

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of March 17th, 2005

5:43 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (HSS, came late), Andres Bermudez (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Kathryn Cooper (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Long Pham (TSB), Nasheena Porter (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Edward Ryan (MCS), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Tro Shaw (CFA), Akil Simon (CFA, proxy), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS), Sean Weinstock (HSS), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

Senators Absent: Abigail Barnes (CIT, excused), Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Maureen Burns (CFA), Trevor Clark (CFA), Laura Drogowski (MCS), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Andrea Hamilton (BHA, excused), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS), James Rogers (CIT), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS, excused), Thomas Sabram (CIT, excused), Yew Choe Wong (CIT)

Members at Large Present: Justin Berka (SHS), Jonathan Chin (HSS), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Adam Greenberg (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Fei Liu (HSS), Diana Purcell (BHA)

Members at Large Absent: Hanish Dayal (CIT), Curtis Johnson (MCS), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS), Shingai Samudzi (HSS), Karl Sjogren (HSS), Kohta Wajima (TSB), Aaron Walker (CIT)

5:45 pm Approval of Minutes from 2/24

- At 6:46 pm, further identifying information for “Joe (the representative) should be obtained.

5:46 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

5:46 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:47 pm Special Business

5:47 pm **0405-109 – Introduction of Constitutional Amendment regarding Reserve Requirements**

- Slight clarification of the reserve amendments passed last semester. Defines the amount that the JFC Reserve should be maintained at. Instead of being a percentage of the total amount JFC allocates, it's a percentage of the monies given to JFC from the Activities Fee. This way, rollovers are not taken into account – which is good as rollovers fluctuate. Keeps reserve amounts stable from year to year.

5:48 pm Questions (none)

5:48 pm New Business From Committee

5:49 pm 0405-110 – Non-funded Recognition of Students Helping AIDS Relief and Education (SHARE)

- Eight members so far. Club would be focused on a town in South Africa where the representative spent time. Town about 5,500 persons in size – goal is to raise money to get them medical supplies.

5:50 pm Questions

5:50 pm Discussion

5:50 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

5:50 pm Vote on 0405-110 – Non-funded Recognition of Students Helping AIDS Relief and Education (SHARE)

Passes, voice vote

5:50 pm 0405-111 – Non-funded Recognition of Liberation in North Korea (LiNK)

- This organization is dedicated to doing just what it's name says – promoting the liberation of North Korea. Want to be recognized so that they can flyer, hold events on campus. Have a faculty advisor – organization is open to everyone.

5:51 pm Questions

- Club focusing on humanitarian aid to North Korea. Religious and political freedom emphasized.

5:51 pm Discussion

5:51 pm Call the Question (Margaret Richards)

5:51 pm Vote on 0405-111 – Non-funded Recognition of Liberation in North Korea (LiNK)

Passes, voice vote

5:52 pm 0405-112 – Special Allocation of \$500 to Paintball Club

- Mix up in the JFC process. Last year the Paintball Club thought they were submitting a semesterly budget – not a yearly budget. As a result, they don't have enough money for this semester's trip.

5:52 pm Questions (none)

5:53 pm Discussion

5:53 pm Motion to postpone until representative is present (Josh Yearsley)

5:53 pm Motion passed by acclamation

5:53 pm **0405-113 – Special Allocation of \$662 to Tartans for Israel (3/4ths vote)**

- Organization has already received \$1500 from Indira Nair. Great opportunity to bring in someone from a diverse background without controversy. Thought this would be a good opportunity that can offer perspectives from varying backgrounds. Hope it will be a positive step towards bringing CMU together instead of apart. The speaker is an Ethiopian refugee, who is also black, Jewish and a musician. He suffered a lot of oppression in Ethiopia – he has a lot to talk about.

5:55 pm Questions

- In the agenda, "IT" should actually be "AB Tech."
- Tzadik will be speaking and performing.

5:56 pm Discussion

- After all of the controversy on this campus, and how it has been mostly anti-Jewish, bringing in a black Jewish speaker is a great step towards showing our support. Good thing to fund.

