

CMU Student Senate

UNOFFICIAL Minutes of November 18, 2004

5:35 pm Roll Call

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

Senators Absent: Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Kathryn Cooper (MCS, excused), Jonathan Lee (CIT, excused), Akil Simon (CFA)

Members at Large Present: Jonathan Chen (HSS), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Aaron Walker (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

Members at Large Absent: Justin Berka (SHS), James Hazelrig (CIT), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Corrine Pascale (CIT), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS)

5:37 pm Call to Order

5:37 pm Approval of Minutes

5:38 pm Amendments to the November 4th minutes

- The absence noted for Kirk Higgins is excused.
- jyearsle@andrew.cmu.edu should be in the minutes at 5:56, not Adam Atkinson
- Aaron Kao is CIT, not HSS

5:39 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

5:39 pm Amendments to the November 11th minutes

- Nicolette Louissaint's noted absence was excused.

- Tanvir Suri was present, and his vote in the appendix should be changed to “affirmative”

5:40 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

5:40 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:41 pm Standing Committee Reports

5:41 pm **Academic Affairs** (Jon Mendelson)

- Working on a system for online academic advising. Purpose is to have a more centralized resource for advising information. A problem with academic advising as it is now is that advisors don't always have or know up to date information.
- Looking into problems with OLR.

5:41 pm Questions

- Information might be easier to access if it's online, as opposed to on paper in the catalog. Just looking into the possibility for the moment, not necessarily going to do it.
- Looking into course reserves issues as well.

5:42 pm **Business Affairs** (Ed Ryan)

- Campus Express survey continued (are you using campus express, why or why not, what new vendors would you like to see accept campus express, etc.). Currently in the implementation phase of the project. If anyone knows perl or is proficient with online forms, contact Ed Ryan (epr@andrew.cmu.edu).

5:43 pm Questions

- Survey Scotty is not available to us, as it is only used for FCEs

5:44 pm **Campus Life** (Adam Atkinson, proxy for Nasheena Porter)

- Working on collaboration with SDC to improve online maintenance surveys
- Getting Escort drivers to use ancillary phone accessories instead of talking on cell phones while driving (this is also illegal in PA)
- Created statement about Port Authority Cuts
- More people should wear Carnegie Mellon clothing, etc. Atkinson talked with Dean Murphy about the possibility of ordering selling on item per week for 3 or 4 weeks at half price in Kirr commons or in front of Doherty. Also talked about discounts at the bookstore. This would happen in the spring.

5:46 pm **Communications** (Maureen Burns)

- Met with department heads on Tuesday to make sure everything okay for different colleges in terms of the display cases. Places for each case have been

determined, and two architecture students will be making the cases. The students just need to submit a design to the committee.

- Working on free pizza information nights. Tonight at 9:30 in Shady Oak Apartment #302. Learn about what senators do, what senate is – so senators should go. Meet at 9 pm in the senate office for those who don't know where Shady Oak is.
- Met with CSAC to hear about what's going on in each of the colleges. Did not hear concerns from anyone, not sure if that's good or bad. Continuing to meet with the RA's, and talked with Fairfax and Catman. "Big Ideas" now has an e-mail account, so e-mail big-ideas@andrew.cmu.edu if you have any good ideas for campus.
- Communications was asked by Student Government to advertise PAT bus cuts, which is why some things were put on hold this week. Trying to meet with Dean Murphy to make some kind of orientation for transfer students (especially transfer students that come in at the spring semester).

5:50 pm **Funding and Recognition** (no report)

5:51 pm **Internal Development** (no report)

5:51 pm **Diversity** (Josh Yearsley)

- Working with Greek life to create a non-discriminatory statement.
- Going to have free form discussions for natrat issues.
- Meetings are Wednesdays at 6 pm in UC 318G (2 more meetings left in the semester).

5:53 pm **Senate Chair** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

- Two meetings left, December 2nd and 9th are in the Posner Center. Dec. 9th will be a general meeting, and then elections for committee chairs.
- Apologies for agenda being out later than usual.
- Have had many meetings with newer senators.

5:54 New Business from Committee

5:54 **0405-050 Non-funded Recognition of Foosball Club**

- Would like to hold events on campus such as foosball tournaments. Paul Foulter is their faculty advisor.
- At present, they have four members, but hope to gain up to 20 or 30 after recruitment. They encourage anyone who enjoys foosball to play with them.

- Most of their meetings take place in residence halls and the UC. Hope to host a foosball tournament and participate in intramurals.

5:55 pm Questions

- Might seek funded recognition later, but the use of foosball tables is free. Won't be considering it until next year.

5:56 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

5:57 pm Vote on 0405-050 – Non-funded recognition of the Foosball Club

Passes, voice vote.

5:57 pm **0405-051 – Non-funded recognition of the Boxing Club**

5:57 pm Motion to postpone until representative is present

5:57 pm Motion passed by acclamation

5:57 pm **0405-052 – Funded recognition of Sustainable Students**

5:57 pm Motion to move up in the agenda due to no representative being present

5:58 pm Passed by acclamation

5:58 pm **0405-051 – Non-funded recognition of the Boxing Club**

- Seeking non-funded recognition. Not asking for funded recognition as they will ask for a special allocation to start the club. After the club is started, it will be supported by membership dues.
- Mission is to provide interested students with the opportunity to learn how to box. Will bring in a trainer from a local gym and have training sessions. Once per month there will be supervised sparring sessions at a local gym.

