

# CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of October 9, 2003

## 5:40 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** James Auwaerter (CIT), Julie Beckenstein (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Chen Huang (CIT, left early, 0.5 absences), Vito Fiore (HSS), Megan Flocken (HSS), Naomi Haskell (SIA), James Hazelrig (CIT, left early, excused), Steven Kling (CIT), Ben Loving (MCS), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Erik Michaels-Ober (HSS), Sivanipriya Nattama (SCS), Daniel Papasian (CIT), Jay Pujara (SCS, left early, excused), Edward Ryan (MCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Deniz Secilmis (CFA, left early, 0.5 absences), 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, excused), Jack Wu (SCS), Joshua Yearsley (HSS)

**Senators Absent:** Tim Bowen (HSS, 1 absence), Jason Chen (CFA, 1 absence), Sooran Kim (CFA, 1 absence), Rebecca Nathan (CIT, 1 absence), Matt Rado (HSS, 1 absence)

**Members at Large Present:** Aaron Walker (CIT)

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

## 5:42 pm Call to Order

### 5:42 pm Approval of Minutes

5:42 pm Amendments to the October 2 minutes

- 5:39pm and 5:40 pm Correct spelling of Steven Kling
- 5:40 pm Motion was to move F2003-015 after F2003-013, not F2003-012
- 7:02 pm Motion was to lay on the table
- 7:30 pm discussion point was actually an amendment, not taken as friendly, and then withdrawn by Steven Kling
- Communications report – 1 Senator expressed interest in helping with Senate radio or TV show
- Academic report – The HSS overload policy did not generate much discussion

- 8:02 pm Motion to introduce bylaws amendment was made by Daniel Papasian, not Steven Kling
- 5:42 pm Add “central” before “blood bank”
- 7:15 pm F2003-016 Discussion: add note stating there was a rebuttal stating USSA does not use quota system

5:49 pm Passed by acclamation

#### **5:49 pm Audience Participation**

- Quinten Steenhuis discusses USSA issue voted on last week

5:54 pm Motion to move F2003-023 to after Ex-Officio Reports (Steven Kling)

5:54 pm Passes by acclamation

5:54 pm Motion to move F2003-012 into Unfinished Business

5:54 pm Passes by acclamation

#### **5:55 pm Ex-Officio Reports**

5:55 pm **Activities Board** (Chris Rotella)

- AB Tech is busy with international festival
- AB Films is showing movies this week as normal
- Tickets for The Ataris concert are available

5:58 pm Motion to move F2003-018 next (Daniel Papasian)

5:58 pm Passes by acclamation

#### **5:59 pm New Business from Committee**

5:59 pm **F2003-018 Special Allocation for \$2100 to Dance Marathon**

5:59 pm Questions for F2003-018

- The allocation will go toward security, FMS, and AB Tech costs. No allocation money will go directly to charity.
- Event proceeds will go towards St. Jude’s Hospital as part of the Up Till Dawn event.
- The event will be open to entire campus and, in the future, may become an annual event.

6:03 pm Discussion on F2003-018

- Organization asked for funded status last year but was denied until it became more established

6:04 pm Vote on F2003-018

Passes, voice vote

#### **6:04 pm Return to Ex-Officio Reports**

6:04 pm **Campus Police** (Representing officer)

- Review of 3 recent crime alerts
- It is not yet determined if fraternity name will be publicized where alleged drug-sex crime occurred
- Organizations hire security for large events because normal security forces are inadequate to cover the additional security risk

6:10 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** – not present

6:11 pm **Greek Council** – not present

6:11 pm **Student Affairs** (Jackie Isaacson)

- Student tickets for the Ataris concert are available for \$5. Tickets are available to the general public through Ticket Master for \$10.
- Family Weekend is this weekend.
- A leadership conference will be held Tuesday 6:30pm in the Danforth Lounge
- CA and RA applications are available online through student life website.
- Request to have student senate informed of exceptions to student senate to allow appropriate enforcement

6:13 pm **Student Dormitory Council** (SDC representative)

- SDC has passed a positive recommendation on free laundry system proposal with stipulations that the system be reviewed in one year and ratios between washers-driers and students-machine be maintained
- Autumn ball is being planned for October 24
- SDC sampled new food items at underground

6:19 pm **Student Body President** (Gil Dussek)

- The new hard-waiver health insurance policy is being evaluated.

