

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of January 15, 2004

5:36 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: James Auwaerter (CIT), Julie Beckenstein (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT, proxy), Tim Bowen (HSS, late, .5 absence), Vito Fiore (HSS), Megan Flocken (HSS), Daniel Jentzen (CFA), Steven Kling (CIT), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT, late, excused), Ben Loving (MCS, left early, excused), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Erik Michaels-Ober (HSS), Rebecca Nathan (CIT), Daniel Papasian (CIT), Jay Pujara (SCS), Matt Rado (HSS), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Alex Sussman (SIA), Wei Tang (SHS), Tom Terraccino (SIA), Yanna Weisberg (SHS, came late, excused), Kristina Wiltsee (MCS), Jack Wu (SCS, left early, excused)

Senators Absent: Sooran Kim (CFA, excused), Deniz Secilmis (1 absence)

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

Members at Large Absent: Ananya Bubna (SIA, 1 absence), Pedro Ferraz (HSS, 1 absence), Elizabeth Kolmus (SHS, 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 December 4th minutes

- Correct Mark Roboff's name
- Include the amount of the Senate budget in the title of F2003-053
- F2003-050 Questions
 - first black female, not single black female
 - strike the two " _ "

5:40 pm Passed by acclamation

5:40 pm Audience Participation - None

5:41 pm Ex-Officio Reports

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

* Movies this week include Dark City on Wednesday, while made a good showing, Lost in Translation, Once upon a time in Mexico, Purple Rain

* Need a new Underground Chair

* Lectures have Sarah Vowel

* Special Events looking for accompaniment for a silent movie

5:42 pm **Campus Police** (not present)

5:43 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** (not present)

5:43 pm **Greek Council** (not present)

5:43 pm **Student Affairs** (Jackie Isaacson)

* Winter Conference this Sunday. You sign up on-line. It features an etiquette luncheon.

* MLK, Jr. events happening Monday afternoon, with highlights of a candlelight ceremony at the fence at 4:30 with a speaker at 5

* Winter Gala, January 30th, 9-12 midnight. It will mirror things on a cruise ship with mini spa, human shuffleboard, and a casino.

* U.C. Fridays - Psychic fair this Friday, and Night of Chocolate next Friday

* Alternative Spring Break, Habitat for Humanity is gearing up.

5:45 pm **Student Dormitory Council** (Dan Jenzten)

* General body has move to 8pm on Wednesdays

* Saturday night movie is Underworld

* Move \$10,500 dollars from an unknown SDC Contingency fund to normal unallocated funding

* Increased the dorm fee from 12 to 14 dollars a semester to provide new services and to maintain Moorwood Lounge.

* DVD library starting up this semester, looking for ideas for DVDs to buy

5:49 pm **Student Body President** (Dan Gilman)

* Student Government taking care of the candlelight vigil on MLK day. Trying to get more people to come

* Hoping to do 100 days before Graduation (Feb 6th and on) event to bring together seniors and start a new tradition on campus.

* Met with students about the UC, in regards to renovations and possibly redoing Danworth Lounge

* CMU should have the entire day off to show respect, but one has to be careful that it doesn't become a ski day like Pitt

5:54 pm **Student Body Vice President** (not present)

5:54 pm **Student Body Vice President of Finance** (not present)

5:54 pm Standing Committee Reports

5:54 pm **Academic Affairs** (Tom Terraccino)

* James Hazelrig has resigned and Tom is the interim. We will fill the seat of the new AA committee chair later this meeting

* Hoping to focus on issues still affecting academic affairs, like plus/minus grading, SAC communication and effectiveness, academic integrity, and commencement speaker.

5:55 pm **Business Affairs** (Jay Pujara)

* Business Affairs will continue to look into cashless vending and Social Security numbers

* New issues to be looked into include FAQs for the Bookstore and Parking, a Parking amnesty program with community service not fines.

* Zebra Lounge, run by Student Activities, just opened in CFA and serves fair trade coffee, and hopefully others will follow.

