

CMU Student Senate

Official Minutes of September 9, 2004

5:35 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (HSS) Abigail Barnes (CIT), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Ananya Bubna (TSB), Maureen Burns (CFA), Mark Caola (SHS), Trevor Clark (CFA), Laura Drogowski (MCS), Seth Feinberg (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Aftyn Giles (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Nasheena Porter (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS, came late), James Rogers (CIT), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Wei Tang (SHS), Courtney Thompson (TSB), Yew Choe Wong (CIT)

Senators Absent: Andres Bermudez (HSS, 1 absence), Lauren Distefano (CFA, 2 absences), Kevin Lee (HSS, 1 absence), Jean Lester (CFA, 1 absence), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS, 1 absence), Kristin Sun (TSB, 2 absences)

Members at Large Present: Hanish Dayal (CIT), James Hazelrig (CIT), Aaron Walker (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

5:37 pm Call to Order

5:38 pm Approval of Minutes

5:38 pm Amendments to the minutes

- Mark Caola was not present
- Kirk Higgins came late
- Correct Erik Michaels-Ober name at 6:27pm

5:38 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

5:38 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:39 pm Ex-officio Reports

5:39 pm **Activities Board** (Andrew Moore)

- Movies of last week – Eternal Sunshine of a Spotless Mind
- Tech had orientation

- Slight problem with readme, Phi Kappa Theta didn't like letters used in what was considered an offensive way, has been resolved
- Have speakers coming up, 10/6 Michael Moore, no contract yet, with rain location being the Carnegie Music Hall

5:41 pm **Campus Police** (Chief Doyle)

- Will have one designated representative – Sgt. Terry Hunt
- Chief Doyle quizzed Senate and gave out key chains
- Let him know if shuttle or escort operators are rude
- Will respond within 48 hours of your email
- Gave an explanation of the amnesty policy
- RAD classes on Wednesdays and Saturdays this fall and will be a 3 unit course in the spring so that they will fit into schedules
- Have had problems staying on schedule during the day with the Shuttle
 - James Manor route addition is the cause and there is concern about snowy weather
- Crime alert – Aggravated Assault
 - BB or pellet guns are not permitted on campus (Mall/Cut)
- Gave tips on avoiding theft like locking doors, don't prop doors open, don't let people draft in behind you, and must be wearing FMS on their person if they are a construction worker
- Do not like to change shuttle stops once the year has started, but moving to another side of the street is possible around INI
- Can have security guards or police officers to unlock your door if you get locked out, but police are the only ones who have a full set of keys, and these are one of the lowest priority calls

6:00pm **Graduate Student Assembly** (not present)

6:00pm **Greek Council** (Jenny Chan)

- Candle Light vigil – 7:30 Sep. 11 @ the Fence
- Will be giving out candles for the vigil in exchange for canned food or donations to Pittsburgh Food bank
- Will be tabling from 9:30-4:30 tomorrow in UC or Doherty if rain

6:02pm **Student Affairs** (Gina Casalegno)

- Commission from Natrat has released its report

- Had a successful orientation and would like feedback from groups involved in orientation, please email Anne Witchner

6:03pm **Student Affairs (cont.)** (Jennifer Bird)

- Commission report released Monday
 - Ad-Hoc committee in Tartan was formed to discuss how recommendations could be implemented
 - To campus community – Natrat is a symptom and not the cause; everyone has to question themselves and how we reacted to the incident

6:05pm **Student Dormitory Council** (not present)

6:05pm **Student Body President** (Erik Michaels-Ober)

- Will have office hours on Wednesday from 3:30-4:30
- Natrat commission report had recommendations about what Student Government can do
 - Will be looking into making a statement about that
- Making a coalition to Get Out the Vote (through the Everybody Vote Group) – registered over 300 people to vote so far
- Will be needing volunteers for the UC renovations committee which will be meeting next week or the week after
- Can now pay off parking fines with temporary student employment, though employment is not particularly clear yet and will look into having library fines being covered by this

6:09pm **Student Body Vice President** (Julie Beckenstein)

- Will have office hours on Monday from 2:30-4:30
- Will have a card reader on the doors by Entropy of the UC by end of semester and currently looking into one on football side
- Multicultural Council will continue from last year and will be looking to make it more of a discussion group
- Elections committee chair – looking to include grads in elections
- Trying to get crosswalk on Margaret Morrison Avenue.
- On Nov. 2, there will be a voting party with student performers

6:11pm **Student Body Vice President for Finance** (Steven Kling)

- Will have office hours on Tuesday from 2:30-4:00
- Can contact Steve by sfk or sbt@andrew

- Over the summer, worked on budgets with a few organizations
- \$81,000 was left unspent and rolled over to the Spring JFC
- Most student organizations were responsible and will have a report by the end of September
- Meeting with groups who had problems
- Trying to set up a better institutional memory for budgets

6:14pm Motion to move the report from the Student Body Dining Chair to now

Passes by acclamation

6:14pm **Student Body Dining Chair** (Jay Pujara)

