

# Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Student Senate

Minutes: 13<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting Fall 2009 – November 12, 2009

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## 5:03 Call to Order and First Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Natalie Morris (SCS), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, .5 absence), William Zhang (SCS, 1 proxy, .5 absence), Rohan Agashe (CIT, 1 absence), Brandon Chock (CIT), Jake Flittner (CIT, 1.5 absence), Matthew Hwang (CIT, 1.5 absence), Bryan Lewis (CIT, .5 absence), Diane Lee (CIT, 1.5 absence, .5 proxy), Matthew Kuhn (CIT, 2.5 absence), Robert Piston Jr. (CIT), Jessica Santana (CIT, 1 absence), Abdul Torffick (CIT, 1.5 absence), Jonathan Mark (CFA), Jarrett Adams (HSS, 1 absence), Eduardo J. Benatuil (HSS, 1.5 proxy, 1.5 absence), Yael Bushoy (HSS, 1.5 proxy, 2 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), Varun Deshpande (MCS, 1 absence), Starsha Kolodziej (MCS, .5 absence), Michael Yang (MCS, 1.5 absence), Stacey Lu (CFA, 1.5 absence), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 3 absence), Toro Adeyemi (TSB, 2 absence), Stephanie Schneider (TSB, 2 proxy, 2 absence)

**Senators Absent:** Abhi Jain (CIT, 1 absence), Jon Mark (CFA, 4.5 absence), Keshav Raghavan (CIT, 2 proxy, 3 absence), Sonali Shah (CIT, 4 absence), Eric Wu (SCS, 1.5 absence),

## 5:04 Approval of Agenda from 11/5/09

### 5:04 Audience Participation

### 5:05 Committee Reports

#### Academic Affairs (Bassem Mikhael)

- Absent.

#### Business Affairs (Jake Fittner)

- Hosted first “Food for Thought”. Had 88 responses—things that students like or want to change.
- Also working on a campus wide poll.
- Discussing Health Services this week.
- Working on creating a resolution on what Senate’s stance is on Health Services.

#### Campus Life (Jarrett Adams)

- T-shirts came in from gear sale.
- Proposal on community and aesthetic improvements: campus grass, make campus more comforting, get more seating, and looking into bike racks.
- Get student organizations to work together.
- Discussing VPO position.
- Want to create an events board by spring 2010.
- Look at a sustainable and green practices competition for Earth Day.
- Working on mid-semester programming.

#### Communications (Toro Adeyemi)

- Had meeting outside Doherty.
- *The Gavel* will cover Health Services issues.

#### Internal Development (Eric Wu)

- Absent.

#### Finance (Robert Piston)

- Presentation next week.
- Ask good questions.

- Brought forth \$0 allocations.

**Chair (Aaron Gross)**

- Robert's rule of the week: coming next week!

**5:13 Special Business – Anita Barkin, Director of Student Health Services**

- Up for reaccreditation—passed this year and is reaccredited for ambulatory health care.
  - Is one of less than 300 college health centers accredited in the U.S.
- In the process of deploying an electronic health record—have screens in each room.
- Provide open access on scheduling—remove waiting room time or talking with advice nurse for certain types of appointments.
- Been working on strategic plan for 10 years.
- In the process of training employees with the new equipment.
- May be a slowdown in service initially, but it will make the process green and will allow students to view their medical records.
- Want to talk about student health and financing with student health.
  - Sense of urgency with the issue.
  - Will not suggest a new funding structure without getting community input.
  - More conversation needs to occur.
  - Had deliberative loop Tuesday.
    - Apparent was that students need to be educated and then garner feedback to move forward.
- This is not a new trend: there has been an increased reliance on garnering revenue from revenue streams.
- Health Center was initially funded by allocation through campus affairs—caused constraints.
- New funding streams helped support extra resources important to college health, like women's health.
- Different function of Student Health Services: illness, injury, lab work, tobacco counseling, massage, prescriptions refills, suture removal, health insurance, etc. (students don't know all of the services that Health Services provides).
- Over 50% of student population is on the Student Health Care plan.
- Have roughly 20,000 student visits per year.
- Percent of student usage:
  - 86% of undergraduates
  - 97% of doctoral students
  - 57% of masters
- Have only .6 of a full time physician (FTE). Peer institutions have more. Need (*recommended*) about 1 FTE for every 2,500 students in populations. 3687:1.
- Medical trend is between 6-8%. Allocation is 4%. Increases in costs have been even more. Physician costs, for instance, have increase 20% over past 5 years.
- Operating expensive increase 10.65%.
- Get money from HighMark covered patients—able to bill HighMark when students are on the Student Health Plan.
- Students not on Health Plan (have alternative insurance) must pay a nominal fee.
- College health care has been offered as a model for the country's health care system.
- Get money from sale of medications.
- Insurance handling fee.
- Allocation from dining for Registered Dietitian, because she serves as a consultant.

