

CMU Student Senate

Minutes of September 11, 2003

5:35 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: James Auwaerter (CIT), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Tim Bowen (HSS), Vito Fiore (MCS), Megan Flocken (HSS), Naomi Haskell (SIA), James Hazelrig (CIT), Chen Huang (CIT), Sooran Kim (CFA, left early, excused), Steven Kling (CIT), Ben Loving (MCS), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Erik Michaels-Ober (HSS), Rebecca Nathan (CIT), Sivanipriya Nattama (SCS), Jay Pujara (SCS, left early, excused), Matt Rado (HSS), Edward Ryan (MCS), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Deniz Secilmis (CFA), Alex Sussman (SIA), Wei Tang (SHS, late, excused), Tom Terraccino (SIA), Christopher Watkins (HSS, 1 absence), Michelle Webb (MCS), Yanna Weisberg (SHS), Kristina Wiltsee (MCS), Joshua Yearsley (HSS, left early, excused)

Senators Absent: Wai-Loon Chan (CFA, 1 absence), Jason Chen (CFA, 1 absence), Ben Magallon (CFA, 1 absence), Jack Wu (SCS, 1 absence)

Members at Large Present: Daniel Papasian (CIT), Aaron Walker (CIT)

5:37 pm Call to Order

5:37 pm Moment of silent remembrance of those lost in the September 11 tragedy

5:38 pm Approval of Minutes

5:38 pm Amendments to the September 4 minutes

- Christopher Watkins and Jack Wu were excused absent
- Change “Priya Nattama” to “Sivanipriya Nattama”
- 6:36 pm Specify that the point of discussion was presented as the Business Affairs committee report

5:40 pm Minutes pass by acclamation

5:40 pm Audience Participation – None

5:41 pm Ex-Officio Reports

5:41 pm **Activities Board** (Chris Smoak)

- AB did well at the activities fair. AB representatives were dressed as pirates.
- AB Tech held their newbie training session

- There have been underground shows the past 2 Saturdays. “The Girls” will be performing this Saturday. There is also a Tuesday show scheduled for next week.
- Filmcards are available.
- Green Bikes will be up and running as soon as the group receives a waiver from risk management.
- AB would like to work with Student Affairs to improve Winter Fest and Fiesta de Primavera.
- Last years winter gala was a success and AB would like to see it happen again.
- A special allocation request for a new AB Films projector will be coming before senate soon.

5:44 pm **Campus Police** – Not Present

5:44 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** – Not Present.

5:44 pm **Greek Council** (Ben Loving)

- GC met last Monday at 9:30 pm. There will be an exec meeting next week and the next general body meeting will be in two weeks.
- A table in front of Doherty was set up accepting a cans or \$1 donations for candles for the September 11 vigil held at the fence.
- Up Till Dawn is a yearlong philanthropy event to benefit St. Jude’s Hospital. A banquet and letter writing campaign will kick off the series of monthly philanthropy events.
- The GC website has been edited. Any links disabled as a result of the edit will be restored next week.

5:48 pm **Student Affairs** (Jackie Isaacson)

- The get connected fair will be held Thursday, September 25, from 11am-2pm in Kirr Commons. Applications are still being accepted.

5:51 pm **Student Dormitory Council** – Not present

5:51 pm **Student Body President** (Dan Gilman)

- The Student Body Vice President of Finance has submitted his letter of resignation. Candidates wishing to run for the vacancy must complete a 100-signature petition. A special session of Student Senate and Graduate Student Assembly will be convened to elect a replacement.

5:52 pm **Student Body Vice President** (Gil Dussek)

- The AdHoc committee evaluating the student activities fee met for the first time yesterday to get the ball rolling. A recommendation will hopefully be made by October 1. If it calls for an increase of 5% or less, the increase will have to be approved by Student Senate and Graduate Student Assembly. In order to pass an increase of more than 5%, a campus-wide referendum is required.

5:54 pm **Student Body Vice President of Finance** – None elected.

5:54 pm **Motion to rearrange the orders of the day** moving Special Business items A and B before New Business from Committee (Steven Kling)

5:54 pm Discussion on rearranging the orders of the day

5:54 pm Motion to rearrange orders of the day passes by acclamation.