- Trying to add more options and get some healthier meals
- Upperclassmen complain about not being able to buy block meals with cash
- Get more food than what you pay for with block meals
- Student Body Dining Committee meets at 4:30-5:30 in 318G on Thursdays
- Email sbdc@andrew with any concerns or comments
- That time is set in stone due to having to find a time Dean Murphy can make it
- Positive things about the new system
 - The reason for everything was healthier food as meals
 - People get more DineX
 - Get more for your block now
- Andy's is looking into an East Street Deli setup for wrap with a possible online system
- Are the first year students happy?
 - There are problems as it is new and we should fix system, not throw it away
 - What you want isn't always good for you
- Looking into immediate changes such as adding more meal choices, but as in terms of the entire system, this may change over semesters
- Part of Andy's is changing by offering pre-made as well as on the spot wraps
- DineX things are not cheaper, but the freshmen have more than before
- Trying to get meals better, but don't know what can be done about DineX
- No plan for some type of dining plan required for upperclassmen and will try to keep this from happening
- Freshmen meal plan change happening next week and after that you are locked

- Everyone complained about the meal system before, but there were no complaints about too much freedom
- Have a block system to lead you the first year then you are on your own
- Value meals were eliminated in that vendors thought they would be great for meals, but now they can only be bought by blocks, not by cash
- Upperclassmen can get meal plans if they want to
- Not able to buy single block, trying to encourage people onto meal plan
- Can't you have cash value for a block, since it is a different amount at every store
- Can't have an equivalent price for every value meal since the logistics would be a nightmare
- Wanted to take monetary amounts away from the block so that those on the meal plan get a greater value
- Could have 2 blocks in one period
- Want structure to the plan and not treat all of the upperclassmen to the meal plan

6:32pm Special Business

6:32pm 0405-001 - Approval of Possible Judicial Board Nominees

- Senate approval is needed for these nominees and they will be interviewed later
- Grads can sit on an undergraduate's review
- People can request that certain people not be on your board
- Our approval just allows them to be interviewed

6:35pm Discussion on 0405-001

6:36pm Vote on 0405-001

Passes, voice vote

6:36pm New Business From the Floor

6:36pm Motion to make Corinne Pascale a Member at large (Joe Wong)

6:36pm Speech by Corinne Pascale

6:37pm Questions for Corinne Pascale

6:38pm Discussion on motion to make Corinne Pascale a Member at large

6:38pm Vote on motion to make Corinne Pascale a Member at large

Passes, voice vote

6:38pm Motion to make Aaron Kao a Member at large (Jonathan Lee)

6:38pm Speech by Aaron Kao

6:39pm Questions for Aaron Kao

6:40pm Discussion on motion to make Aaron Kao a Member at large

6:40pm Vote on motion to make Aaron Kao a Member at large

Passes, voice vote

6:40pm Motion to make Haseeb Qureshi a Member at large (Ananya Bubna)

6:41pm Speech by Haseeb Qureshi

6:41pm Questions for Haseeb Qureshi

6:42pm Discussion on motion to make Haseeb Qureshi a Member at large

6:42pm Vote on motion to make Haseeb Qureshi a Member at large

Passes, voice vote

6:43pm Motion to make Brittany McCandless a Member at large (Wei Tang)

6:43pm Speech by Brittany McCandless

6:44pm Questions for Brittany McCandless

6:44pm Discussion on motion to make Brittany McCandless a Member at large

6:44pm Call the Question (Wei Tang)

No objection

6:45pm Vote on motion to make Brittany McCandless a Member at large

Passes, voice vote

6:46pm Motion to make Tanvir Suri a Member at large (Tom Sabram)

6:46pm Speech by Tanvir Suri

6:46pm Questions for Tanvir Suri

6:47pm Discussion on motion to make Tanvir Suri a Member at large

6:47pm Vote on motion to make Tanvir Suri a Member at large

Passes, voice vote

6:48pm Points of Discussion

- How can groups become recognized, for instance, Students for John Kerry
 - Contact Tom Sabram, F&R chair, whose committee meetings are on Mondays at 4:30
 - Dave Ruvolo can help in the Student Activities office
- Disturbing occurrences have happened on the quad regarding diversity and please let Adam Atkinson known if you hear of any
- We should make a rule to limit ex-officio questions
 - Instead, a senator can make a motion to end questioning
 - We should be mindful of the questions being asked, as not to repeat questions

- We should not limit because many issues will come up that we need to know
- Vito would say questions are always germane during discussion
- Need questions because we can't always make meetings that the speaker may be holding

6:52pm Motion to end all points of discussion (Ed Ryan)

Passes by acclamation

6:53pm Announcements

- Committee chairs have been working to set times for their committee meetings. Please be responsive as committee work is the heart and soul of Senate, and were most of our work gets done. Attendance at committee meetings are recorded, since participation is one of the biggest factors that lead to a good committee. If you are unable to attend a committee meeting, please make sure that you notify your committee chair beforehand, if at all possible. Thank you.
- The Senate retreat has been scheduled for September 18th from 11-2, in the Connan Room on the first floor of the University Center, right below Rangos Ballroom. Attendance is mandatory for Senators and will count against you. Members-at-large and the Executives are welcome to attend.
- The Fall Activities Fair was a quite a success, though it was a bit crowded inside Rangos Ballroom and Peter/Wright/McKenna. Thank you to Joe, Maureen, and Michelle for their help in setting up the fliers, the list, and Optimus Prime for Senate at the Fair.
- The Joint Funding Committee will be getting started soon and Senate is responsible for appointing 8 members to this important committee. If you are interested, please contact F&R Chair Tom Sabram, tsabram@stusen.org.
- College Democrats meeting today after meeting
- KGB underground tour – tomorrow (Friday, September 10) at 8 pm.

6:54pm Adjourn