5:56 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

5:56 pm Vote on 0405-113 – Special Allocation of \$662 to Tartans for Israel (3/4ths vote)
Passes, voice vote

5:57 pm **0405-114 – Special Allocation of \$1500 to KGB (3/4ths vote)**

- KGB would like to bring Will Wheaton to campus. The total cost is \$5000 – are getting \$1400 from various AB committees. Initially requested \$3000 from Senate, speaking with Dean Murphy later. Wheaton played Wesley on Star Trek: Next Generation. Unlikely that he will spew offensive hate speech.

5:58 pm Questions

- Planning on giving him free reign during his talk.
- We will be able to ask any questions we wish about his involvement in the movie Flubber.

- Open event to anyone who wants to participate.
- Being requested under the KGB banner, but really a personal endeavor on the part of Ed Ryan to bring him to campus.

5:59 pm Discussion

- Spoke to Dean Murphy previously without quoting specific numbers.
- If Dean Murphy will not fund it we'll beg for change. Will find some way.

6:00 pm Vote on 0405-114 – Special Allocation of \$1500 to KGB (3/4ths vote)

Passes, finger-nose/leg-in-the-air vote (13:0:6)

6:01 pm **0405-099 – Non-funded Recognition of Japanese Language Club**

- Asking for non-funded recognition. Organization would like to encourage the speaking and learning of the Japanese language. Would also like to have space for a website. Club for anyone who would like to participate. Independent of the Japanese culture club.

6:03 pm Questions (none)

6:03 pm Discussion

6:03 pm Call the Question (Andrew Gehling)

6:03 pm Vote on 0405-099 – Non-funded Recognition of Japanese Language Club

Passes, voice vote

6:04 pm **0405-115 – Approval of the 4.5 Horsemen proposal**

- These propositions have been lovingly dubbed the horsemen of the UC. Uses \$42,000 from the Student Government Operating Reserve and \$42,000 from the Senate reserve.
- The AB Tech Sound System is for mains, so that they can put on bigger and better shows. The purchase will save money in the long run.
- WRCT needs a library. They have run out of room – and that's stalled the expansion of their music library.
- Soundproofing – anti-reverberation materials installed so that we can hold lectures and concerts in the UC gym and actually have it sound good. It's important to be able to use the gym as a good rain location.
- Danforth Renovation – total cost is much more than what we're providing. If the Danforth renovation doesn't move forward, the money will be used for 3rd floor lounge renovations.
- Money for the Skibo renovation is coming from Tim Michael.
- Events Monitors have not been scrapped, but the project is stalled.

6:07 pm Questions

- What we would provide for Danforth Renovations is less than 10% of the total cost of the project. Danforth Renovations have been talked about since last year. Renovations include exercise equipment, carpeting, electrical work, etc.
- There were a series of forums last year about the Danforth Renovations. There is a need for additional exercise equipment, especially during peak hours. When the UC was designed, Danforth was supposed to be an athletic facility. Was in a meeting earlier tonight to discuss the possibility of the UC being open longer hours. Right now, the gym, locker rooms and all athletics facilities close at 10 pm. Hours would be extended later into the night.
- Regarding mains for AB Tech, the general idea is that the sound system they're using is about 30 years old. AB Tech will not cost significantly less for most shows – as most shows don't use mains.
- If they don't need the full amount we're giving to Danforth renovations, it'll go to renovations to the 3rd floor lounge. Ideas about ways to renovate the 3rd floor lounge were shoved to the side in light of other issues.
- Plan is to redistribute the chairs that are in Danforth throughout the UC so that total number of seats in the UC does not change. Another idea is to make it so that students can reserve the Alumni Lounge. Have been discussing the renovations with student groups that use Danforth, and it seems as though there are other options for them.
- The soundproofing of the gym would take place this summer.
- AB Tech is receiving an interest free loan from Dean Murphy to be paid back over the next five years. They're also using money they've saved from their JFC budget.
- The soundproofing for the gym would not affect the gym's use for athletics. The soundproofing cannot be broken.

6:15 pm Discussion

6:15 pm Motion to divide 0405-115 into two motions: one containing Danforth and the other everything else (Michelle Birchak)

6:15 pm Discussion

- The way this motion is currently set up is as a join project between Senate and GSA. The main thing that allowed this to pass GSA was the inclusion of the

Danforth renovations. Dividing the motion would seriously jeopardize GSA's involvement.