6:22 pm **Student Body Vice President** (Gil Dussek)

- A web issues meeting was held this morning, got feedback on portal

6:26 pm **Student Body Vice President of Finance** (Paul Richelmi)

- Due to a \$45,000 surplus, organizations that appealed their budgets last spring will be allowed to re-appeal their budgets this fall.
- Hopefully JFC fall meetings will be limited to 1 meeting a week of less than 2 hours in addition to outside contacts with organizations

6:31 pm **Motion to reclassify F2003-025 as new business from committee** (Steven Kling)

6:31 pm Passes by acclamation

### **6:32 pm Special Business**

#### **6:32 pm F2003-023 Appointment of Senate's Representatives to the Fall 2003 Joint Funding Committee**

6:32 pm Questions on F2003-023

- Intended to clarify abstention vote counts
- Ex-Com supports the amendment
- Super-majority vote would not be effected by motion

6:36 pm Discussion on F2003-023

6:37 pm Motion to amend to add stipulation the number of the abstaining members cannot exceed the number of members present or motion will fail (Wei Tang)

6:39 pm Discussion on amendment

- Discussion about whether an abstention is a vote or a decision to go along with majority
- Mathematical complications and possible inherent biases
- Conflict of interest

6:45 pm Straw Poll (Daniel Papasian)

6:45 pm Discussion on amendment

- Fairness and manipulation

6:49 pm Motion to end discussion (Megan Flocken)

6:49 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, hand vote (19-1-5)

6:50 pm Vote on amendment

Fails, hand vote (5-15-3)

6:51 pm Discussion on F2003-023

6:51 pm Vote on F2003-023

Passes, voice vote

### **6:52 pm Unfinished business from Committee**

#### **6:52 pm F2003-012 Non-funded Recognition of Lutheran Student Fellowship**

6:52 pm Questions on F2003-012

6:52 pm Motion to amend F2003-012 in last week's minutes to change name to Lutheran Student Fellowship

6:52 pm Passes by acclamation

6:52 pm Questions on F2003-012

- Denominational difference between this and other Lutheran groups on campus

- There are currently 20 members

7:00 pm Discussion on F2003-012

- Denomination differences and similarities

7:00 pm Motion to end discussion (Erik Michaels-Ober)

7:00 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes (21-1-2)

7:06 pm Vote on F2003-012

Passes, voice vote

### **7:07 pm New Business from Committee**

7:07 pm F2003-017 Non-Funded Recognition of Carnegie Mellon American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

7:07 pm Questions on F2003-017

- Several other universities have an ACLU chapter
- ACLU foundation acts as a lobbying group. The more traditional ACLU attempts to protect people against government restrictions of civil liberties.
- Potential events include increasing general awareness, showing videos, working with other chapters at University of Pittsburgh, place phone calls, hosting debates and symposiums, etc
- The ACLU covers a wide range of activities that no other existing organizations are comparable
- Currently, 20-30 people have expressed interest in the organization

7:12 pm Discussion on F2003-017

7:13 pm Vote on F2003-017

Passes, voice vote

### **7:13 pm F2003-019 Special allocation of up to \$80 for Progressive Student Alliance**

7:13 pm Question on F2003-019

- The organization asked for \$160 to cover costs of batteries, a bullhorn, and environmentally friendly battery charger to increase safety at activities. F&R recommendation is to fund no more than half of the total amount.
- Reading of definition of “political” in bylaws – organization has no current affiliation with any political party
- Organization is not adverse to sharing the horn with other organizations on campus
- Organization rallies around campus issues as well as local and national issues

- The organization is currently non-funded and has never sought funded status though the organization has received special allocations in the past

7:21 pm Discussion on F2003-019

- Student safety issues
- Political tendencies of the organization and others on campus

7:24 pm Motion to amend to \$159.94 to cover entire cost of amount requested (Megan Flocken)

7:25 pm Discussion on amendment

- Organization wants horn for security but may be able to use for other purposes instead of requesting allocations for speaker systems
- Discussion about political nature of the group and bylaw limitations
- Political organization funding precedents
- Duality of horn use

7:32 pm Vote on amendment

Voice vote, division

Passes, hand vote (11-9-2)

7:34 pm Discussion on F2003-019 as amended

- Potential political use of horn
- Organization is willing to lend equipment to other organizations, even if they are advocating opposing views
- Precedents funding political organizations

7:43 pm Motion to end discussion (Steven Kling)

7:43 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, hand vote (16-3-1)

7:44 pm Vote on F2003-019 as amended

Division, voice vote

Passes, hand (15-3-2)

7:45 pm **F2003-020 Special Allocation of \$2000 Mosaic** (3/4 vote)

7:45 pm Questions on F2003-020

- Allocation will go towards keynote speaker honorarium
- Statement of potential speakers and past speakers
- The event will be held on February 23, 2004
- Last year, the keynote address draws an average of 250-300 students over the past 8 years

- Approximately \$23,800 left in the Student Senate allocation budget
- Mosaic is also receiving funding through several colleges, offices, and bodies on campus

7:49 pm Discussion on F2003-020

- Discussion about amount of allocation in relation to student attendance
- The conference is free to Carnegie Mellon community members
- The allocation amount recommendation was based on last year's allocation amount
- Last year, 80-90% of attendees were Carnegie Mellon undergraduate students

7:54 pm Vote on F2003-020

Passes, voice vote

7:55 pm **Quorum Call**

7:56 pm **F2003-025 Approval of the Supplement of Senate's Fall 2003 Committee Budgets (2/3 vote)**

7:56 pm Questions on F2003-025

- Intent is to bring proposed senate budget closer to actual senate budget
- Validity of clerk's wage, ex-com budget, and phone costs

8:00 pm Discussion on F2003-025

8:01 pm Vote on F2003-025

Passes, hand vote (16-0-2)

