

# Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Student Senate

Minutes: 12<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting Fall 2009 – November 05, 2009

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## 5:01 Call to Order and First Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Natalie Morris (SCS), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, .5 absence), Eric Wu (SCS, .5 absence), William Zhang (SCS, 1 proxy, .5 absence), Brandon Chock (CIT), Jake Flittner (CIT, 1.5 absence), Matthew Hwang (CIT, 2.5 absence), Abhi Jain (CIT), Bryan Lewis (CIT, .5 absence), Diane Lee (CIT, 1.5 absence, .5 proxy), Matthew Kuhn (CIT, 2 absence), Robert Piston Jr. (CIT), Jessica Santana (CIT, 1 absence), Sonali Shah (CIT, 3 absence), Jonathan Mark (CFA), Jarrett Adams (HSS, 1 absence), Eduardo J. Benatuil (HSS, 1 proxy, 1.5 absence), Yael Bushoy (HSS, 1.5 proxy, 1.5 absence), Nikhil Iyer (HSS, .5 absence), Meghan Nahass (HSS, 1 proxy, 2 absence), Nicholas Ferrell (BHA/BSA/SHS, 2 absence), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 proxy, 2 absence), Starsha Kolodziej (MCS, .5 absence), Michael Yang (MCS, 1.5 absence), Stacey Lu (CFA, 1.5 absence), Jon Mark (CFA, 3.5 absence), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 3 absence), Toro Adeyemi (TSB, 2 absence), Stephanie Schneider (TSB, 2 proxy, 1.5 absence)

**Senators Absent:** Rohan Agashe (CIT, 1 absence), Varun Deshpande (MCS, 1 absence, Keshav Raghavan (CIT, 2 proxy, 2 absence), Abdul Torffick (CIT, 1.5 absence),

## 5:03 Approval of Agenda from 10/1/09

### 5:03 Audience Participation

### 5:03 Committee Reports

#### Academic Affairs (Bassem Mikhael)

- Continuing with advising.
- Gen Eds—top down approach not affective; broken down by college.

#### Business Affairs (Jake Fittner)

- Health Services—flat fee or copay?
- Want student input in how the fee will change and what changes students want in health services.
- More available pharmaceuticals and more over-the-counter meds in stock for easier access (and that are cheaper than Entropy).
- Have student insurance plan incentives and centralize how health services works.
- Increasing health living initiatives like starting a diet plan.
- Vaccines and immunizations at subsidized rate.
- Have an updated website.
- Anita is Barkin coming next week.
- (Nahass) Efficiency of health services.
  - Accessibility includes efficiency and more hours.
- (Ker) Want to know what percentage of students is on the student health plan?
  - We want more people to be on the student health service plan, so we need to create incentives.
- (Ferrell) Aren't immunizations are something we already do?
- Make immunizations cheaper—other universities don't charge.
- (Ferrell) Students don't want to be charged for nothing.
- (Schneider) It's not worth being paid—free until service rendered.
- They need more influx of money.
- (Tuttle) Long lines and no copay may be related; see what is causing the inefficiencies.

Want to encourage people to call the advice line instead of taking up a spot.

- (Morris) Wondering if it would be cheaper for students to pay a health fee. Also, copay might end up being higher depending on how sick students get.

#### **Campus Life (Jarrett Adams)**

- Report presented in November 19<sup>th</sup>
- Campus gear sale stuff coming soon.
- Need help with tabling.
- Please respond to email so that the proposal will have feedback from senators.

#### **Communications (Toro Adeyemi)**

- Pick up shirts.
- Take fence on Wed?

#### **Internal Development (Eric Wu)**

- Write the profiles.
- Improving proxy participation.
- Working on new senator presentation.

#### **Finance (Robert Piston)**

- Ruth will come to next meeting.
- Have a presentation next week.
- Ask good questions.

#### **Chair (Aaron Gross)**

- Robert's rule of the week: Debatable....or NOT??!

### **5:23 New Business from Committee**

#### **5:23 09-10 031: Special Allocation of \$500 to Women's Water Polo**

- New organization—split from co-ed team.
- Elected board this semester.
- Have only \$445, need to pay \$1900 to CWA by next semester to be competitive.
- Have to pay for pool time.
- Need caps and balls – women's balls smaller than men's balls.
- Need about \$4,700 for everything.
- Collect dues and having fundraisers. Also getting money from coed team.

