

Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Student Senate
Minutes: 9th General Body Meeting Fall 2009 – October 8, 2009

5:03 Call to Order and First Roll Call

Senators Present: Natalie Morris (SCS), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, 1.5 absence), Eric Wu (SCS), William Zhang (SCS, 1 proxy, .5 absence), Rohan Agashe (CIT, 1 absence), Brandon Chock (CIT), Bryan Lewis (CIT, .5 absence), Matthew Hwang (CIT, .5 absence), Diane Lee (CIT, 1.5 absence, .5 proxy), Matthew Kuhn (CIT, 1 proxy, 1 absence), Robert Piston Jr. (CIT), Keshav Raghavan (CIT, 2 proxy), Jessica Santana (CIT), Sonali Shah (CIT, 1.5 absence), Jonathan Mark (CFA), Jarrett Adams (HSS, .5 absence), Eduardo J. Benatuil (HSS, 2 absence), Yael Bushoy (HSS, .5 proxy, 1.5 absence), Nikhil Iyer (HSS, 1.5 absence), Meghan Nahass (HSS, 1 proxy, 2 absence), Stuti Pandey (HSS, 1.5 absence, 1 proxy), Nicholas Ferrell (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1.5 absence), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS, .5 absence), Starsha Kolodziej (MCS, .5 absence), Michael Yang (MCS, .5 absence), Stacey Lu (CFA, 1 absence), Jon Mark (CFA, 2 absence), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 3 absence), Toro Adeyemi (TSB, 2 absence), Stephanie Schneider (TSB, 2 proxy, 1 absence)

Senators Absent: Jake Flittner (CIT, 1.5 absence),

Members-at-Large Present: Rutwik Parikh (CIT)

5:00 Call to Order and First Roll Call

5:10 Approval of Agenda/Minutes from 10/1/09

5:10 Audience Participation

5:10 Committee Reports

Academic Affairs (Bassem Mikhael)

- Met with a University point person for advising
- Make a file for each student—piloting a program
- Will be an advising sac
- C@CM will be all online beginning in 2010

Business Affairs (Jake Fittner)

- No report.

Campus Life (Jarrett Adams)

- T-shirt competition!
- Need ideas on ways to sell campus merchandise.
- Open up student interaction to choose the design.
-

Communications (Toro Adeyemi)

- Absent.

Internal Development (Eric Wu)

- Want people to sit in their colleges
- College caucuses

Finance (Robert Piston)

- Why do we fund events and give out special allocations?
- Special allocations for any organization on campus that we see will make our student experience better.
- Like to hear thoughtful questions regarding allocations.
- Spirit of the allocation: unforeseen expense of the organization.
- (Meghan Nahass) Why do we fund repeat events?

- Something that we'll discuss in the near future.

Chair (Aaron Gross)

- Roberts Rule of the Week: Motion to reconsider

5:17 New Business from Committee

09-10 016: Special Allocation of \$1000 to Kappa Alpha Theta

- Brought in a speaker
- Reimbursement.
- Need $\frac{3}{4}$ super majority
- Speaker was from Survivor
- Had to have his foot amputated and chose between two evils, set goals for himself. Thought is was a good choice
- High attendance.
- Many confirmed funding sources

5:21 Questions

5:21 Discussion

- (Ferrell) Did advertise to the entire community, not just Greeks.
- (Kuhn) What was the advertising—I hadn't heard anything about it.
- (Adeyemi) Straw poll at the SDC reflected that only about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of them were aware of the event.

5:23 Move to vote. 19-3-2. Passed. \$1000 to Kappa Alpha Theta

09-10 017: Special Allocation of \$150 to Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

- Grow-vember
- Grow a beard
- Full, partial, speed, goatee
- \$5 or \$10 entry fee
- All proceeds go to UPMC
- Judging done by an interview process
- Want to build a runway—expensive cost. As are awards and trophies.
- Mail results to the international beard competition
- Beard and Moustache Association of America

5:23 Questions

- How much did you donate last year?
 - About \$1,100
- (Tuttle) Why are the judges all female?
 - Want female involvement.

5:27 Discussion

5:27 Move to vote. 21-0-4. \$150 to Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

Money Senate has left: \$76, 443.60

5:29 09-10 018: Resolution to Replace Current Graffiti and Poster Policies with a Unified Document (09-10 018 is offered only for comment and discussion at this meeting)

- Want this to be a Senate/GSA policy
- Vote on next week of the week after
- Unified the graffiti and poster policies
- Chalking defined in Article III

- Can only chalk with traditional chalk—and must be water soluble.
- Outside organizations can poster with a campus sponsor
- Campus sponsor gets charged with all of the violations
- Added the duties of the postering policy administrator
- Must remove posters within 72 hours of the poster's end date.
- Working on the fines and appeals aspect—currently have basic language but needs work.

