

# CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of February 24th, 2005

## 5:48 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (HSS, came late), Abigail Barnes (CIT, partial proxy), Andres Bermudez (HSS, partial proxy), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Maureen Burns (CFA), Trevor Clark (CFA, proxy), Laura Drogowski (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Andrea Hamilton (BHA, left early), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS, left early), Long Pham (TSB), Nasheena Porter (HSS, came late), Margaret Richards (SCS, came late), James Rogers (CIT, came late), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT, came late), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS, left early), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS), Sean Weinstock (HSS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT, partial proxy), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

**Senators Absent:** Ananya Bubna (TSB), Kathryn Cooper (MCS, excused), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA)

**Members at Large Present:** Justin Berka (SHS), Jonathan Chin (HSS), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Adam Greenberg (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Tro Shaw (CFA, left early, excused), Aaron Walker (CIT)

**Members at Large Absent:** Hanish Dayal (CIT), Curtis Johnson (MCS), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Fei Liu (HSS), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Diana Purcell (BHA), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS), Shingai Samudzi (HSS), Karl Sjogren (HSS), Kohta Wajima (TSB)

## 5:50 pm Approval of Minutes from 2/14

- There were more questions about special allocations previously given to Tanah during the 6:00 pm Discussion. Instead of repeating questions that all had a common answer, the clerk recorded the common answer.
- During the 6:00 pm Discussion there was an additional motion to call the question that was then withdrawn.

5:52 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

**5:52 pm Audience Participation** (none)

**5:52 pm Standing Committee Reports**

5:52 pm **Academic Affairs** (Josh Yearsley)

- One of the goals for this semester is getting a system of evaluations for academic advisors. Hanish Dayal is working on getting a sheet of information regarding contacts in other departments. Has anyone experienced problems with their advisors not being informed about this topic?
  - In CIT, a lot of advisors don't have the contact information for advisors in other departments.
  - The course catalog has this information. However, a lot of students and advisors are not aware of that.
- Looking to update and expand the Academic Audit system as much as possible. Will integrate it with other systems such as the course catalog.
- Another goal is expanded enrollment in extracurricular activities. Campus seems to be a bit stagnant. Other college campuses seem to have more going on in terms of student life. Meeting with administration to develop programs that allow freshmen to become more involved in student activities. Possibility of having a nine credit leadership course whose basis is a couple of hours inside the classroom, a couple of hours outside the classroom participating and leading campus activities. Striving to get something with broader applicability, an incentive to get people more involved. Anything anyone else can think of to accomplish this goal?
  - Course might be mandatory. Likely will be allowed inside the curriculum.
  - There are all sorts of organizations on campus we don't know about. Almost everyone is involved in something, even if the organization is not visible at all (e.g. Camarilla)
  - Organizations don't have to be visible to be active.
  - Against the course idea, leaning more towards the broader idea.
  - There is room for these two ideas to coexist.
  - School is too focused on academics. Some people aren't involved in anything. A program to get people involved would be very beneficial.

- A course would be helping people fill their graduation requirements while getting them more involved.
  - It would be great if there were a centralized list of all the clubs on campus.
  - There is a centralized list of the clubs on campus on the Student Activities website. The activities fair is also an opportunity for clubs to make themselves more visible.
  - The activities fair would be more successful if it were at a consistent time every semester, if all organizations were notified more than five days before the fair, and if there were a space large enough to hold all the organizations.
  - Ideas for advertising clubs on campus would include advertising the link for the list of clubs in the clusters, or a “c-book” of organizations that would be distributed to students.
  - If you have more input, see Sean Weinstock.
  - The school’s philosophy regarding the balance between activities and academics is what we make it.
  - Between four and seven years ago the head of the biological sciences department conducted a survey to see if claims about CMU students’ work habits were true. Her conclusion was that there is nothing profoundly unusual about CMU with regards to schoolwork or activities.
- As a trial, library hours will be extended this semester to 24 hours during both the last week of classes and during finals.

