

# CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of October 2, 2003

## 5:35 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** James Auwaerter (CIT), Julie Beckenstein (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Vito Fiore (HSS), Megan Flocken (HSS), James Hazelrig (CIT), Chen Huang (CIT), Sooran Kim (CFA, came late, excused), Steven Kling (CIT), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Erik Michaels-Ober (HSS), Rebecca Nathan (CIT), Sivanipriya Nattama (SCS), Daniel Papasian (CIT), Jay Pujara (SCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Matt Rado (HSS), Edward Ryan (MCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Deniz Secilmis (CFA), Alex Sussman (SIA), Wei Tang (SHS), Tom Terraccino (SIA), Christopher Watkins (HSS, left early, 0.5 absences), Michelle Webb (MCS), Yanna Weisberg (SHS), Kristina Wiltsee (MCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Jack Wu (SCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Joshua Yearsley (HSS, left early, excused)

**Senators Absent:** Tim Bowen (HSS, 1 absence), Jason Chen (CFA, 1 absence), Naomi Haskell (SIA, excused), Ben Loving (MCS, 1 absence)

**Members at Large Present:** Aaron Walker (CIT, left early, 0.5 absences)

**Members at Large Absent:** Ananya Bubna (SIA, 1 absence), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS, 1 absence), Dynne Sung (HSS, 1 absence)

## 5:38 pm Call to Order

### 5:38 pm Approval of Minutes

5:38 pm Amendments to the September 25 minutes

- Change “Standing Committee Reports” to “Ex-Officio Reports”
- Points of Discussion
  - Under the third point, in James Auwaerter’s statement change “preference” to “preferences”
  - Under the first point, correct the spelling “whether”

5:39 pm Minutes pass by acclamation

5:39 pm **Motion to sing “Happy Birthday” to Deniz Secilmis** (Steven Kling)

5:39 pm Singing of “Happy Birthday” to Deniz Secilmis

5:40 pm **Motion to move F2003-013 before Standing Committee Reports** (Daniel Papasian)

5:40 pm Vote to move F2003-013 before Standing Committee Reports  
Passes, voice vote

5:40 pm **Motion to move F2003-015 after F2003-013** (Steven Kling)

5:40 pm Vote to move F2003-015 after F2003-013  
Passes, voice vote

**5:41 pm Audience Participation** – None

5:42 pm **F2003-013 Non-Funded Recognition of Life Savers**

5:42 pm Questions on F2003-013

- Life Savers had 93 donors give blood at a drive earlier this week.
- Funding for this organization currently comes through the Central Blood Bank.
- Blood Bank funding helps cover printing costs, donor prizes, etc

5:43 pm Discussion on F2003-013

5:43 pm Vote on F2003-013  
Passes, voice vote

5:43 pm **F2003-015 Faculty Course Evaluations Feedback and Approval** (Susan Ambrose)

5:43 pm Questions on F2003-015

- The process to revamp the FCE system began Fall 2001 when a faculty committee began working to design a new instrument
- Based on multiple rounds of feedback, pilot studies, and analysis, the instrument has been refined and is now ready for broader use.
- The new system will be online to hopefully boost student response rates and get feedback to professors in a timelier manner.
- Response rates overall in pilot program were lower than paper versions, but higher than expected given it was only a trial run. Response rates are highest among freshman. Case studies of other university's indicate that incentives have little impact on response rates.
- An anonymous authenticator is used to disassociate identity from responses. Students will be notified of this anonymity.
- Students will have access to statistical and summary data but not specific comments.

- Questions have been revised to try and improve the quality of feedback to professors and allow for differences in course structures.
- The instrument is not currently a required policy, though most professors use the system. Of those who don't use it, some professors choose to administer their own survey instead or, because of small class sizes, do not administer any survey to protect student anonymity.
- The new survey is longer than has been used in the past – on average, each survey takes 9 minutes to complete, approximately 45 minutes for all classes – however, faculty do read the surveys and it is helpful.
- The new instrument on-line will be available for 1-2 weeks and will not require the professor to administer the survey.
- In limited sections, faculty can turn off non-applicable questions prior to the completion of the survey. It may be possible in the future for faculty to add questions of their own.
- In its current form, students who drop a course will not be able to fill out an evaluation for that course.
- Straw Poll is conducted for give-away option to encourage student feedback
- Most faculty members say they think it is good to allow customization but wouldn't do it themselves.