5:34 Questions

- (Tuttle) Would prefer one poster per organization
- (Ferrell) Cause problems for organizations that put on events for a week.
- (Tuttle) Clarify exposed to the elements—like the Wean Patio.
 - Example, “not shielded”
- Who deems it not removable? Also should state within a certain amount of time...
 - Student Senate enforces the policy.
- (Tuttle) Difficult to enforce policy of taking down posters because there are so many. Want to start anew.
- It's against policy to poster over another organization's poster.
- (Morris) What about advertisements for roommates?
 - If it's not for an organization, they need to post on a public bulletin board.
- (Lu) What if a poster doesn't have a date?
 - If the poster has no effective end date, it has to be down within 30 days.
- Will have a warning period and the campus life will put poster guidelines on each bulletin board.
- (Tuttle) What will the fines be?
 - Was \$5 per poster.
- (Lu) Where do the funds from the fines go?
 - To defray the cost of the program—like paying the postering administrator.
- (Will) How are we going to let groups know that it is going to change?
 - Will probably warn a group first with a grace period and then fine.
 - Would reset each semester.
- (Abimbola) Make it a publicity policy?
 - Although it does not cover facebook or other means of publicity.
- (Tuttle) Maybe call it our vandalism policy?
- (Morris) Who do we report vandalism to?
 - University Police.
- Since we have a paid position—poster policy administrator, let them do it.
- (Ferrell) Could increase fines.
- Fines and appeal policy is standard language.
- Maybe suspend their abilities to advertise.
- Don't want to exert oversight over things that are directed by Student Affairs.
- (Ferrell) Could add something about a review process.
 - There is a clause that says posters cannot be excessively vulgar or libelous.
- Destruction of the fence is considered vandalism.
- Administration will not get involved with the fence (policy, guidelines) because it's a student space.
- (Kolodziej) Are we changing the name of the policy?
- (Abimbola) Look at what other schools are doing.

6:02 Ex-Officio Reports--Rotimi Abimbola, Student Body President

- Working closely with Senate and GSA.
- Tartans Awards program (TRP)—reward students for being loyal to the community.
- Great way to get larger attendance at events
- For athletic and academic event.
- Mayoral elections are coming up in early November.
- Are appealing to the candidates to talk to students in Pittsburgh.
- Important for students to exercise their right to vote.
- Plan on doing a major event for finals week
- G-20 awareness fair was successful
- Pushing student government to work with organizations.
- Relay for life—want to put together a student government relay for life team.
- (Adeyemi) Thought the G-20 fair was a lot of fun.
- (Ferrell) Residents really like TRP.
- Need to keep up the PR on TRP.
- How does TRP work?
- You get rewards for attending events. Like for attending 3 events, you get a t-shirt.
- Office hours: Friday noon, move to black chairs when it gets too cold.
- Thinking for beginning a campus heroes program—get a plaid heart.

6:15 New Business from the Floor

Vacancy Elections (5 CFA, 1 TSB, 3 MCS, 2 CIT)

- 6:18 Speech by Torffick Abdul
- 6:20 Questions for Torffick Abdul
- 6:24 Speech by Abhi Jain
- 6:26 Questions for Abhi Jain
- 6:29 Speech by Varun Deshpande
- 6:30 Questions for Varun Deshpande
- 6:32 Discussion
- 6:38 Move to Vote on CIT. Both elected.
- 6:39 Discussion
- 6:40 Move to vote on MCS. Elected.

6:42 Ratification of 2009-2010 JFC Slate

- (Tuttle) Why do you want to be in JFC?
- (Yang) Want to see what people want to accomplish on campus.
- (Wu) Have done everything except something finance related at CMU.
- (Nara) Want a really diverse committee. Want someone from every college and every year. 7 females and 10 males.

6:45 Discussion

- (Abimbola) Nara put a lot of effort into this. Lots of advertising and outreach.
- (Ferrell) Is this the cap number?
 - 10 is the maximum, feel strongly confident in all.

6:47 Move to vote. Passed.

6:48 Points of Discussion

- a. Faculty Course Evaluations
 - a. Created by PiKa

- b. Want them to be useful
 - c. Students should take over the faculty evaluation process
 - d. Perhaps have scheduleman do the course evaluations?
 - e. (Morris) Why do FS want students to take over and not collaborate?
 - f. A possible collaboration but students mostly responsible.
 - g. Basic role is to get people to use them—if we think it is valuable.
 - h. (Adams) Why does it have to be only online? If there given out in class there will probably be a higher response rate.
 - i. (Ferrell) Holding grades until they fill out their evaluations.
 - j. Main problem is that they are given during finals week.
 - k. Time period has been extended to go through finals week.
 - l. (Kolodziej) I like Timi’s idea of making it mandatory.
 - m. (Ferrell) Incentives would be wasting resources.
 - n. (Morris) Did not know where to look for them—would be easier to find if it was through scheduleman.
 - o. (Ferrell) Have a “prefer not to answer” option.
 - p. (Kuhn) Some majors have a strict curriculum and can’t avoid certain professors.
 - q. (Mikhael) Professors can incorporate the criticism and become better. If everyone does it the results would definitely be enhanced.
 - r. (Piston) Show competency to be able to teach student. FCEs are a good way to show a quantitative measurement.
 - s. If they already have tenure, this is a way to give critical
 - t. (Mikhael) The departments review the feedback as well—their superiors see the criticism.
- b. College Caucuses Update
 - a. Choosing a chair and thinking of ideas for you college.
 - c. SAC Updates
 - d. Vandalism
 - a. (Morris) 6th girls bathroom in Wean—offensive vandalism.
 - b. Call Campus Police to report incidents.
 - (Gross) Who would be interested in a list of people you represent? Will pursue the issue.
 - (Ferrell) There isn’t one SHS d-list
 - (Wu) What are thoughts on non members serving on committees?
 - (Adams) Should be the discretion of the committee—may bring in conflicts of interests.
 - (Benatuli) Nice to have a fresher point of view.
 - (Lu) Can we sign people up for the d-list without their permission?

7:11 Second Roll Call/Announcements

- a. StuGov Relay for Life team – Sign up!
- b. Midsemester Evaluations

7:32 PM: Adjourn