**8:02 pm Special Business**

8:02 pm **F2003-021 Creation of the Student Body President's Ad-Hoc Committee on Reviewing the Student Body Constitution**

8:02 pm Motion to lay F2003-021 on the table (Steven Kling)

8:02 pm Vote to lay F2003-021 on the table

Passes, voice vote

8:02 pm **F2003-022 Appointment of Senate's Representatives to the Fall 2003 Joint Funding Committee**

8:03 pm Questions on F2003-022

Reading of nominees names on slate (*Nicholas Scocozzo, James Hazelrig, Naomi Haskell, Benjamin Loving, Erik Michaels-Ober, Megan Flocken, Dan Papasian*)

8:06 pm Discussion on F2003-022

8:06 pm Motion to hold open nominations to fill final seat (Steven Kling)

8:06 pm Passes by acclimation

8:06 pm Nominations: Steven Kling, Joshua Yearsley, Matt Rado

8:07 pm Candidate speeches and questioning: Steven Kling

8:08 pm Candidate speeches and questioning: Joshua Yearsley

8:08 pm Candidate speeches and questioning: Matt Rado – not present

8:08 pm Discussion on nominations

8:08 pm Motion for unanimous consent to loose the right to vote and be recorded as abstentions

8:09 pm Discussion on filling the remaining seat

8:10 pm Motion to fill the 7<sup>th</sup> seat on the slate with Joshua Yearsley

8:10 pm Discussion on filling the 7<sup>th</sup> seat on the slate with Joshua Yearsley

8:11 pm Vote to fill the 7<sup>th</sup> seat on the slate with Joshua Yearsley

Passes, voice vote

8:12 pm Discussion on F2003-022 as amended

8:12 pm Vote on F2003-022 as amended

Passes, voice vote

8:12 pm **F2003-024 Amendment of Senate Bylaws Section VII, Part A.1.c** Entitlement of Leafleting and Petitioning rights associated with Non-Funded Recognition

8:12 pm Majority opinion of ex-com was to not support this motion

8:14 pm Descending opinion offered by Daniel Papasian

8:21 pm Questions on F2003-024

- Organization vs. persons and associated rights granted in university free speech policy

8:23 pm Discussion on F2003-024

8:24 pm Motion to charge Senator Papasian to work with Internal Development Committee to draft a proposed amendment or recommendation

8:24 pm Discussion on motion to commit

- Value of discussing merits

8:27 pm Motion to end discussion (Megan Flocken)

8:27 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, voice vote

8:27 pm Vote to commit

Fails, voice vote

8:23 pm Discussion on F2003-024

- Person vs. organization – student organizations vs. corporations
- Weight of bylaws and practice of amending them



8:32 pm Straw Poll

8:32 pm Discussion on F2003-024

- Existing university policy
- Recognized vs. unrecognized organizations

8:34 pm Motion to end discussion (Megan Flocken)

8:34 pm Motion withdrawn (Megan Flocken)

8:35 pm Discussion on F2003-024

- Appearance of student right constraints

8:36 pm Vote on F2003-024 (2/3 vote)

Fails, hand vote (8-7-3)

### **8:37 pm New Business from the Floor**

8:37 pm **Motion to introduce piece of legislation and to be committed to Academic Affairs** in response to diploma issue (Steven Kling)

8:38 pm Discussion on committing to Academic Affairs

- Value of AA evaluation and recommendation

8:40 pm Vote to commit

Passes, voice vote

### **8:41 pm Points of Discussion**

- Potential changes to senate discussion protocol reverting to Robert Rules limitations of senator discussion points to two comments per issue with proviso that Senator cannot speak a second time unless queue is empty
  - Possibility to also introduce contrary (pro-con) points of view to be presented in sequence
  - Potential to improve quality of debate and facilitate discussion while shortening meeting times
  - Provisions for informal consideration exist and should perhaps be considered as an alternative
  - Value of having information available ahead of time to help senators form opinions in advance of general meeting
- Possibility for generating agendas one week in advance
  - Scheduling issues and ability to amend agenda for time-sensitive issues
  - Discussion about appropriateness of opening ex-com meetings

### **9:08 pm Announcements**

- There will be no Senate General Body Meeting next week on October 16, 2003. All standing committees are required to convene as usual. Our next General Body meeting is October 23, 2003 in MMA14.
- There are currently 2 CIT vacancies and 4 CFA vacancies in Senate. 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.
- Senators are encouraged to hold office hours. Please sign up with Priya ([snattama@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:snattama@andrew.cmu.edu)).
- Student Senate's Academic Affairs Committee is soliciting ideas for this year's commencement speaker. All graduating seniors and graduating graduate students are encouraged to send on their ideas to [commencement-speaker@senate.web.cmu.edu](mailto:commencement-speaker@senate.web.cmu.edu).
- Vice Provost for Education Indira Nair will be present at our next general body meeting (October 23) to address the diplomas issue.
- The Senate Social is Thursday, October 23 immediately following the General Body Meeting, in the Intersection Lounge. If you have ideas or suggestions for food/games/music/etc. that you can bring or would like to see, talk to Priya. See you there!

**9:10 pm Adjourn**