6:11 pm **Communications** (Maureen Burns)

- For those unable to make it to the retreat, passing out a list of concerns that Communications has gathered from students. Also passing around an informal report of the questions and concerns brought up during the retreat.
- A main theme is that a lot of senators feel disillusioned or not motivated. Feel like they’re working very hard and not getting anything done. Everyone should look over the mission statement that was handed out. Help brainstorm in terms of content – would like everyone to have a stake in this mission statement.
- Students as a whole are not really aware of the events occurring on campus. Andrew Gehling takes notes on his laptop during Senate meetings, and

distributes them to the Drama department via the department secretary.

Distributing notes would be something the entire Senate could do as a body.

Passing out a roster of everyone with their major listed. Comments or

Questions?

- You can give your notes to your department secretary to send out.
- At a certain point in his notes, Andrew Gehling notes that if the reader has gotten this far, they should come to him for a free piece of candy – called the “Candy Incentive Program.”
- The Team America World Police song Sean Weinstock was playing on his computer should be the Senate song.
- Working on establishing Senate Office Hours. Every week Senate will hold office hours in the UC. One person from each committee will be sent there each time – so about an average of one set of office hours per Senator per month. Students who come to office hours will have their name and Andrew ID written down so that their issues can be followed up. Also, an e-mail detailing the issue would be sent to the committee it involves with the student CC’d on the message. Hoping office hours would be Wednesdays between 4:30 and 6:00.
  - This program is very important. There are enough Senators for it, and everyone can make a contribution. It’s a prime way to not only get feedback, but to increase our visibility. It’s much better than having committee office hours at varying times and places.
  - We want at least one person from every committee to be represented at office hours. That person will rotate once a week so that each senator is doing one set of office hours per month. Will probably start after Spring Break.
- In light of everything going on with tension between student groups on campus, Nasheena and Maureen will be talking to student organizations. Need volunteers to help. If interested e-mail Maureen or Nasheena.
- As for the mission statement – this is a very rough draft of what I hope to propose later on. Right now this is strictly for ourselves, purpose is to help refocus Senate. Grammar and syntax are not perfect, right now just focus on the content. Any comments or questions?
  - Senate is good at communicating what we do, but not what we’re trying to do.

- In communications we're working on drafting not just a mission statement, but a list of goals that would change by term – i.e. long term and short term goals.
- Might help to not just let people know we exist, but publicize ways to contact us.
- About the only time we have for cross-committee communication is when the discussion format is raising your hand to speak – this isn't the kind of set up that promotes dialogue. Could use office hours to communicate with each other.
- More people should come hang out at the Senate office.
- Senate should have planned informal events, so that people have incentive to come.
- See people being more proactive in the Senate office than anywhere else. But the things that get discussed in the Senate office often don't come up in Points of Discussion.

6:31 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Tom Sabram)

- KGB came to us with a request this past week. No decision as yet because more information is needed.

6:32 pm Motion to move New Business From Committee to now (Josh Yearsley)

6:32 pm Motion passed by acclamation

**6:32 pm New Business From Committee**

6:32 pm Motion to move 0405-104 to now (Tom Sabram)

6:32 pm Motion passed by acclamation

6:32 pm **0405-104 – Special Allocation of \$1625 to Lacrosse**

- Jerseys are now required in order to participate in league play – and Lacrosse doesn't have any. Can't play this season unless they get jerseys. Lacrosse gets money from the athletic department for referees, but they can't pay for jerseys. Using money from their own budget to help pay.

6:33 pm Questions

- The team will reuse the jerseys year after year.
- The league made the announcement that jerseys were required very recently.
- Will be uniforming 22 players.

6:34 pm Discussion

- Have funded new nice things for clubs when the need hasn't been as dire as this.

6:34 pm Call the Question (Tanvir Suri)

6:34 pm Vote on 0405-104 – Special Allocation of \$1625 to Lacrosse

Passes, voice vote

6:35 pm Motion to move 0405-099 to end of New Business From Committee (Tom Sabram)

6:35 pm Motion passes by acclamation

6:35 pm **0405-100 – Special Allocation of \$298.45 to Math Club**

- Funding for Pi Day events March 14<sup>th</sup>. Trying to make people appreciate Pi day, raise awareness about math. Will be chalking all over campus (including lots of digits of pi) and painting the fence. Five professors have volunteered to participate. Going into classrooms and holding mini contests.

