

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of February 19, 2004

5:36 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Hussein Al Baya (SIA), James Auwaerter (CIT), Julie Beckenstein (HSS, came late, excused), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Tim Bowen (HSS), Matt Brooks (HSS), Maureen Burns (CFA), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Vito Fiore (HSS), Megan Flocken (HSS), Sooran Kim (CFA), Steven Kling (CIT, proxy), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Erik Michaels-Ober (HSS), Rebecca Nathan (CIT), Daniel Papasian (CIT), Nasheena Porter (HSS), Jay Pujara (SCS), Matt Rado (HSS), Meg Richards (SCS, proxy), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Alex Sussman (SIA), Wei Tang (SHS), Tom Terraccino (SIA), Kristina Wiltsee (MCS), Yanna Weisberg (SHS, came late, excused), Yew Choe Wong (CIT), Jack Wu (SCS), Eleanor Zimmerman (MCS)

Senators Absent: Dan Jentzen (CFA, 1 absence), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT, excused), Ben Loving (MCS, 1 absence)

Members at Large Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Aaron Walker (CIT)

Members at Large Absent: Andres Bermudez (HSS, 1 absence), Ananya Bubna (SIA, 1 absence), Waylon Lu (SIA, 1 absence), Sarah Sareen (HSS, 1 absence), Lisette Yoon (HSS, 1 absence)

5:38 pm Call to Order

5:38 pm Approval of Minutes

5:38 pm Amendments to the February 12th minutes

- Edward Ryan didn't have a proxy
- The first name of the Greek Council representative is Derrick, not Derek.
- The Student Body Vice President of Finance didn't have a report
- S2004-026 – The special allocation was going to Neel Pahlajani not Nell Pahlajani

5:41 pm Passed by acclamation

5:41 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:41 pm Standing Committee Reports

5:41 pm **Academic Affairs** (Matt Rado)

- Received over 100 responses to their survey of CFA students, most of the students didn't have classes during 4:30-6:30 and liked it that way, and those that did have

classes then preferred to have that time free. AA will be getting in contact with Bill Elliot to see which classes have been okayed as an exception of the rule.

- Currently waiting on a response about possible expansion of library hours during the week, will be making a questionnaire about this issue
- In addition, will be making a survey to see if people have any problems with their advisor
- Thank you to the committee for all of the work they have done so far

5:44 pm **Business Affairs** (Jay Pujara)

- Did not meet due to school holiday
- People now responsible for dining are Dean Murphy, for campus life aspects and Bill Elliot, for the business side
- Will be making sure that CampusXpress balances will soon be available on portal
- Currently working with the bookstore to communicate some important statistics to the students
- Working on sending a letter of support to dining vendors for fair trade coffee

5:45 pm **Campus Life** (Rebecca Nathan)

- Started looking at the smoking policy. The old cigarette concrete urns have now moved, and now people are starting to smoke farther away from the buildings
- Continued to work for UC benches and locks with Dean Murphy and Bill Elliot
- Had an art session on why campus is good. [Showcased some of the artwork]
- The poster policy has been up and hasn't been shown to really cut down on violations, but will work on how to continue work on decreasing violations

5:49 pm **Communications** (Erik Michaels-Ober)

- Will be doing a Food for Thoughts, formerly C4C or ICC, on Tuesday 24th, tabling in Wean Commons in the UC and try to talk to students and get their feedback in return for some snacks. Please sign up for a time block.
- Put up a poster this week, advertising the Shuttle Service with information on how to pick it up and other information related to that.
- The Student Senate radio minute was recorded by Ed Ryan, a little blurb about Senate on WRCT on Weekdays at 8pm, contact Ed to put things on the radio minute
- Gave a proposal to put up a sign in the library about Shuttle, Safewalk, Escort and the library will be paying for the sign so that they could use it as well, currently problem is trying to find a walnut or aluminum sign holder.
- For the Elections, will be doing CFA fliers in the CFA mailboxes in CFA or Purnell, Postcards to every student mailbox about the election and how to run and deadlines,

meetings poster to let people know about that, info sheets for the FFT, ads in the Tartan for the elections, getting the fence around that time, with posters for voting, campus-wide email to all students