#### **5:26 Questions**

- (Ferrell) When do you need the \$1,900?
  - Needs to be in by December.
- (Adams) Split off of the coed team?
  - Officially a men's and women's team.
- (Morris) What was the reason for the split?
  - Had enough women and have lots of student interests. Women's water polo is a different experience.
- (Ker) Holding tryouts?
  - Have 9 girls currently on coed roster. At practice have 10 girls. No tryouts or cuts—want as many girls as possible.
- Would like to minimize the dues. Men's are \$35, but ours is \$90.
- (Adams) Any way to get funds from coed team?
  - Are getting funds from the men's team and also asking JFC for money for next semester.
- The money we take from them they can't spend—affects both teams.
- (Ferrell) Is 12 the number you would take?

- 16 max; need 7 in the pool.

#### 5:30 Questions

- (Zhang) A lot of teams get disorganized with the beau racy. Discuss ways that new split-off organizations can get JFC funding faster.
- (Adams) Special allocations are for unexpected costs.
- (Ferrell) They are not even asking for the full amount; they are just trying to get by.
- (Adeyemi) How much is your current balance for?
  - Fundraising is very successful.
- (Zhang) How much would you need?
  - Get invited to an invitational. Have dues for each tournament.
- (Morris) Where else have you applied for funds?
  - JFC. Alumni and family. Office of the Dean.

#### 5:35 Motion to Amend Amount to \$1454.61, \$500 allocation, \$1000 a loan.

#### 5:36 Discussion

- (Zhang) It's an unforeseen expense.
- (Adams) When you do JFC budget, JFC would repay what you don't come up with.
  - There's no specified end date.
- (Flittner) In favor of keeping it at the \$500. They are still a new organization so they should keep with bylaws. Wary of going against our precedence. Don't want them to waste their budget
- (Kapoor) Would the loan have interest?
  - No interest.
- (Schneider) I've never seen Senate give out a loan; doesn't make sense to ask for one.
- (Ruth) Strange to give a loan and then impose on JFC to pay if off.
  - JFC wouldn't be responsible for it. It would only be if they weren't able to pay it off.
- (Piston) They can overrule the \$500 limit, but rarely go above the limit. Give that amount to see if the organization can be sustainable and fundraise.
- (Ferrell) This organizations has proved that it's sustainable.
- (Piston) If JFC does something, we do same thing. It's all the same money.
- (Morris) Might be better as a loan in accordance with precedence. Won't be able to get required money to

#### 5:42 (Adeyemi) Motion to amend amount to 1,200.

- (Piston) DOSA will match us typically.
- (Mark) Different from a new start-up organization.

#### 5:44 Move to Vote on Amending. Voice vote. Passed.

#### 5:44 Move to Vote. Hand vote. 13-8-2. Passed. 1,200 to Women's Water Polo

#### **5:46 09-10 032: Special Allocation of \$200 to Chabad of CMU**

- Had spike in attendance by freshmen girls.
- Regards attacks in Mumbai—anniversary of their death and sign of unity that we care about the attacks.
- Asking not for food money.

#### 5:47 Questions

- (Adeyemi) Advertisements?
- Flyers and get out the word.

#### 5:48 Discussion

#### 5:48 Move to vote. \$200 to Chabad of CMU

**5:48 09-10 033: Special Allocation of \$200 to Chabad of CMU**

- Jewish Girls Night In.
- A lot of freshmen girls; need extra moen
- Going to SDC for rest of funding.

5:49 Questions

- (Nahass) Is it an open event?
  - Yes.
- (Lu) Religious event?
  - Are JFC funded.
- (Mark) Would we be excluding certain people? Felt that
- (Schneider) Nondiscriminatory.

5:50 Move to vote. Voice vote. \$200 to Chabad of CMU

**550 09-10 034: Special Allocation of \$620 to Deewane**

- Fund 50% of travel.
- Perform at University of Maryland.
- Good press and trying to get name out.
- Come back later if we need more money.
- Each member will pay \$23 to attend.
- Deewane will be paid \$300 to come.

