OCs, so
- (Jake) How many in the past?
  - Usually several hundred.
- (Mariana) How many pounds of beef?
  - A little over 2,000 lbs.
- (Diane Lee) Was the budget last year less? Why the increase?
  - Want to expand the event. Also need more money to get people engaged with different sport activities.
- (Toro Adeyemi) Are the bands getting paid?
  - Getting paid with publicity.

**6:03 Discussion**

- (Diane Lee) Have always funded this in the past. I always want to see growth in events and it looks like they are looking to expand.

**6:04 Move to Vote. Hand Vote. 15-0-5. Passed. \$2250 to Sigma Phi Epsilon**

**6:05 Unfinished Business from the Floor**

Approval of proposed changes to Student Body Constitution, Student Senate Bylaws, President's Cabinet Bylaws, Student Government Executive and Student Senate Election Rules (Ruth Poproski)

- Want to get Senate and GSA in line with the Constitution.

- Formatting issue; need a standard.

**6:10 Motion to amend the Constitution**

**6:10 Move to vote. 22-0-0**

Give longer window for flexibility; GSA meets only once a month and Senate may have a full agenda.

- Can also vote at same meeting with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  super majority if the amendment is presented (if it's a trivial change), can have a three-fourth super majority and vote to have it passed.
- Avoiding getting amendment sucks—if an amendment continues to stay in legislative stages then it is considered as not passing.

**6:19 Discussion—Amending Student Body Constitution**

- (Nick Ferrell) Is it a guarantee to have a presidential advisor?
  - It's in the bylaws
- (Jarrett Adams) Should pass this and amend the President's bylaws.

**6:22 Motion to amending Student Body Constitution Article VIII to new Student Body Constitution Article VIII**

**6:22 Move to Vote. Hand Vote. 21-1-0. Passed.**

- (Jarrett Adams) Make a recommendation for Ex-Conn to make a recommendation.
  - It says explicitly that we are supposed to make one but we have never done that in the past.

**6:24 Motion to amend Article XI to new Article XI**

**6:24 Move to Vote. Hand Vote. 21-1-0. Passed.**

**6:22 Motion to amend Article V of CoSO bylaws to new Article V CoSO bylaws**

**6:22 Move to Vote. Hand Vote. 21-0-0. Passed.**

- President's cabinet bylaws—no requirement to wait a week. Want to make things more flexible to change (in comparison to Senate bylaws, where it is preferable to have it more set-in-stone).

**6:29 Motion to slate President's cabinet bylaws and election changes**

**6:29 Motion to amend President's cabinet bylaws and election changes to new President's bylaws and election changes**

**6:31 Move to Vote. Hand Vote. 21-0-0. Passed.**

**6:34 Special Business (cont.) – Finance Chair Election**

6:34 Speech by Robert Piston

6:37 Questions for Robert Piston

6:43 Discussion

6:45 Move to Vote

6:47 Robert Piston voted Senate Finance Chair

**7:20 Points of Discussion**

**Textbook Return Policy**

- Having difficulty returning course backs.
- (Rotimi Abimbola) The employees at the bookstore are not familiar with the new policy.
- (Nick Ferrell) Book return only getting textbook buyback price.
- Find the return policy to be ridiculous, especially because many of the textbooks can be purchased at a discount online.
- (Stuti Pandey) Rationale is that they felt like their books were being used like a lendign library where student should buys a book and then return it when their book arrives from an online purchase.
- (Ruth Poproski) To not have bookstore can be really problematic.

- Also some books are only available at the bookstore.
- (Krishan Taylor) Why do course books have to be purchased? Is there a copyright issue?
  - Yes, but will look into it.
- Academic Affairs should look into the textbook issue
- A way around the copyright issue on course books is to post it onto blackboard.
- On last day of return policy, they closed the bookstore early at 4:30 PM.
- (Stuti Pandey) The representative that attended the last Senate meeting was very offensive.
- (Krishan Taylor) Having a dialogue with the bookstore is more important than having someone come.
- (Jake Flittner) Need clearer communication and have follow-up.
- (Rotimi Abimbola) Was good last year to begin the conversation with the bookstore.

### **Activities Fair**

- Provide to provide themes for the feedback.
- (Joanna) Perhaps have an info session about Senate for freshmen.
- (John) Had no idea how student government worked. Explain how to get involved and how it works.
- (Krishan Taylor) Did something similar to that in the “WTF” series.
- (John) Maybe have something located online that students can read.
- (Joanna) Also hand out flyers with the candy.
- (Rotimi Abimbola) The conversation John had with Jake was very beneficial but
- (Jake Flittner) Poster would not be a practical solution to getting all the information out to people. Like the idea of putting something on the website to actually explain what Senate does.
- (Mariana) Have a meeting a few weeks from now to touch base with freshmen and let them know what Senate does.
- (Joanna) Tabling is better to really get information rather than being bombarded with information at the Activities Fair.
- Perhaps conduct an in class seminar—like Kush’s last year.

### **Printing/ Wireless Network**

- (Mariana) Why did they change the printing release stations?
  - For compatibility.
- (Nick Ferrell) Defer this discussion until we can talk to someone more informed.
- Also drop in wireless network.
- “You can buy 2-ply for a dollar”

### **7:14 Unfinished Business from the Floor (continued)**

Approval of proposed changes to Joint Funding Committee Bylaws, Student Body Constitution (Nara Kasbergen)

- Changing both JFC bylaws and Student Body Constitution

### **7:16 Motion to Slate. Motion Failed.**

#### **7:16 Discussion**

- Need to have separate Oracle accounts to groups that need to split—likely because there are financial restrictions in doing so.
- If an organization splits, they can be exempt from the restrictions that apply to newly formed organizations.

**7:20 Move to Vote. Hand Vote. 18-0-0. Passed.**

**7:22 Second Roll Call/Announcements**

New Senator Elections – Next Week

Fall Senator Retreat – MANDATORY! Saturday, September 12, 11 AM – 4 PM

Campus Gear Sale – Friday, Sept. 11, 11-4

Need 2 Undergraduate Representatives for the Public Art Committee

Football kickoff this Saturday

Gavel starting up again this year

Improving OrgTracker

**7:30 Adjourn**