6:16 pm Motion Withdrawn

6:16 pm Vote on 0405-115 – Approval of the 4.5 Horsemen proposal

6:16 pm Objection (Michelle Birchak)

6:16 pm Discussion (continued)

- There are students at the University who really do not want Danforth to be changed. Not every group that uses Danforth was spoken to. Danforth is a gorgeous space – and it's not going to fix the athletics problem.
- It will help with the athletics problem.
- There was a whole movement last year to turn the UC basement into athletics facilities. Skibo and the UC gym are too overcrowded. Danforth is beautiful – but it needs to be used for other things.
- We have specialized rooms and non-specialized rooms. You can use Danforth for anything. If we make it into an athletics facility it will be specialized. The fact that there is only one piece of machinery for each set of muscles leads to crowds waiting for machine use really quickly.
- Plan is to put about 20 machines in Danforth, extend hours at the UC and make new exercise spaces in dorms.
- There is no specific target in terms of number of machines per student. Right now the ratio is not good.
- The hours extension idea at the UC is fairly new. The money for the Danforth space would go towards purchasing new equipment and making space to handle that equipment.
- On the one hand, we're taking one of the best rooms for organizational meetings away. On the other, we're sorely in need of additional athletic facilities.
- Support the move to make Danforth an exercise facility. But we shouldn't be paying for the equipment – this is just the athletics department trying to weasel its way out of paying for the renovation.
- The activities fee goes towards improving student life. This is a small but necessary contribution.
- GSA is contributing \$15,000 out of its own budget for this. GSA is strongly behind this proposal. In order for this motion to work jointly, in order to make use of the Student Government Operating Reserves for the other three things on

this list, the Danforth renovation needs to be included. Also, Skibo is a very old facility – renovations just can't occur there.

- The reason why the Danforth lounge was chosen is that it was originally supposed to be a gym space – and the UC basement idea did not work out.
- The plan to use the basement as an athletic facility was also before Andy's, Scotland Yard and the mail center were built.
- Athletics did renovate Skibo a little. GSA wants the Danforth proposal to go through, and we want other things. We might just have to accept this in order to get those other things.

6:29 pm Call the Question (Michelle Birchak)

6:29 pm Vote on 0405-115 – Approval of the 4.5 Horsemen proposal

Passes, voice vote

6:29 pm **0405-116 – Allocation of \$1000 for extended Library hours before Finals**

- Provides an additional 25 hours of time that the library would be open. Allocation would cover security for that time. Library approved the additional hours, but only if we help them with the cost.

6:30 pm Questions

- We will advertise the additional hours via the Tartan, tcpulse, posters around campus.
- The library is utilizing their own funds too – this is just for security.

6:31 pm Discussion

6:31 pm Call the Question (Andrew Gehling)

6:31 pm Objection (Joe Arasin)

6:32 pm Discussion (continued)

- Is this the sort of thing the Student Activities fee should fund? We pay tuition. We should pressure the University to pay for this.
- If we don't pay for this, no one else is going to. It would take three months to convince the school to do it. By that time we'll all be at home.
- There has been a lot of student interest in doing this.
- The library already has their budget for the year. There's not a way for this to happen this year without this allocation.
- Can take it to the administration next year to get it to continue.
- The library will cover the costs next year if it works out this year.

- It will be really nice to have the library open. Should fund it – it will make a difference. This is us pushing this idea forward, not agreeing to fund it forever.

6:35 pm Call the Question (Michelle Birchak)

6:35 pm Objection

6:36 pm Discussion (continued)

- It's not hard to get the University to fund \$1000.

6:36 pm Motion to postpone discussion for two weeks to see what other sources of funding we can find (Joe Arasin)

6:37 pm Discussion

- There is a time limit here.
- The library can plan it and organize it and then throw out the schedule if we can't get the funding from the administration.
- If you can't finish discussing it now, there's no point. We won't be able to get funding from anywhere else.
- Gloria St. Claire does not want this to happen. Only the woman who works underneath her does.

6:39 pm Motion to Withdraw the Motion to Postpone

6:40 pm Objection

6:40 pm Move the Question (Jonathan Mendelson)

6:41 pm Vote on Motion to Move the Question

Passes, hand vote (18:5:1)

6:41 pm Vote on Motion to Postpone

Fails, voice vote

6:42 pm Call the Question (Josh Yearsley)

6:42 pm Objection (Andres Bermudez)

6:42 pm Discussion (continued)

- The fact that the University can't find \$1000 to fund this is stupid.
- We're trying to show ourselves to be a problem solving body. This is a time sensitive issue. If they don't get the money to do this now, it's not going to happen.