6:07 pm Discussion on F2003-015

6:07 pm Motion to endorse F2003-015 (Steven Kling)

6:07 pm Discussion on endorsing F2003-015

- Even though participation may be lower than paper comments, the questions are more applicable and may provide better feedback regardless

6:08 pm Vote to endorse F2003-015

Passes, voice vote

6:09 pm **Motion to move F2003-014 before Standing Committee Reports**

Passes by acclamation

6:09 pm **F2003-014 Special Allocation of \$600 to Peer Health Advisors**

6:09 pm Questions on F2003-014

- The money would fund the entry fees for 3 officers to attend a D.C. conference in November.
- The conference is about health related issues and advising practices on issues such as nutrition

- The officers of this organization are relatively young compared to past leaders and therefore the organization feels this conference would be even more valuable
- Peer advisors organize programs and send out newsletters to help educate students about health issues they face. RAs are the most common people attending programs.
- Health Services may be willing to help subsidize the costs, but have not yet given a dollar amount.
- The F&R recommendation does not include costs of travel, hotel, food, and other non-admission costs.

6:16 pm Discussion on F2003-014

- A Senator with past experience in this organization expresses support for the program and past effectiveness of having organization members attend similar conferences.
- Discussion about the value of conferences to the student body, particularly for advisory organizations in the business of disseminating information to the campus.
- Discussion about the value of sending multiple people to get a wider breadth of knowledge at a lower per person cost vs. sending a single person for a lower total cost. Also, discussion about the benefits of having additional people present to attend events with conflicting times or to bring back more knowledge.
- Concerns about funding conferences out of principle.
- RAs can request for programs on specific issues.

6:25 pm Straw Poll (Rebecca Nathan)

6:25 pm Discussion on F2003-014

6:25 pm Motion to end discussion (Erik Michaels-Ober)

6:25 pm Vote to end discussion

Division, voice vote

Passes, hand vote (21-7-2)

6:26 pm Vote on F2003-014

Passes, voice vote

### **6:27 pm Standing Committee Reports**

6:27 pm **Academic Affairs** (James Hazelrig)

- AA did not anticipate today's e-mail about changes in diploma formats from past years to keep the diplomas uncluttered and focused. No official AA opinion has been formulated as of yet.
- A meeting about H&SS overloading policy did not generate much discussion.
- C-SAC is being revived to help improve all other university SACs function.

6:33 pm **Business Affairs** (Steven Kling)

- The Director of Campus Services is holding a focus group next Wednesday at 7:30pm. The food should be good and Campus Services has a good reputation of valuing student input. Attendance is encouraged, but please let Steve know if you plan to attend.
- Business Affairs is still working to get their business in order for the semester.

6:37 pm **Campus Life** (Nick Scocozzo)

- CL is still working with Student Body Dining Committee and evaluation the effectiveness of the new hard-waiver health insurance policy.
- Health Services tries to respect student privacy and a memo has been posted to inform students and professors that they can use a receipt as a doctor's note instead of a diagnosis note. The diagnosis can be removed from the doctor's note for privacy reasons.

6:39 pm **Communications** (Erik Michaels-Ober)

- The Communications Committee is starting a new advertising campaign to promote underutilized campus services including Escort, Shuttle, Safe Walk, and Art Pass. If you have ideas for other services that merit promotion, please contact the Committee.
- Senator Pujara has volunteered to work on the new Student Senate website, [stusen.org](http://stusen.org), while we have no CTO. The Communications Committee commends his contributions in this capacity.
- Only one person has expressed interest in a Student Senate radio show on WRCT or television show on cmuTV. If Senators cannot contribute to these shows, they will not happen. If you are interested in working on either of these shows, in any capacity, but haven't spoken up, please contact me as soon as possible.
- The vote on the color of Student Senate shirts was not conclusive, thus we have ordered samples. Members of the Communications Committee will model the samples. After you have a chance to look them over, another vote will be taken to determine the shirt color.