- For new senators, I have my digital camera please see me after the meeting to have your picture taken for the website. And possibly as well, a group shot...
- For new senators, t-shirts and polo shirts in some sizes are available.
- If you have any news, we are working on the next newsletter, which would be going out with the readme

5:58 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Megan Flocken)

- Would like to commend F&R for another long meeting off campus to discuss internal issues.
- Talked about charity in the fiscal policy, and would like to add a bylaw to talk about charity with the intention that no student should be forced to directly give to charity
- As to academic, political and religious restrictions, need to clarify the definition of academic, with the possibility of using the distinction of professional instead.
- Will be dealing with the requirements of special allocations and recognition

6:02 pm **Internal Development** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

- Constitution/Bylaws amendments being introduced next week
- Tonight, setting the student government election date
- Committee states support for amendment restricting funded recognition to existing non-funded recognized groups, without 2/3 override

6:05 pm **Senate Chair** (Vito Fiore)

- The Student Activities Fee Committee and the Joint Funding Committee met for the first time today.
- JFC has 8 senators serving on it and will be making recommendations for a large chunk of the activities fee for organizational yearly budgets
- SAFC reconvened to talk about the cost-cutting measures in the resolution passed by Senate and GSA last semester
- For new senators, I will be available to talk about Robert's Rules
- If you are a member-at-large and not assigned to a committee please contact me since I would like to set up a members-at-large caucus meeting
- Most of the work of Senate happens in Committee meetings, so please make sure to attend your meeting. If you have any problems for other committees, please contact them

- Everyone should sign up for Food for Thoughts

6:10 pm New Business from Committee

6:10 pm S2004-034 Setting the 2004 Student Government Election Date (Tuesday April 6th, and Wednesday April 7, 2004)

6:10 pm Questions on S2004-034

- This was viewed to be a good date to allow enough time for Communications to get the word out for elections and not to conflict with Spring Carnival.
- The election starts on the first day of Passover

6:12 pm Discussion on S2004-034

- There should be concern for Orthodox Jewish students who can not vote, being that this is over Passover
- Voting can be done by paper, and there has been no concern last year when this was over Passover

6:14 pm Vote on S2004-034

Passes, voice vote

6:15 pm Special Business

6:15 pm S2004-035 Another Bylaws Amendment on the Requirements for Funded Recognition (2/3 override version)

(Original text: "The amendment would insert the following as Article VII, Section A, Subsection 2, Paragraph C, and to correct the ordering below it: "Organizations which have not had non-funded recognition for at least one year require a two-thirds vote to receive funded recognition.")

- Excomm supports this amendment, Internal Development supports this amendment, and Funding and Recognition does not support this amendment.

6:15 pm Questions on S2004-035

- The list of non-funded organizations that is currently on Orgtracker is the best list of non-funded organizations that we have. It is updated up to last fall.

6:17 pm Discussion on S2004-035

6:17 pm Motion to rephrase the amendment to be "for at least the past one year" (Erik Michaels-Ober)

6:19 pm Vote on the amendment to S2004-035

Passes, voice vote

6:19 pm Discussion on S2004-035 as amended

- A semester is the actual precedent used in F&R

6:20 pm Motion to change "year" to "semester" (Daniel Papasian)

6:20 pm Discussion on the amendment to S2004-035 as amended

- The wording is unclear, and a semester is debatable as to what that consists of.

6:20 pm Friendly motion to amend semester to 6 months (Wei Tang), accepted

6:20 pm Discussion on the amendment to S2004-035 as amended

- Please consider the effect of summer on this.
- There is a large difference from a year to 6 months.
- This is the same premise of the amendment, so it doesn't have to be reintroduced, since it only changes the timeframe
- 6 months is unnecessary and one year is valid and this amendment is overruling
- Setting it to 1 year, is a bit unclear, since it requires better bookkeeping as to the exact date of recognition

6:25 pm Motion to change "semester" to be "at least the entire duration of the previous semester" (Jon Mendelson)