- Budget for FY '09 is \$1,212,282. Budget is less than 50% of closest competitors.
- Base allocation doesn't even cover personal costs.
- Shortfalls in budget versus trends
- Funding strategies:
  - Third party billing
  - Student Health Fee
  - Fee-for-service
  - Mixed model (current)
  - Allocation for University
- Pre-paid health fee:
  - Pro: funding predictable, loan and scholarships will cover it as a cost of educations (included in financial need), students can budget in health costs, funding is available to cover costs for things that aren't related to patient care items.
  - Con: increases in utilization (want something for their money), negatively affected by lowering enrollment. Less flexibility and control
- Fee for service:
- Reality of medical cost, used more wisely, allows for choice,
- Doesn't support financing for non patient related costs.
- SHS is not in a deficit—the budget is balanced; concern is that the trend will be that Health Services costs will eventually exceed revenue.

#### 5:42 Questions

- (Weiner) 3 out of 11 peer institutions didn't have a health fee; why was their budgets twice as much?
  - Cornell's funding structure is similar but they're given more money.
- (Schneider) Revenue is a decreasing trend—is it a consistent trend?
  - We have to make more money because allocations are not keeping in pace. The impact of a major health event was supported by the University. Were able to get additional nurses.
  - Most colleges do not have the ability to manage a major public health threat.
  - Aggressive response to effectively manage a health crisis.
- (Abimbola) Students want to know how Health Services will get better after a fee?
  - Public image is always problematic. Feedback is that Health Services has a bad reputation. If we weren't doing a good job, students would not utilize the service. Many changes have been made in accordance with student feedback.
  - Electronic health record will also appease many student health critiques.
- (Nahass) Would allocation from University still stand if a fee is levied?
  - Could suggest that University should contribute even with a health fee, however that is not typically the case.
  - How much more would you want to provide better services?
  - Depends on what services students want. Evening and Saturday hours are the busiest but they provide an expensive solution for students.
- (Flittner) Is the primary goal of health fee to maintain current level of health care services?
  - It can be the end result. Find a way to just make up for the shortfalls in trends. Depends on what students want. Will probably look at fees for service to improve health care.
- (Morris) Have there been problems with peer institutions with FTP

- Never have had a FTP. At one point it was .8 but then pushed back to .6 again.
- Advantages with FTP is:
  - Provides additional access to patients.
  - Provides advanced practice clinicians advanced practice consults.
  - Nothing terrible would happen if we stay at the same level. Not critical but good. Have always contracted physician services because it is less expensive, but disadvantage is lack of continuity in care.
- It's not a point of critical concern.
- (Morris, cont'd) Do you think that there would be a significant benefit to students with a FTP.
  - Yes.
- (Ferrell) How long have you had Highmark?
  - Went out to bid and went with a few others. However, in Pittsburgh's market, it's driven by UPMC. The other options were not profitable. Highmark beat out UPMC, because they have a broader network nationally and internationally.
- Highmark is able to negotiate deep discounts—they rarely raise price in premiums.
- Some universities put money received from Student Health Fee put the money in a capital fund and then construct a new facility.