5:53 Questions

- (Ker) What is the renting car fee?
  - It's \$175/ car.

5:53 Discussion

- (Adeyemi) It's an investment.
- (Flittner) I like the 50% for travel costs

5:54 Move to vote. Hand vote. Passed. \$620 to Deewane

**5:54 09-10 035: Special Allocation of \$225 to International Student Union**

- Have a confirmed bus.
- November 21<sup>st</sup>

5:55 Questions

- (Ferrell) Number of confirmed guests?
  - 33 people.
- (Tuttle) How many people will bus fit?
  - 48.
- (Ruth) I am on the list, and I don't know if I can go? Concerned about the validity of the event.
  - It's a list of interest.
- (Ferrel) Send out another email?
  - Yes, and advertise.

5:57 Discussion

- (Ferrell) We're punishing them for being honest.

5:58 Move to vote. Hand vote. Passed. \$225 to International Student Union

**5:59 09-10 036: Special Allocation of \$1500 to SIFE Panama**

- Cover about \$150 per person.

- Can come back if they need more money.
- Help a farm develop eco-tourism .
- People can stay at the farm, etc.
- Want to complete project this year.
- Need money for materials.
- Funded \$2000 from last year.
- Will be short 7,675 this year because they won't have same funding sources.

#### 6:02 Questions

- (Adams) Do you do individual fundraising last year?
  - Church, liberty Mutual (gives grants), homecoming sold seeds, did Rita's fundraiser. Get about \$100/ each.
- (Adams) How does this benefit the campus community?
  - Bring in experts on sustainable conservation.
  - Targeting everyone on campus.
- (Mark) How is this an unexpected cost?
  - SIFE receive zero JFC funding.
- (Piston) SIFE is part of Tepper so they can't be JFC funded.
  - Received \$1,000 from Tepper last year; received nothing this year.

#### 6:06 Discussion

- Special allocation because lost a lot of budgets.
- (Piston) This is a new group.
- (Flittner) Going through a transition year on hold we're funding spring break trips. Not fair to them to break precedence.
- (Ferrell) Won't be a repeat event because they will be JFC funded.
- (Adams) What will you do next year to make sure you don't encounter this issue?
  - Corporate sponsorship and institutional support. Indira Nair, vice-provost. Have a lot of initiatives to spread their experience.
- (Kuhn) Why are we funding the group more than Tepper is?
  - Facilities come first, Tepper cannot afford it.
- (Shah) How many initiatives did you do last year?
  - Can talk about last year and this year. Have experience.

#### 6:12 Move to vote. Hand vote. 19-4-3. \$1500 to SIFE Panama

#### **6:13 09-10 037: Special Allocation of \$1500 to SIFE Nicaragua**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- Theme of sustainability. Working with Amnesty International.
- Also working with Indira Nair. Partner with many other organizations.
- Have a 4 year plan. Microfinance initiative to empower people to start business.
- Fair trade.
- Arts initiative.
- Civil engineering department and sustainable drinking water.
- Create cultural dialogue.

#### 6:16 Questions

- (Ferrell) Any specific initiatives do with students to give back to campus community?
- Building a dialogue with students. Bring in different organizations to talk about experiences. Global and local sense.
- (Adams) How much contributing/ person.
  - \$300.

- Have fundraised \$5,000.
  - Bound by deadlines.
  - Buy airline tickets early.
  - Need to have raised \$10,000 by end of year.
  - Fundraising.
  - (Flittner) I'm in favor.
  - (Mark) Will they go for JFC?
    - Planning to go to JFC and see what can be done.
  - (Adams) Need to know what the precedence is that we are setting.
- 6:20 Move to vote. Hand vote. 18-0-4. Passed. \$1500 to SIFE Nicaragua

## **6:21 New Business from the Floor**

### **6:21 Points of Discussion**

#### 6:21 Health Fee – Prep for Next Thursday

- Get a breakdown of why people go to health services.
- (Morris) What does Health Service see as its biggest problems?
- (Ferrel) How much money do they expect to receive/ how much do they need?
- (Nahass) Who staffs health services?
- (Kuhn) Customer satisfaction?
- Deliberative Poll is next Tuesday
- (Nahass) What is done for physical remodeling of the Health Center?
- (Wu) Healthy Campus 2010 wrote proposal for new center.
- (Ferrell) Send Anita Barkin what we have found from other colleges.