5:55 pm Special Business items A and B

5:55 pm **Election to fill the CIT vacancy** (1 vacancy, 1 candidate)

5:55 pm Introduction of the candidates: Daniel Papasian

5:55 pm Candidate speech and questioning: Daniel Papasian

5:56 pm Discussion on election to fill the CIT vacancy

5:56 pm Motion to fill the CIT vacancy with Daniel Papasian (Steven Kling)

5:56 pm Discussion on filling the CIT vacancy with Daniel Papasian

5:56 pm Vote to fill the CIT vacancy with Daniel Papasian

Passes, hand vote

5:57 pm **Election to fill the HSS vacancy** (1 vacancy, 4 candidates)

5:57 pm Introduction of the candidates: Dynne Sung, Julie Beckenstein, Haseeb

Qureshi, Hye June Lisette (not present)

5:58 pm Candidate speech and questioning: Dynne Sung

6:02 pm Candidate speech and questioning: Julie Beckenstein

6:06 pm Candidate speech and questioning: Haseeb Qureshi

6:14 pm Reading of statement written by candidate Hye June Lisette

6:15 pm Discussion on election to fill the HSS vacancy

6:21 pm Motion to fill the HSS vacancy with Julie Beckenstein (Rebecca Nathan)

6:21 pm Discussion on filling the HSS vacancy with Julie Beckenstein

6:29 pm Motion to end discussion (Rebecca Nathan)

6:29 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, hand vote (21-5-2)

6:30 pm Vote to fill the HSS vacancy with Julie Beckenstein

Passes, hand vote

6:31 pm Call of division

6:31 pm Vote to fill the HSS vacancy with Julie Beckenstein

Passes, role call vote

6:35 pm New Business from Committee

6:35 pm **S2003-004 Non-Funded Recognition of Students for Dean** (sunset end 2004)

6:36 pm Questions on S2003-004

- This organization would be a Pittsburgh division of this grass-roots movement supporting Howard Dean in his presidential campaign.
- The organization will disband after the 2004 elections. If Dean does not make it to the final election, the organization may disband earlier or may choose to support another candidate.

6:38 pm Discussion on S2003-004

6:38 pm Vote on S2003-004

Passes, voice vote

6:38 pm S2003-005 Non-Funded Recognition of Lutheran Student Movement

6:38 pm Questions on S2003-005

- This organization will be a local chapter of a nation wide organization.
- Non-Lutherans are welcomed as full members.
- This organization is different from the Lutheran Student Fellowship.

6:41 pm Discussion on S2003-005

6:41 pm Vote on S2003-005

Passes, voice vote

6:42 pm S2003-006 Special allocation of \$2400 to Quarter Mile of Quarters

6:42 pm Questions on S2003-006

- This event has been held the past two years raising about \$6000 for charity each year.
- This year's event will hopefully have a bigger turnout than in years past. Over 6000 letters have already been mailed advertising the event.
- The event will offer inflatables, free food, and free drinks.
- Quarter Mile of Quarters will be a philanthropy event.
- Raffles will be held giving away donated prizes.
- Quarters will be lined up across the cut.
- All the money raised will go to Pittsburgh Children's Hospital.

- The special allocation will be used to cover 85% of the cost for the inflatables.
- Several other funding sources are contributing to the event.
- The event will be held 2 weeks from tomorrow.

6:50 pm Discussion on S2003-006

- Discussion on the constitutionality of the proposal with special attention paid to lines 333 and 466 of the Fiscal Policy.
- Reference to past precedents of granting or withholding funding for similar events (e.g.: Greek Sing, the Soccer Tournament)
- Processes are in place to allow the constitution to be amended.
- The constitution as it now stands can be interpreted but cannot be overridden.

7:02 pm Motion for a 5 minute recess (Steven Kling)

7:02 pm Vote for a 5 minute recess

Fails, voice vote

7:03 pm Discussion on S2003-006

- Continued debate about the constitutionality of the proposal and the benefit to the general student body
- The event is intended to be a celebration at the end of the philanthropy event. In the past, no money has been raised during the event.
- The celebration is open to the entire campus.

7:09 pm Straw Poll

7:10 pm Discussion on S2003-006

7:10 pm Motion to end discussion (Rebecca Nathan)

7:10 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, hand vote (23-1-1)

7:11 pm Vote on S2003-006

Passes, voice vote

7:11 pm **Quorum Call** – 24 senators present, 38 senators total

7:11 pm **S2003-002 Introduction of the Election Rules to be approved**

7:12 pm Questions on S2003-002

- The election rules were amended last year, but the finalized changes were never recorded. Internal Development has tried to reconstruct the amendment and will represent it this semester.
- Copies of the existing rules are available.