6:37 pm Questions

- We had a detailed budget that we came up with based on what we think we need for supplies.
- No special significance in the 298.45 number.
- Number cut to 298.45 from 299.45, because 298.45 is approximately a multiple of pi.

6:38 pm Discussion

6:38 pm Call the Question (Andrew Gehling)

6:38 pm Vote on 0405-100 – Special Allocation of \$298.45 to Math Club

Passes, voice vote

6:39 pm **0405-101 – Special Allocation of \$310 to Peer Health Advisors**

- Organization really wants to promote athletics – wanting to put on an athletic extravaganza the Saturday after Carnival. Whole budget for event is over \$1000, money being requested is to cover the actual activities.

6:39 pm Questions

- Activities will be relating to having a fun sports day. Will even have Sumo Wrestling costumes.

6:40 pm Discussion

- Will look into whether the costumes are one size fits all.

6:40 pm Call the Question (Long Pham)

6:40 pm Vote on 0405-101 – Special Allocation of \$310 to Peer Health Advisors

Passes, voice vote

6:41 pm **0405-102 – Special Allocation of \$500 to Filipino Martial Arts Club**

- National tournament in NJ on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Have been teaching club since the beginning of this school year. Going to the tournament would be a good experience for the participants. 10 members in club, 6 people would be going to the tournament. The tournament is also a qualification for a larger tournament. Even if we don't make it into the larger tournament, this would be very good exposure.
- Originally asked for \$1500, but due to short notice and the fact that the organization is not fundraising themselves or looking for other sources of funding, that number was cut. Money covers the tournament and seminar fees that weekend.

6:42 pm Questions

- Everyone who goes will chip in.
- Everyone in the club is an undergrad.

6:43 pm Discussion

- We will say when we compete that we're the CMU Filipino martial arts club.
- This is a matter of precedent – we gave Tanah \$1000 to go to Columbia.
- Should look at each individual case, not precedent.
- Their going could bring good exposure to the University.
- In the case of Tanah, they give a lot back to the campus community. Haven't seen these guys in anything.
- Organization was just recognized at the beginning of this year. Their going will foster the growth of the organization.

6:46 pm Motion to give Joseph Florendo (the representative) speaking rights (Tom Sabram)

6:46 pm Motion passed by acclamation

6:46 pm Discussion (continued)

- The club has held a few self-defense seminars. We did a self-defense seminar at KPR.
- This trip is completely devoid of anything like airfare, hotel costs, etc. Much less of a conflict.
- Representative trains every time he goes back to the Philippines. Still has a lot to teach. Whatever we learn at the tournament we'll bring back to campus and teach in our seminars.

- Whoever ends up going will just chip in as we go along. Talk to the people who are running the event about staying at the Dojo.
- There are a lot of people interested in this club, and they're been providing a service to the community.

6:51 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

6:51 pm Vote on 0405-102 – Special Allocation of \$500 to Filipino Martial Arts Club  
Passes, hand vote (17:6:2)

6:53 pm **0405-103 – Special Allocation of \$453 to Chabad House**

- Holding a Kosher Food Festival at Chabad House. Whole program will cost over \$1000. Getting money from ticket sales, but there is still a gap.
- Typically we don't fund food – but food is obviously a central item to this event.

6:54 pm Questions

- Tickets will be \$5 per person.
- The event is open to everyone.
- The event will be held in Rangos 3.
- Probably will not be having macaroons...

6:55 pm Discussion (none)

6:55 pm Vote on 0405-103 – Special Allocation of \$453 to Chabad House  
Passes, voice vote

6:55 pm **0405-105 – Special Allocation of \$350 to Sustainable Students**

- In the UC Green Room, there are two computers. Want to turn one of them into an e-mail kiosk with a printer that uses paper from the clusters. Got the computer from HSS Computing. HSS will do the whole hook-up process. Attempted to get a printer from computing services, but they said no.
- Once the trial period ends Senate will reclaim the printer. Hoping computing services will take this program over.

6:57 pm Questions

- Will be reusing, not recycling cluster paper. Will set up station so that people know that they will be printing on used paper.
- If we want to continue the program, Senate can lease the organization the printer for a longer period of time.
- Yes, we'll be sorting the papers. There are a lot of members in the club who would be in charge of doing this.