6:25 pm Discussion on the amendment to the amendment to S2004-035 as amended

6:30 pm Vote on the amendment to the amendment to S2004-035 as amended

6:31 pm Out of Order (Chair) - Chair's Ruling – The amendment to the amendment must retain the sense of the amendment and this changes the amendment beyond that

6:34 pm Appeal of the Chair's Ruling (Jon Mendelson)

Fails, hand vote (7-14-4)

6:35 pm Discussion on the amendment to S2004-035 as amended

- We may want to consider discounting the summer from the consideration, being that organizations will not be in session

6:37 pm Move the question (Nicholas Scocozzo)

Passes, hand vote (21-4-1)

6:38 pm Vote on the amendment to S2004-035 as amended

Fails, voice vote

6:39 pm Discussion on S2004-035 as amended

- Having the date being based on full semesters would be better as it wouldn't require the extra bookkeeping.

6:40 pm Motion to change "the entire duration of the previous semester" (Tim Bowen)

6:40 pm Discussion on the amendment to S2004-035 as amended

- This could possibly consider the summer semesters as part of the duration
- This would be unfair for groups depending on when they come to F&R

- For many organizations, every semester is not the same, since some do some events by the time of the year
- If you come earlier in the semester, you have to wait longer to not have this restriction
- This allows groups that get funded recognized after the JFC process to not have to wait two years to have a JFC budget

6:46 pm Move the question (Tom Terraccino)

Passes, hand vote (19-3-2)

6:47 pm Vote on the amendment to S2004-035 as amended

Fails, hand vote (10-12-4)

6:48 pm Discussion on S2004-035 as amended

6:48 pm Straw Poll (Jay Pujara)

6:49 pm Discussion on S2004-035 as amended

- The body has spoken, this amendment is necessary to be more fiscally responsible, we have gone through all of these different permutations, and have settled on this

6:50 pm Move the question (Yanna Weisberg)

Passes, voice vote

6:50 pm Vote on S2004-035 as amended

Passes, 20-6-1

(Text as passed: "The amendment would insert the following as Article VII, Section A, Subsection 2, Paragraph C, and to correct the ordering below it: "Organizations which have not had non-funded recognition for at least the past one year require a two-thirds vote to receive funded recognition.")

6:51 pm New Business from the floor

6:51 pm Motion to introduce the "Freedom of Information Policy" (Daniel Papasian)

- Passed by Senate in Fall 2002, vetoed by Brian Namey, committed to ID, who did report on it. This modified form, doesn't apply to GSA and the Executives, and has a new appeals section.

6:54 pm Points of Discussion

- Freedom of Information policy – there is a problem with turnover for semesters since ID didn't deal with this past semester
 - Committed to ID committee last Spring 2003, and there was no further binding on Senate about the policy
 - Is not meant to insult ID and really would like to not have this motion to not die off in committee. A lot of work has been put into the policy

- It is the duty of the Vice Chair to make sure that committees follow through with their charges. Those duties then go to the Chair, in the absence of a vice chair.
- Motiontracker should be used to allow us to enable us to better follow these things.
- Motiontracker and Orgtracker are useful when one actually checks them out.
- Though we have just passed this amendment, it may have been better to have it for 2/3rd for all organizations to be funded.
 - This would be more fair to organizations
 - Special Allocations are majority vote and funded should be as well.
 - Nothing there to stop JFC from recommending no money for groups if they feel that is necessary, since funded is for as long as the organization exists.
 - The forced review of funded recognition is being considered in F&R and SAFC.
 - Though JFC has the discretion to give money, what recognition that Senate stamps on the group does give some weight to that group.

7:04 pm Motion to End Discussion (James Auwaerter)

7:04 pm Announcements

- Senate's "Food for Thoughts" constituency reachout event is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2004 in UC Wean Commons from 1-5 PM. Senators, please sign up to help staff the table and talk to your constituents about issues!
- The next Student Senate meeting is Thursday, February 26, 2004 at 5:30 PM in UC McKenna/Peter/Wright. See you there!
- KGB will have a games night tomorrow, Friday night at 7 PM in PH A19 called "Get Board, Get Carded"
- SFIM will be having a film fest this weekend starting tonight (Thursday) and going into the weekend, it's free.

7:05 Adjourn