#### 6:26 Transportation Fee – Referendum Language, Timeline

- GSA wanted more information and more time.
- (Ferrell) Do not personally endorse it. Make sense that it costs money but there's a lot of money in areas that aren't spend.
- It costs \$53,000 to run/ year.
- (Morris) How are we planning to get students to vote on this?
- Nothing about referendums in the constitution.
- (Nahass) Get info on who's using the Loop Bus.
- (Ferrell) The Loop Bus is more valuable when it runs past Port Authority hours.

#### 6:30 Media Screen Feedback / Larger Discussion

- (Tuttle) Cool idea.
- (Ferrell) Get the entire screen to be devoted to students.
- (Zhang) Useless. Having stuff online is easier.
- (Schneider) Bad marketing. Too much text.
- (Kuhn) Something to do when bored.

#### 6:33 Student Body Elections Discussion

- Only students who pay Students Activities Fee can run/vote in elections.
- Grad students that have gone ADD no longer pay student's activities fee and students who study abroad do not pay the activities fee.
- Should these people be allowed to vote/run in student body elections?
- NO: elected representative have control over how the fee is allocated.
- YES: It's like a vote/poll tax. There's more to the elected officer job than fiscal things.

- (Ferrell) It's not a choice of student to pay it.
- (Adams) All students should be allowed to run/ vote. We use the activities to fund organizations.
- (Schneider) Student Senate is an organization? People can't run unless they pay the fee.
- It's a legislative branch of student government.
- People who don't pay activities fee cannot technically participate in organizations.
- (Benatuil) Your right to vote is still your right to vote.
- (Adams) If someone abroad runs while abroad, they have will come back to campus.
- (Tuttle) Student government is a representative vote. They may not be able to participate in organizations but they are affected by policies.
- (Schneider) Members should pay.
- (Ruth) Accessed Student Activities Fee based on registration. Can technically talk to the registrar and get a fee accessed.
- (Nahass) If you want to get elected you have to pay.
- (Ferrell) If they fee matter, then they should know that in advance.
- (Morris) Everyone should be allowed to run and vote. Of you get elected then you have to pay the student activities fee because things sponsored by student government are paid by the fee but the fee should not restrict people from running.
- (Flittner) Large portion of student government is paid by the fee.
- (Ruth) People would be required to pay the fee the upcoming year, even though they technically begin at the end of the semester.

#### 6:50 Proposed Student "Bed Tax"

- In mayoral budget—taxing nonprofits (hospitals, universities).
- Located in a proposal of a proposed budget.
- (Morris) Awful idea. Plan to tax hospitals?!
- (Tuttle) Pay property taxes.
- Dorm students are free-riding on the cities resources.
- (Flittner) Cross student government liaising.
- (Adams) Need to think from outside perspective, as well.
- (Schneider) Good way to work with other organization and inform constituents.
- (Zhang) We should not have to shoulder the mayor's fiscal irresponsibility.
- Fortunately we have a good relationship with the councilman.
- (Morris) Wasn't this passed in Road Island? Not fair to students to keep accessing fees.

#### 6:56 Graduate/Undergraduate Collaboration / Gates Center

- University doesn't provide enough collaboration between graduates and undergraduates.
- (Morris) 6,7,8, and 9 floors of Gates Center closed in evenings. Wanted to wait until the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor was completely operations (intended for undergraduates). 6<sup>th</sup> floor lounge was supposed to be for graduate students. Be interested to hear from the graduate student perspective. May also push back hours for students having issues not being able to meet with TAs and professors.
- (Ferrell) Have an issue with splitting up graduates and undergraduates. There are many similarities between both groups.
- (Tuttle) Grad students were under the expectation that this is their lounge. It will be futile to try to open up this space.
- (Schneider) Tepper is locked at night. If they give us space, we should give them theirs.

- (Ruth) Undergraduate students can be distracting.
- (Ferrell) I don't see any real reasons beyond taking the assumption that undergraduate are loud and obnoxious.

**7:03 Second Roll Call/Announcements**

Elections Next Week

November / Semester Overview

BA Event – Friday

**7:05 Adjourn**