- If the ink or toner runs out before the end of the semester, too bad. It means we were successful.
- Have no problem with putting up a sign next to any recycling bin we use as a paper supply that says that this paper might be used for the super-cool new printer in the UC green room.
- Talked to director of the UC, and she's totally behind this.

#### 7:01 pm Discussion

- This is the most awesome idea ever. But there should be a sign over the bins you're taking paper from.
- There should be two bins, or make designated spots for paper that can be used in this new printer.
- Or people can rip up anything they don't want us to use.
- The printer would not print out cover sheets.

#### 7:05 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

#### 7:05 pm Objection

#### 7:05 pm Discussion (continued)

- There definitely needs to be signage, but this sounds like a great program.
- Will probably only take paper from Cyert Mac and PC clusters. We'll put a sign up there saying we'll be taking paper. If it turns out we need more paper from another bin, we'll put a sign there too.

#### 7:06 pm Vote on 0405-105 – Special Allocation of \$350 to Sustainable Students

Passes, voice vote

#### 7:06 pm **0405-106 – Special Allocation of \$739.13 to Water Polo**

- Last year the club under-budgeted their lifeguard money by \$1200. The rest of the money will be raised via fundraising. As a clarification, Water Polo used to pay the lifeguard a lump sum per semester, whereas now they have to pay them an hourly wage. In addition, Water Polo has added a new team.

#### 7:07 pm Questions

- Paying the lifeguard a wage is not paying their salary. Water Polo pays the athletics department to use their lifeguards. A good approximation for this is when we give money to an organization for AB Tech. The money requested is just what the athletics department charges for lifeguards.
- Practices take place after regular pool hours.

#### 7:10 pm Discussion

- The Water Polo club is highly entertaining – would not want any of them to drown.

7:10 pm Call the Question (Andrew Gehling)

7:10 pm Vote on 0405-106 – Special Allocation of \$739.13 to Water Polo

Passes, voice vote

7:11 pm **0405-099 – Non-funded Recognition of Japanese Language Club**

7:11 pm Motion to postpone 0405-099 until representative is present (Joe Arasin)

7:11 pm Motion passed by acclamation

**7:11 pm Old Business**

7:12 pm **0405-091 – Constitutional Amendments from the Presidential Ad-Hoc Committee on Graduate Involvement in Student Body Elections and Referenda (2/3<sup>rds</sup> vote)**

7:12 pm Discussion (none)

7:12 pm Vote on 0405-091 – Constitutional Amendments from the Presidential Ad-Hoc Committee on Graduate Involvement in Student Body Elections and Referenda (2/3<sup>rds</sup> vote)

Passes, voice vote

7:12 pm Motion to move 0405-108 to now (Adam Atkinson)

7:12 pm Motion passes by acclamation

7:13 pm **0405-108 – Filling of the CFA Vacancy (1 vacancy, 1 petitioned)**

- Freshman in Drama. Very involved in student government in her high school and in junior high. Wanting to be very active in Senate.

7:13 pm Questions

- Needs to do more research about the various committees before knowing which ones she would like to be involved with.

7:14 pm Discussion

7:14 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

7:15 pm Vote on 0405-108 – Filling of the CFA Vacancy (1 vacancy, 1 petitioned)

Passes, voice vote

7:15 pm Motion to slate 0405-092 and 0405-093, keeping 0405-094 separate (Wei Tang)

7:16 pm Motion passes by acclamation

7:16 pm **0405-092 – Student Government Election Rules (2/3rds vote) and 0405-093 – Student Senate Election Rules (2/3rds vote)**

7:17 pm Discussion (none)

7:17 pm Vote on 0405-092 – Student Government Election Rules (2/3rds vote) and 0405-093 – Student Senate Election Rules (2/3rds vote)

Passes, voice vote

7:18 pm **0405-094 – Constitutional Amendment Regarding VPF Duties (2/3rds vote)**

- One of the things the VPF has tried to do this year is serve with Funding and Recognition and the GSA funding committee. Serves as a way of keeping everyone informed about what is going on financially. The amendment is a way of codifying this practice.