7:17 pm Return to Special Business

7:17 pm **Special election to fill the Funding and Recognition Committee
Chairperson vacancy**

7:17 pm Nominations for the F&R Chairperson vacancy: Daniel Papasian

7:17 pm Candidate speech and questioning: Daniel Papasian

7:20 pm Discussion on the filling of the F&R Chairperson vacancy

7:20 pm Motion to fill the F&R Chairperson vacancy with Daniel Papasian (Nicholas Scocozzo)

7:21 pm Discussion to fill the F&R Chairperson vacancy with Daniel Papasian

7:21 pm Vote to fill the F&R Chairperson vacancy with Daniel Papasian

Passed, voice vote

7:21 pm New Business from the Floor

7:21 pm **Motion to consider charging the Funding and Recognition Committee to bring before the general body a fiscal policy concerning political, religious, and charity event funding before the end of this semester** (Steven Kling)

7:22 pm Questions on Motion to consider

- Graduate Student Assembly has a fiscal policy. Student Senate does not and has demonstrated a need for one several times.

7:23 pm Vote to consider charging the Funding and Recognition Committee to bring before the general body a fiscal policy concerning political, religious, and charity event funding before the end of this semester (2/3 vote)

Passes, hand vote (17-2-5)

7:24 pm **Motion to charge the Funding and Recognition Committee to bring before the general body a fiscal policy concerning political, religious, and charity event funding before the end of this semester**

7:24 pm Motion to add academic funding to the list

7:24 pm Motion accepted as friendly amendment

7:24 pm Questions on motion to charge F&R to develop a fiscal policy

- The fiscal policy would not affect JFC. It would be limited to Student Senate.
- The document would provide a recommended interpretation of the constitution. It would not override the constitution.
- The committee may suggest amendments to the constitution if it feels amendments are appropriate.

7:27 pm Discussion on motion to charge F&R to develop fiscal policy

- The F&R Chair supports the policy

7:28 pm Vote to charge the Funding and Recognition Committee to bring before the general body a fiscal policy concerning political, religious, charity, and academic event funding before the end of this semester

Passes, voice vote

7:29 pm **Motion to elect Dynne Sung as a Member at Large** (Sivanipriya Nattama)

7:29 pm Discussion on electing Dynne Sung as a Member at Large

7:30 pm Vote to elect Dynne Sung as a Member at Large

Passes, voice vote

7:30 pm Motion to elect Haseeb Qureshi as a Member at Large

7:30 pm Discussion on electing Haseeb Qureshi as a Member at Large

7:31 pm Vote to elect Haseeb Qureshi as a Member at Large

Passes, voice vote

7:32 pm Points of Discussion

- Clarification of the attendance policy
 - To ensure adequate representation, senators may be excused for academic activities if the chair is notified in advance. Non-academic absences may be excused if the chair is given notice 24 hours prior to the meeting and if a proxy is sent. Proxy absences may occur twice a month.
- Discussion about potential discrepancies between the language of the bi-laws and the interpretation of what is actually beneficial for the student body

7:38 pm **Motion to adjourn** (Wei Tang)

7:38 pm Objection to motion to adjourn

7:39 pm Vote to consider motion to adjourn (2/3 must be opposed to not consider motion)

Passes, hand vote (7-14-3)

7:40 pm Vote to adjourn

Fails, hand vote (6-14-3)

7:41 pm Return to Points of Discussion

- Further discussion about potential discrepancies between the language of the bi-laws and the interpretation of what is actually beneficial for the student body
 - Please e-mail comments to the F&R chair for consideration when writing the fiscal policy
 - Responsibility to uphold constitution and room for interpretation

- F&R makes recommendations to the general body but the general body must evaluate the issues and recommendation and make its own decision
- Attendance
 - Tonight several qualified candidates vied to fill vacancies. Make your seat matter.
 - Sending a proxy ensures that the individual colleges will have representation
- Senate t-shirt costs and preferences for polo-shirts or t-shirts
- Calling a motion is different than moving a motion
 - Debate time is needed to fully develop issues
 - It is helpful to know the number of people in the queue when deciding whether to call or to move the question
- The results from the retreat goal setting exercise are being assembled. The alternate retreat will gather input from senators who were unable to attend.
- Access to organizations' bi-laws and constitutions prior to the meeting would be helpful. Org tracker has the option for unrecognized organizations to have their information online pending recognition. Until that function is up and running, information can be e-mailed or posted on the web.

7:55 pm Announcements

- There will be an alternate retreat for those who were unable to make Saturday's event. Thanks to all those who participated and made it a success!
- There will be a vigil at the fence at 9 PM tonight in remembrance of the 9-11 tragedies, sponsored by student organizations.
- Please utilize proxies if you are ever unable to make a meeting. Non-academic excuses will be marked as absences unless a proxy is present.
- Student Body Vice President of Finance Jeff Plate has resigned. There will be a special election in GSA and Senate to fill the vacancy – publicity of petitioning process will begin shortly.
- Thanks to all senators who participated in tonight's lengthy meeting.
- Senate is looking for a hard drive. No more than 10 gigs of space are needed.
- Photos of some senators are still needed for the webpage.

7:56 pm Adjourn