- The first issue of the Student Senate newsletter, The Gavel, will be published as soon as all contributions are submitted.
- Staple guns and staples have been ordered. The cost was significantly less than anticipated so we were able to order six guns and twenty boxes of staples and still remain under the budgeted amount.
- Senate shirt options fashion show and informal vote – maroon polo with white logo is the winner. The trademark office does not need to approve of design so long as stated rules are followed.

6:46 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Daniel Papasian)

- 26,000 left
- F&R is working on developing the student senate fiscal policy – please share your thoughts with F&R.

6:47 pm **Internal Development** (Sivanipriya Nattama)

- Senate office keys are available at the Student Activities Office for those who have not yet picked them up. It is not yet possible to have multiple key codes on a single key card.
- Rebecca is working through the archives to get a better history of senate and allow for more expediency.
- Tim is working to get static room reservations for next semester. This semester room reservations are taken care of.
- Senate-CTO interviews will be conducted tomorrow. There are three current candidates.
- Constitution – on Monday at 5:30pm, ID will discuss issues regarding the Constitution in UC318G. All are invited to attend, but e-mail opinions are also encouraged.
- Senate vacancies exist.
- There will be a senate social on October 23. If you have activity proposals, please share those with ID.

6:54 pm **Transparency and Accountability** (Sivanipriya Nattama and Steven Kling)

- Last Monday's meeting went well.
- T&A is working to get budgets ready for publication and past Oracle information is being reviewed. More information will be available at the meeting three weeks from today.

6:55 pm **Activities Fee** (Gil Dussek)

- The final report will not be ready in October as expected, but work is ongoing and a recommendation will be submitted before the end of the semester. A referendum for an increase beginning next year will still be possible.
- No timeline on the USSA referendum has been set.

6:58 pm **Senate Chair** (Vito Fiore)

- “I would like to apologize to all of the students who signed the new issue petition regarding a USSA referendum, introduced on September 18, 2003. My handling of the matter was unprofessional and indecisive. We have not been in compliance with the Bylaws on this matter because the petition was supposed to have been validated by last Thursday. I take responsibility for this mistake. However, it has now been validated and the issue is on the agenda tonight, as a Student Body Directive, in compliance with the timeline given by the bylaws. Again, I hope no students have felt disenfranchised by the handling of this matter -- know that student involvement, activism, and concern for issues on campus is exactly what we are trying to encourage. I applaud all those who demonstrate those qualities on behalf of their fellow students here at Carnegie Mellon.”
- Minutes and agendas will hopefully be forwarded out earlier in advance of the meeting in the future to give people more time to consider issues.
- A number of people have resigned or been removed from Senate this semester. There are currently 2 CIT vacancies and 4 CFA vacancies.

**7:01 pm New Business from Committee**

7:01 pm **F2003-012 Non-Funded Recognition of Lutheran Student Organization**

7:01 pm Questions on F2003-012

- Unique from other Lutheran group approved earlier this week

7:02 pm Discussion on F2003-012

7:02 pm Motion to lay on the table so representative can be invited to answer questions  
(Steven Kling)

7:03 pm Vote to lay on the table

Division, voice vote

Fails, hand vote (12-10-2)

7:05 pm Motion to end discussion

Fails, hand vote (13-8-2)

7:06 pm Discussion on F2003-012

- Discussion about value of having representatives present to answer questions

7:07 pm Motion to postpone one week (Steven Kling)

7:08 pm Vote to postpone one week

Passes, hand vote (13-8-2)

### **7:08 pm Special Business**

#### **7:08 pm Special Election to fill the Vice President for Finance Vacancy**

Candidates: Paul Richelmi

7:09 pm Reading of submitted candidate statement

7:10 pm Questions regarding filling of Vice President for Finance Vacancy process