7:18 pm Questions (none)

7:19 pm Discussion

- Steve has sometimes been very helpful during Funding and Recognition meetings

7:19 pm Vote on 0405-094 – Constitutional Amendment Regarding VPF Duties (2/3rds vote)

Passes, voice vote

**7:20 pm Special Business**

7:20 pm **0405-107 – Approval of the Elections Board Chair**

- Enables Mark Roboff to form his board.

7:20 pm Questions (none)

7:20 pm Discussion

7:20 pm Motion to postpone until Mark Roboff is present (Jonathan Mendelson)

- This motion cannot be postponed past this week
- Motion not considered as not seconded

7:21 pm Discussion (continued)

- Electing Mark Roboff to the board. Mark Roboff can then select a chair for the board.

7:22 pm Motion to recess until Michelle returns (Joe Arasin)

- Concerned that we are not following the rules that we just voted to enact.
- Roboff will be the sole member of the elections board, and thus the chair of the elections board until he appoints a new chair.

7:24 pm Motion to recess withdrawn

7:25 pm Discussion (continued)

- These rules should be taken in spirit for the present. There is currently no reason to reconsider.

7:26 pm Chair rules that this motion is valid in its current state

7:27 pm Motion to recess until Mark Roboff is present (Margaret Richards)

7:27 pm Objection

7:27 pm Motion withdrawn

7:28 pm Discussion (continued)

7:28 pm Call the Question (Long Pham)

7:29 pm Vote on 0405-107 – Approval of the Elections Board Chair

Passes, voice vote

**7:29 pm New Business From the Floor** (none)

**7:29 pm Points of Discussion**

7:29 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Special Allocations for Out-of-Pittsburgh

Activities

- Should make a constitutional or fiscal amendment banning special allocations for travel.
- Do not think a ban is in order. Please clarify?
- In other schools there is no way to get money to fund travel. We should not have a way to fund travel either.
- There are situations in which it is really important to fund travel. E.g. when we sent the Tartan to a conference earlier this semester.
- Instead of banning it, proactive guidelines should be created about what should be funded, as opposed to what should not be funded.
- We have made mistakes about various special allocations. Instead of sending people to conferences to seek out information, we should instead give special allocations to bring people here.
- When the Tartan went to their conference, they sought to not only interact with the speakers but with other organizations.
- Banning something outright is probably a very poor idea.
- Good idea to talk about, but you need to trust in the 3/4<sup>th</sup> majority vote. Judge the merit of the individual case.
- Events off campus are great, but we only have limited funds. Need to choose between events that take place on campus and off campus.

- Very rarely do we see 3/4ths votes passed barely. Usually very one way or the other. The point is, if there is any doubt, the vote fails. Can't necessarily look at things just in terms of the number of students affected – sometimes a trip is an investment in a particular group (e.g. the Filipino Martial Arts trip funded today).

### **7:39 pm Announcements**

- College-specific town hall meetings on the issue of the new Faculty Course Evaluations have been occurring with mixed attendance. Please encourage your constituents to attend and also consider attending yourself.  
Times for the remaining meetings are from 4:30-5:30pm:
  1. SCS – Monday, February 28th in UC Rangos 1
  2. MCS – Tuesday, March 1st in Doherty 1212
- This Friday, February 25th, tomorrow, there will be “Building Unity Through Dialogue,” a forum focused on a discussion of constructive ways to deal with racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and hate speech. The forum will be from 5-8pm in Doherty Hall 2315. It is sponsored by the Role Models Program.
- Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 17th in the Posner Center Board Room. See you then, hopefully well refreshed!
- The Friday “Building Unity Through Dialogue” discussion has been postponed! (The program conflicted with the Black History Month closing event.)
- Given what's been happening on campus, there are many very outraged people on all sides. Important that we recognize as Senators that we don't just deal with fiscal issues or vote on things – we are campus leaders. Must be active and informed about all sides of the issue.
- This is Mark Roboff!
- Carnegie Mellon is having its first UN conference tomorrow. Attend the opening and closing ceremonies on Sunday.
- We gave \$500 to have Exalted Praise come here. It's tomorrow. Come see it!
- Bill Peduto will be in the UC tomorrow from 12:30 to 2 getting signatures and talking to people. Good chance to meet your councilman and someone who is running for mayor.
- Anyone on Campus Life – come see Adam after the meeting.

### **7:42 pm Adjourned**