6:44 pm Call the Question (Michelle Birchak)

6:44 pm Objection

6:45 pm Discussion (continued)

- It's not that they can't find \$1000 – it's that they don't want this to happen. We will make them like it by showing them it works.

6:46 pm Move the Question (Wei Tang)

6:46 pm Vote on Motion to Move the Question

Passes, voice vote

6:46 pm Vote on 0405-116 – Allocation of \$1000 for extended Library hours before Finals

Passes, voice vote

6:46 pm Standing Committee Reports

6:46 pm **Business Affairs** (Ed Ryan)

- Business Affairs is the best committee.
- Campus Express Survey - Business Affairs has created a survey to collect information on how students view Campus Express. In particular, it will be looking for suggestions about which new vendors to make available to Campus Express users. Stephanie Rosenthal has set it all up. The survey should go live in the next couple of weeks, and will be sent to everyone.
- Work to Park - We are working with Parking Services to implement the "Parking Amnesty" policy, now called Work to Park. This will allow students to do community service to pay for their parking tickets. We are currently working out a few of the last details, before the program can come into effect.
- Feedback Boxes - It's been a project for some time to get feedback boxes installed in the University Center's business locations (Entropy, the Bookstore, and the Art Store). However, we are now running into trouble with Patricia Clifford (formerly Patricia Stacer), who is suddenly showing reluctance to complete the project. Cites the fact that no feedback has been given – we'd like to have the boxes around before we make that judgement.
- Financial Aid for Foreign Students - It has come to the attention of this committee that foreign students are not able to receive financial aid from CMU. We are currently investigating the policies of other universities, to find whether this is a common practice.
- Tuition - We have been discussed with Jared Cohon and Bill Elliot the prospect of getting more student involvement in the tuition decision process. As a first step, we want to make the process more open. The decision for this year has already been made (and a member of the Business Affairs committee was

present at the meeting of the Board of Trustees), and there will be a tuition increase of 3.26%. That increase is roughly in line with inflation.

- Computing Services - Business Affairs is investigating the Technology Fee and the future of the printing policy. Along these lines, we are in contact with Computing Services, and will render further updates as updates become available.

6:52 pm Questions

- I share your concerns about getting adequate feedback about tuition increases in the dinner setting. The dinner setting might actually discourage many people from voicing their concerns – and that's one of the reasons why we're investigating this.
- The people who attend the dinner meeting for tuition are a random sample of students and a large portion of the parents who live locally.
- The community service that would take place as part of the Work to Park program would all be on campus.

6:54 pm **Campus Life** (Adam Atkinson)

- Due to conflicts our new meeting time is TUESDAYS at 7 pm in the Senate office. Come by some time! The committee's new vice chair is Long Pham. He will be helping Adam closely with the big month ahead.
- Our first big event is taking place right before Carnival. It will be the CMU Gear Sale, at which Senate will be selling CMU gear at cost to students to get more of it out there. We will sell maroon pullover hoodies, gray t-shirts, gray fitted t-shirts for ladies, and a TBD item (probably a thermos or other beverage container). The bookstore has asked that we also distribute bookstore coupons while we sell things, and we have agreed. The committee will need lots of help tabling for this, and we'll e-mail all of Senate when we have a tabling schedule to fill. This is a great opportunity to connect with students! The tabling will take place outside of Doherty and in Kirr Commons.
- Our next big event is at Carnival. Saturday evening, Night Market is happening in the UC, and we are booked in the Connan Room for two hours for our Singled Out event! Nasheena and Adam are hosting, Sophia is the lovely assistant, and the student body will vote the contestants on in weeks leading up to the event by putting money in specific jars at Senate tables. (This will also require tabling volunteers!) We'll be creating a pool of well-known and diverse students (race,

ethnicity, gender, orientation will all be considered) for the student body to choose from, and all money raised will go towards funding the dates awarded at the end. Hope to see you there! If you are interested in being a contestant, or know someone who would want to be a contestant, e-mail me!