5:57 pm **Campus Life** (Rebecca Nathan)

* Looking into improvements of the University Center, will continue to have contact with SBDC, and continuing to follow up on the smoking policy.

5:58 pm **Communications** (Erik Michaels-Ober)

* "This needs to be the most effective publicized election this semester." -- Vito Fiore

* The goal of the committee this semester is to have high voter turnout this election.

* Putting together information for the Activities Fair

* Getting started with an ad campaign about filling Senate vacancies.

* Planning on getting into the dorms with Senate posters.

* Wants to put up information sheets on policies, like the exam policy, and get the word out more about Escort and Shuttle services.

6:02 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Megan Flocken)

* \$5,300 rolled over from last semester

* Requests are rolling in already, business as usual

* Planning on building a database of previous decisions to help establish precedent

* Will work with Communications to make a manual for funding

6:05 pm **Internal Development** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

* Introduce New Members

* Retreat is January 24

- * Looking at continuing evaluation of potential Bylaws/Constitutional changes
- * Evaluating Senate's internal elections procedure changes
- * Improving and utilizing Motiontracker/BudgetTracker

6:06 pm **Transparency and Accountability** (Steven Kling) -- No report

6:07 pm **Senate Chair** (Vito Fiore)

- * Happy to be back with Senate
- * Notice there were a number of resignations, either due to not being around or different schedules, 11 vacancies -- 4 CFA, 2 HSS, 2 CIT, 1 in MCS, 1 SCS, 1 SIA
- * Ads for the new clerk and CTO this semester will be put up on TartanTrak
- * Committee chairs will be contacting you for setting up meeting times.
- * Retreat is coming up and it will count as an absence, and we will do more about philosophy and a forum to go through the things we do in Senate, and food will be there.

6:11 pm **Special Business**

6:11 pm **Filling the Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson Vacancy**

6:12 pm Nominations for the Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson: Tom Terraccino, Matt Rado

6:13 pm Candidate speech and questioning: Tom Terraccino

6:16 pm Candidate speech and questioning: Matt Rado

6:21 pm Discussion on filling the Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson vacancy

6:21 pm **Motion to suspend the bylaws** to allow informal consideration and to allow secret ballot (Erik Michaels-Ober)

6:23 pm Discussion on suspending the bylaws

- * More in line with Robert's Rules
- * Allows voter anonymity and keep one candidate from having an advantage

6:24 pm Motion to divide the question (Steven Kling)

6:27 pm Vote on dividing the question

Fails, hand vote

6:28 pm Discussion on suspending the bylaws

- * Secret ballot is unprofessional, and doesn't allow everyone to confirm the results
- * Swaying votes can be done with the secret ballot as well

6:30 pm Move the question

Passes, hand vote (12-6-2)

6:31 pm Vote to suspend the bylaws

Passes, hand vote (12-6-2) -- Division (Tim Bowen) -- Passes, hand vote (12-6-2)

6:33 pm Informal consideration on filling the Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson vacancy

6:44 pm Objection from Matt Rado and Tom Terracino on the vote to suspend the bylaws (Steven Kling)

6:47 pm Chair's Ruling: The vote on suspending the bylaws is invalid since members were physically kept, due to being excused by the Sergeant-at-arms, from a vote in which the matter did not directly involve their filling the vacancy. Therefore, we will go back to that motion.

6:47 pm Appeal of the Chair's Ruling (Daniel Papasian)

6:50 pm Vote on the Appeal of the Chair's Ruling

Fails, hand vote (6-12-2)

6:51 pm Discussion on suspending the bylaws

* A secret ballot allows people to vote their true convictions

* It makes the vote suspicious, and we are public officials and should be able to vote publicly.