7:11 pm Discussion regarding filling of Vice President for Finance Vacancy process

7:13 pm Motion to fill Vice President for Finance seat with Paul Richelmi

7:13 pm Discussion on filling Vice President for Finance seat with Paul Richelmi

7:13 pm Vote to fill Vice President for Finance seat with Paul Richelmi

Passes, hand vote

#### **7:14 pm F2003-016 Student Body Directive – USSA Referendum Consideration**

7:14 pm Questions on F2003-016

7:15 pm Discussion on F2003-016

- USSA's constitution states they wish to encourage diversity and use quota system guidelines to generate diverse representation. Discussion about the value or appropriateness of the quota system.
- Rebuttal stating USSA does not use quota system
- This fee would not be part of the student activities fee. It would be added onto student accounts as a separate charge.
- The student directive has shown that students are interested in the issue.
- Student senate would not make the decision to join USSA – such a decision would be made by referendum.
- On the website, it indicates that meetings of certain minorities are closed to those not of those minorities.
- With a second petition, students can require Senate to reconsider decision.
- Joining the USSA would require time and activity level requirements from students.

7:28 pm Motion that following question be put to the undergraduate student body as a referendum on October 28 and 29:

“Do you support the Carnegie Mellon undergraduate student body becoming members of the United States Student Association for a cost of \$.40 per semester

per student? This would be effective beginning Fall 2004, continuing for a period of one year.” (Erik Michaels-Ober)

7:29 pm Discussion on motion to put question to undergraduate student body

7:29 pm Motion to amend to replace “do you support” with “do you wish for Carnegie Mellon to become a member” (Steven Kling)

7:29 pm Motion accepted as friendly

7:30 pm Discussion on motion to put question to undergraduate student body

- Suggestion to include language to authorize date to rescheduled such that the referendum may be conducted simultaneously with the activities fee referendum should it become apparent that such a referendum will occur
- It may need to be made more explicit that the additional charge is not part of the Activities Fee

7:34 pm Straw Poll (Michelle Webb)

7:35 pm Discussion on motion to put question to undergraduate student body

- Concern about possible ambiguity in language about the binding-ness of the referendum.
- Difficulty of organizing referendum and debate as to whether the additional workload should be considered when voting on the motion.
- A Senate vote to endorse a referendum is not a vote supporting the USSA motion or binding the student body to USSA support

7:37 pm Motion to lay F2003-016on the table (Daniel Papasian)

7:37 pm Vote to lay F2003-016on the table

Fails, hand vote (9-12-1)

7:38 pm Discussion on motion to put question to undergraduate student body

- If the referendum passes, the fee addition will have to go through the board of trustees.
- Precedent of other organizations and Carnegie Mellon admission systems use of quotas or diversity guidelines.
- Referendum is a significant amount of work and some feel it should be considered as a deciding factor.
- Debate about the respect due to those students who have signed petition and exercised constitutional right to request referendum.
- Discussion about success of USSA in funding initiatives.

- Questions about accurate representation of USSA quota issues to those who signed petition and the appropriate time for issues to be surfaced and advocated.

7:54 pm Motion to end discussion

7:54 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, hand vote, (19,0,2)

7:56 pm Vote on referendum

Role call vote, fails (9-12-1)

See October 2, 2003 Appendix 1 for vote tally

### **8:00 pm New Business from the Floor**

8:00 pm **Motion to introduce amendment to the bylaws** (Steven Kling)

- Amendment would modify line 780.X.C to add “a majority vote of the members voting for or against any motion”

8:00 pm Questions on motion

8:02 pm **Motion to introduce amendment to the bylaws** (Daniel Papasian) to remove section VII.A.1.c.