#### **6:09 Special Business – Proposed City of Pittsburgh Tuition Tax**

Open debate on Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's proposal to tax student tuition

- (Flittner) Really against the tax. It's a political move to get money from the city however it's unfair to students. Especially doesn't make sense with differing tuitions.
- Regardless of how much you pay; if you have the money, you pay more.
- (Schneider) It's not like property tax. Not completely opposed because students are in Pittsburgh for the majority of the year.
- (Aghase) Does the city have any alternatives?
- Plug 15 million dollar hole in pension fund.
- (Zhang) Why do they feel a need to tax students?
- (Morris) Dumb for Pittsburgh—will discourage student enrollment in the city. Trying to push pass a shrunken economic pool. Very counter intuitive.
- Almost like double taxing because parents are already taxed. We pay for own police service through Carnegie Mellon. We really aren't putting that much of a toll on the city of Pittsburgh.
- (Adams) Is it legally correct to say that a certain group has to pay this tax?
- (Gross) The news article questions whether the city has the authority to levy the tax.
- What services would we be paying for? We already pay for tuition, bus services, etc. The facts that we are college services put us in a bubble.
- On rationale is that when students get routy and police have to come take care of it, who pays for it?
- (Ferrell) Do they already tax Carnegie Mellon for the property.
- (Tuttle) They should proportionally increase certain taxes...this is arbitrary.
- (Weiner) Reach out to Pitt to create coalitions? All students should be upset. Need to collaborate.
- (Peters) Unfair to student who do not vote in the city of Pittsburgh but vote absentee for their home cities. It's unreasonable to levy such a heavy burden on students without even getting their opinion.
- (Nahass) Double taxing.

- (Poproski) What certain things can students do to make their voices heard? Say stuff in such a way that people will listen.
- (Mikhael) It's a 1% tax so CMU students will pay more than other Universities, even though they don't necessarily use proportionate amount of services.
- Students are the economic engine of Oakland.
- (Bentuil) Running a poll—not fair that it's more
- (Piston) What is University doing in response to this?
- Not sure how vigorously against it.
- (Tuttle) Have a riot tax.
- (Carin) Non-profit status of the University. Goes against the goals of a non-profit.
- (Morris) Taxed on loans. "If you don't like our tax, don't come to Pittsburgh" is a terrible decision.
- (Adams) Important to see how local Pittsburgh-ers feel about this. Important to see how local tax payers feel about this.
- 80% of people said "no" on an online poll.
- (Bushoy) Would we be the first to tax college students like this?
- Almost in Road Island
- This mayoral administration has historically ignored college students.
- (Abimbola) Can't blame students for not voting. Good opportunity to show that students can come together and rally around a certain issue.
- (Deshpande) Doesn't the University have a deal to support what its students use.
  - Not for libraries. The idea is to find a way to tax a non-profit.
- Those from Pittsburgh and family's from Pittsburgh pays property taxes; would get doubly punished.
- (Carin) What is their definition of tuition?
- (Zhang) Is there a concrete way to protest this? Not just with words?
- There are 9 councilmen. 5 say that they support the mayor. Boycott of downtown business to show purchasing power of students.
- (Lu) Are we having a meeting with other colleges?
- (Adams) Still discussing the proposal in Providence. It's a flat rate tax.
- (Ferrell) Sizeable number of students that aren't affected. Will overall cause a degradation of college system because universities will have to cover more costs.
- (Poproski) Pay more taxes here than Canada—just saying.

#### **09-10 038: Preliminary Resolution Against "Fair Share Tax"**

- (Nahass) Add something that we would support..
- (Morris) Urge Carnegie Mellon's administration to actively advocate against the fair tax of the City on behalf of its students.

6:44 Move to vote. Hand vote. 24-0-0. Passed.

#### **6:52 New Business from Committee**

##### **09-10 039: Special Allocation of \$1315 to Habitat for Humanity for Winter Break Trip**

- Unexpected expense with lodging and traveling. Need extra money for winter break trip.
- Going to Florida.
- Jan 3-9.
- Taking 14 students.