- Did Marcia Gerwig pull one over on us? Adam was in the UC bathroom the other day, and the TP was back to single ply. Ouch! He will investigate.
- No one loves Adam at Office hours! We believe response will be better when each committee is represented, according to Maureen's plan. Until then, Campus Life office hours are an experiment in hiatus.
- CMU's a little behind the times in that there's no plan for when a student comes in with a unique gender-identity. SDC is meeting with Housing about gender identity issues, and Campus Life will involve itself as much as possible in the dialogue. We believe this is an important issue to resolve, as every student deserves to feel at home in University Housing. It would be really great to have one or two gender-blind floors that people could opt to live in.
- Ed Ryan and Adam will be meeting with Pomona Valero about the future of the Printing Policy. Also, Adam will be meeting with yet another Facilities Management representative to see if his "Andrew Time" plan was a pipe dream or SHEER BRILLIANCE!
- Campus Life intends to send the student body at least one survey, and that is on satisfaction with arts, arts resources, and arts facilities on campus. The other possibility, which will be addressed at this week's committee meeting is sending out a dining survey that would ask questions that might be helpful when determining Dining's future.

6:59 pm Questions (none)

7:00 pm New Business From the Floor

7:00 pm Motion to make Adi Jain a member at large (Sean Weinstock)

- Freshman in CIT. Spent four years in high school complaining. Would now like to be on the other side of things. Wants to help out.

7:01 pm Questions (none)

7:02 pm Discussion

7:02 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

7:02 pm Vote on Motion to make Adi Jain a member at large

Passes, voice vote

7:03 pm Points of Discussion

7:03 pm Point of Discussion Regarding the Finkelstein Lecture

- Did anyone go to the lecture who can give me a quick synopsis?
- Ben Hackett will talk to you later.

7:05 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Use of the Student Activities Fee and the Purpose of Policy

- Just because we want something done does not mean we need to get pushed over by the administration. Is H&SS going to come to us next and ask for money for computers?
- There is a need to look at the bigger picture with regards to the library issue. It's perfectly legitimate to argue academic, but this was beneficial for us to fund.
- Why do we write policies if we're just going to ignore them?
- The \$1000 was for security. Enough said.
- The purpose of fiscal policy is to create guidelines. We can discuss things within those guidelines, but at the end of the day we still make the decision based on what's the best for the students.
- ID wouldn't have anything to do if we didn't have fiscal policies.
- This is the same Senate that did not fund EMS (as security), saying that the administration should pay for it.
- This is a special circumstance – there is a time constraint. If this comes up again next year, I'm sure we'll say no.
- What's stopping the administration from refusing to pay for it next year.
- A success for this program will probably be defined as the hours having similar attendance as the same hours during finals week.
- The best use of our money at this point is letting as many people as possible know that this service exists.
- We seem to be working with a lot of issues that are under time constraints. These requests should be brought up to us sooner.

7:10 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Student Government Elections

- Please encourage as many people as possible to run for Senate and Officer positions. Please be respectful of all your opponents.
- The College Democrats are working on putting together candidate debates before the petitions are due.

- Please remember to be friendly to everyone on campus and to each other. Maureen and Nasheena are still talking to student organizations – please e-mail if you would like to be involved.

7:12 pm Point of Discussion Regarding the New Place for Committee Reports Within the Agenda

- I like the previous method.
- I like it this way.
- It would be best if we could keep the FNR report before the allocations so that we know how much money we have.
- We could still have committee reports at the beginning but institute a time limit.

7:15 pm Announcements

- Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 24th at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. See you there!
- Congratulations to one of our own, Jean Lester, who was recently crowned Miss Buffalo. Good luck to her as she continues her winning streak this summer at the Miss New York State Pageant.
- Greek Sing is this Saturday! Tickets can be purchased at the UC info desk for \$8. \$10 at the door. Show is at 6 pm, doors open at 5 pm. All proceeds fund the Multiple Sclerosis Society.
- Thank you to the academic affairs committee members who were able to make the extended library hours happen.
- Adam is in Footloose! Everyone should go see it. Adam also had a date this past weekend. That is exciting.
- CMU EMS will be holding an adult CPR course – sign up at the UC info desk, if you still can. Andres will be teaching the course.

7:17 pm Adjourned