8:02 pm Questions

8:03 pm Motion to move to as if a committee of the whole to draft a resolution requesting someone to come and speak to senate regarding the diploma changes (Steven Kling)

8:04 pm Questions about policy

- Committee of the whole is meant to get a quick, general consensus on an issue

8:09 pm Recess to switch rooms

8:14 pm Recall to order

8:14 pm Questions about procedural matters

8:14 pm Suggestion by the chair to discuss during points of discussion because of the level of confusion being caused

8:15 pm Suggestion rejected by motioning senator

8:16 pm Vote to move to as if a committee of the whole to draft a resolution requesting someone to come and speak to senate regarding the diploma changes

Fails, hand vote (9-7-5)

8:17 pm **Motion to consider charging Senate Chair and Academic Affairs Chair to request someone to come and speak to senate regarding the diploma changes** (Steven Kling)

8:18 pm Vote to consider charging Senate Chair and Academic Affairs Chair to request someone to come and speak to senate regarding the diploma changes  
Passes, hand vote (17-1-2)

8:18 pm Discussion on charging Senate Chair and Academic Affairs Chair to request someone to come and speak to senate regarding the diploma changes

8:19 pm Motion to make this an official senate request (Daniel Papasian)

8:19 pm Accepted as friendly

8:19 pm Vote to charge Senate Chair and Academic Affairs Chair to request someone to come and speak to senate regarding the diploma changes  
Passes, voice vote

### **8:20 pm Points of Discussion**

- Attendance issues and the value of having senators present to represent constituents
  - Difficulty of scheduling around classes and predicting extended meeting lengths
  - Discussion and value of germane, pertinent comments

### **8:27 pm Announcements**

- There will be a panel group discussing potential changes to Retail Services on Wednesday, October 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Danforth Lounge of the University Center. We need several Senate members to attend – please contact Steven Kling (sfk@andrew.cmu.edu) if interested.
- Greek Council is working on a philanthropy project for St. Jude's Hospital. The first event is a letter-writing party Monday, October 6 at 5 PM in the Connan Room. If you have questions, or would like to help, please contact Misty Muscatel (mmuscate@andrew.cmu.edu).
- C. There are currently 2 CIT vacancies and 4 CFA vacancies. Petitions are available at the UC Info Desk and are due back Tuesday, October 21 at 5 PM to the Info Desk to UC Box 46.
- If you have suggestions about how the chair can better run the meetings, let him know
- Activities Board is in the process of publicizing its October 20 concert. Tickets on sale Monday morning 8am to students. Will go on sale to public through ticket master. \$5 for students, \$10 for non-students. Posters going up tonight
- Women's Center is hosting a potluck tomorrow at 7:30pm.

- Please come to F&R office hours at 4:30pm on Friday to give input into the ongoing F&R special tasks.

**8:30 pm Adjourn**

**October 2, 2003 – Appendix 1 – Roll Call vote**

James Auwaerter	CIT	opposed
Julie Beckenstein	HSS	opposed
Michelle Birchak	CIT	opposed
Tim Bowen	HSS	opposed
Jason Chen	CFA	not present
Vito Fiore	MCS	abstain
Megan Flocken	HSS	affirmative
Naomi Haskell	SIA	not present
James Hazelrig	CIT	affirmative
Chen Huang	CIT	opposed
Sooran Kim	CFA	affirmative
Steven Kling	CIT	opposed
Ben Loving	MCS	not present
Jonathan Mendelson	SCS	affirmative
Erik Michaels-Ober	HSS	affirmative
Rebecca Nathan	CIT	opposed
Sivanipriya Nattama	SCS	opposed
Daniel Papasian	CIT	affirmative
Jay Pujara	SCS	not present
Matt Rado	HSS	affirmative
Edward Ryan	MCS	not present
Nicholas Scocozzo	CIT	opposed
Deniz Secilmis	CFA	affirmative
Alex Sussman	SIA	not present
Wei Tang	SHS	opposed
Tom Terraccino	SIA	opposed
Christopher Watkins	HSS	not present
Michelle Webb	MCS	affirmative
Yanna Weisberg	SHS	opposed
Kristina Wiltsee	MCS	not present
Jack Wu	SCS	not present
Joshua Yearsley	HSS	not present