6:59 pm Motion to divide the question (Steven Kling)

Passes, by unanimous consent

7:00 pm Discussion on suspending the bylaws to allow informal consideration

* With informal discussion and without a secret ballot, there would be discussion and then after the discussion with call or move the question will go to vote and each candidate would have a up or down vote and the candidate with the most votes would win

* Speaking rules still in force

7:03 pm Vote to suspend the bylaws to allow informal consideration

Passes, voice vote

7:03 pm Discussion on suspending the rules to allow a secret ballot

* Senators should be held accountable for most things, but for internal elections you should only be held accountable to yourself, not the rest and the Tartan

7:05 pm Straw Poll (Wei Tang)

7:05 pm Discussion on suspend the bylaws to allow a secret ballot

* This is not an issue of transparency, people don't find out the votes later anyway.

* A secret ballot would allow more for making a preference if people like both candidates.

* A secret ballot will remove the check that senators have to go against the vote.

7:17 pm Motion to move the question (Rebecca Nathan)

Passes, voice vote

7:17 pm Motion to suspend the bylaws to allow a secret ballot

Passes, hand vote (12-6-3)

7:18 pm Discussion on the Filling of the Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson vacancy

7:33 pm Matt Rado fills the Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson vacancy

7:34 pm **Motion to consider the allocation of \$250 to the Office of the President for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration (Daniel Papasian)**

7:36 pm Vote to consider the allocation of \$250 to the Office of the President for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Passes, voice vote

7:36 pm Discussion on the allocation of \$250 to the Office of the President for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

7:36 pm Motion to pass the motion by acclamation (Erik Michaels-Ober)

Objection

7:34 pm Discussion on the allocation of \$250 to the Office of the President for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

7:39 pm Motion to move the question (Wei Tang)

Passes, voice vote

7:40 pm Vote on the allocation of \$250 to the Office of the President for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Passes by an unanimous voice vote.

7:41 pm **Motion to elect Eleanor Zimmermann as a Member at large** (Daniel Papasian)

7:41 pm Candidate speech and questioning

7:42 pm Discussion on electing Eleanor Zimmermann as a Member at large

7:42 pm Vote to elect Eleanor Zimmermann as a Member at large

Passes, voice vote

7:43 pm Points of Discussion

* AA secret ballot is a big issue from an ID perspective and the 2/3 vote shows the opinion of the senate. This was more a trial; since ID was not able get this through their committee, because of how the bylaws force us to have the election now. This is an important issue that comes from how the last chairperson elections were.

* Room setup -- the body prefers the current u-shape setup

* BA now only has 2 senators, and we have many members at large that seem to not show up

* M@L list will be purged of all those not interested.

* We have 11 vacancies, but having people put in randomly might discourage them.

7:51 pm Announcements

* If you are on Academic Affairs or Communications and you would like to go to BA, please contact Vito or Nick.

* Student Senate's retreat is Saturday, January 24 at 11 AM in UC Rangos 1. Attendance is necessary -- contact the ID Chair Nick at nscocozz@stusen.org with you availability.

* The Activities Fair is Thursday, January 22 at 4:30 PM. We need Senators to man the table, before and during our meeting. Please contact the Communications Chair Erik at ekmichae@stusen.org if you'd like to help out.

* There are presently eleven vacancies in Student Senate for the new semester: 4 in CFA, 2 in HSS, 2 in CIT, 1 in MCS, 1 in SCS, and 1 in SIA. Petitions are available at the UC Info Desk -- these vacancies will be filled in the coming weeks.

* Carnegie Mellon's Winter Conference is Sunday, January 18, 2004. Check out for the available workshops and register online at <http://www.cmu.edu/winterconference>.

* Carnegie Mellon's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration is January 19, 2004 in the University Center. Please take time to remember his legacy.

* Committee business will commence shortly, including F&R requests -- Senators, respond to your committee chairs' request for meeting time availabilities ASAP!!!

* The next Student Senate meeting is Thursday, January 22, 2004 at 5:30 PM in UC McKenna/Peter/Wright. See you there!

* Next Friday, KGB has their auction event.

7:53 pm Adjourn