6:53 Questions

- (Adeyemi) What is the student contribution?
  - Every student has paid \$200 deposit and fundraising.
- They exceeded their fundraising goal set by JFC for the year.
- Negotiated down the price of vans and flights.
- (Flittner) This is in the spirit of the allocation.
- Would come to about 480 per person.

6:55 Discussion

- (Piston) Trip is coming soon.

6:55 Move to vote. Hand vote. 19-0-2. Passed. \$1315 to Habitat for Humanity for Winter Break Trip

**09-10 040: Special Allocation of \$550 to All Univ. Orchestra for AUO Spring Concert**

- Had unexpected expense with spring concert.
- Organization grew more than unanticipated—need to rent out Carnegie Music Hall.
- Orchestra is for non major students.
- Do fundraising and discussing dues.
- JFC told them to raise \$7,000.
- Have 90-100 members.
- Already expensive to play instruments.
- (Adeyemi) Call to question.
- (Gross) We are already in question.
- Can't fit on campus stages.
- (Zhang) Definitely should fund.
- (Piston) How many people attend?
  - 200 at least.

7:01 Move to vote. Voice vote. Passed. \$550 to All Univ. Orchestra for AUO Spring Concert

**7:02 09-10 041: Special Allocation of \$1850 to Mayur/SASA for Mayur Show**

- Coming for reimbursement
- Rangos was not available because it was in the fall.
- Many additional expenses.

7:03 Questions

- (Flittner) How many came?
  - About 600.
- (Zhang) Additional costs are just from being in gym.
  - Yes, mostly.

7:04 Discussion

- (Flittner) They are fiscally responsible.
- (Adeyemi) Great advertising.
- Any way to reduce costs?
  - No way to reduce costs; they were endured afterwards.
- (Piston) Student organizations don't make profits.

7:05 Move to vote. Hand vote. 19-0-2. Passed. \$1850 to Mayur/SASA for Mayur Show

**09-10 042: Special Allocation of \$1400 to Impact for Ignite Regional Conference**

- Impact Movement to send 20 people to the Ignite Regional Conference in Chicago.
- Cover hotel and travel expenses.
- Christian organization.

- Problems stem from spiritual needs.

#### 7:08 Questions

- (Flittner) What will you bring back to the campus community?
  - Training students to come back and bring back what they learn.
- (Piston) JFC funds religious organizations as long as they are open to the entire campus. This is more an informational and leadership conference.
- (Zhang) Are you an organization?
- It's our second year but not JFC funded.
- (Torffick) Member of the organization; really helpful to freshmen.
- (Zhang) Are members paying?
  - Members send out support letters to receive resources. Also getting transportation from churches.
- Maybe send fewer people to reduce costs?
  - Want to make it so that anyone who is interested can go.
- Was funded last year.

7:12 Move to vote. Hand vote. 17-2-3. Passed. \$1400 to Impact for Ignite Regional Conference

#### **Recommendation Not To Fund Lambda Phi Epsilon for Asian American Pageant**

- Was discriminatory in admission.
- No organization were contributing
- (Schneider) We should invite the organizations here if we are discussing them.
- (Poproski) Also working through revisions of the fiscal policy.

#### **7:18 Special Business**

##### **Vacancy Elections (1 H&SS, 1 TSB, 5 CFA, 2 MCS)**

##### HSS Elections

7:18 Speech by Aaron

7:21 Questions for

7:23 Speech by Ben Guterman

7:25 Questions for Ben Guterman

7:26 Speech by Will Weiner

7:29 Questions for Will Weiner

7:30 Discussion

7:36 Ben Guterman elected new senator.

##### CFA Elections

7:38 Speech by Jessica Gardocki

7:39 Questions for Jessica Gardocki

7:43 Move to vote. Jessica Gardocki elected new senator.

7:45 Members-at-Large Nomination

7:46 Move to vote. Passed

#### **7:55 Points of Discussion**

End-of-Semester Timeline

Senate working on finals winter-fest

**8:00 Second Roll Call**

**8:05 Adjourn**