6:00 pm Questions

- The first rule of boxing club is to be safe.
- The special allocation they will request will not exceed 300 dollars.
- Safety measures will include not hitting each other during training sessions, wearing hand wraps and the safest gloves. At the local gym, will use 12 or 16 oz gloves.
- The organizers are having meetings with risk management.
- 3 people are organizing the club, and about 20 people have expressed interest in joining.

6:03 pm Discussion

6:03 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

6:03 pm Vote on 0405-051 – Non-funded recognition of the Boxing Club

Passes, voice vote

6:04 pm **0405-053 – Special Allocation of \$1000 to the Computer Club**

- Computer club has been around for a while, but changing more into a service organization. They run a network similar to the Andrew network, run things like open news servers on campus (e.g. misc.market) and bulletin boards open to all people. Run the contrib web server, whose special features are that users can execute binaries and run two database servers.
- Their main idea is to complete projects the entire community can benefit from. They have 30 computers in the basement of Cyert. They've been having problems with power failures, network outages and cooling outages. Power outages have the effect of wiping data. One power failure could wipe out all the data, and they want a permanent solution in the form of a UPS (uninterruptible power supply).
- Project will cost \$2000. Half the money is coming from organizations that depend on computer club services and members personally, asking senate for the other half.

6:09 pm Questions

- Webpage hosting on contrib is open to everyone who has an andrew account, and in fact, everyone who has webpages on andrew has them on contrib too. Contrib pulls from the www directory of the andrew webspace.
- Contrib has advantages over andrew such as being able to support cgi and php, and it has better uptime than the andrew server.
- There is also database support. Database support is not the default, but you can go to www.contrib.cmu.edu and then to mycontrib to create a database.
- When power goes out, it doesn't just go out, but cycles back and forth for about 15 to 30 seconds, which kill the hard drive motors.
- Computers are house in the Cyert sub-basement C6.

6:11 pm Discussion (none)

6:12 pm Vote on 0405-053 – Special Allocation of \$1000 to the Computer Club

Passes, voice vote

6:12 pm **0405-052 – Funded Recognition of Sustainable Students**

- Have had four Funding and Recognition meetings. They want the money for yearly operating expenses and to do projects. They were recognized as a club back in Spring 2003. They are a project based environmental club, they do

composting at Doherty Apartments, garden on Hamerschlag residence hall, and partner with international festival.

6:13 pm Questions

- Organization is about sustaining the environment, not sustaining students themselves.
- Sustainable Students is project based, while EARTH is more about education and awareness.
- The budget they'll be seeking provides money for composting, supporting fair trade coffee in campus dining, getting local and organic foods sold on campus.
- Money is for signage and awareness of fair trade coffee, not buying coffee.

6:17 pm Discussion

6:17 pm Call the Question (Josh Yearsley)

6:17 pm Vote on 0405-052 – Funded Recognition of Sustainable Students

Passes, voice vote

6:17 pm **0405-054 – Special Allocation of \$500 to the International Film Festival**

- Film festival has taken place this year and last year. Last year films mainly focused on languages taught at CMU. This year, focus on showing films important to student organizations. Money is for right of public showing, and to pay to show the film in the UC.

6:18 pm Questions

- Arab Student Organization wants to show the movie Ranna. Film attendance last year was about 100 students, they expect that number to increase. Each organization is recommending films to show.
- There are four organizations and three slots for each film. The organizers pick which films are shown.
- The festival is next semester, 14 weeks of films every Tuesday free. The four organizations are the Thai organization, ASO, IGSA and the Malaysian student organization. The request was reduced by \$350.
- Ranna is more about cultural viewpoints and seeing what life is like in the area, as opposed to political statements.

6:24 pm Discussion

- Good thing that so many organizations are coming together to put this together.
- Hoping that GSA would fund IGSA.

6:30 pm Motion to Increase Funding to \$850 (Yew Choe Wong)

6:31 pm Discussion

- International Film Festival did not go to GSA because they're not an organization.
- Other organizations did not go with IGSA to GSA. Might have been more persuasive if all had gone together.
- Can give allocations to individual organizers, even though not supposed to give money to non-organizations. When allocation is given to an individual, an oracle account is made for them.
- Organizations should try to get money from other sources. The organizations involved in this are either not funded at all, or don't have enough money in their budget to fund something like this.
- The department of modern languages helps to fund the festival, but only films that are in languages taught at CMU.

6:43 pm Call the Question (Josh Yearsley)

6:43 pm Withdrawn for more discussion (Josh Yearsley)

6:43 pm Discussion

6:45 pm Call the Question (Jon Mendelson)

6:46 pm Vote on Motion to change \$500 allocation to \$850

Fails, voice vote

6:46 pm Call the Question (Josh Yearsley)

6:46 pm Vote on 0405-054 – Special Allocation of \$500 to the International Film Festival

Passes, voice vote

6:47 pm **0405-055 – Special Allocation of \$2000 to the South Asian Student**

Alliance (3/4 vote)

- Originally asked for about \$6000 to send 11 people to a conference in Los Angeles. Now asking for \$2000 to send 6 people. Cost of sending 6 people will be about \$2736.
- The conference is for Asian students to network with other organization leaders across the US, as well as discuss ideas to bring back to individual campuses. This includes how to diversify individual organizations.
- They agree to go only once in this four year time period, and to not send any seniors. This will be a 3/4 vote because the funding of transportation is involved.

6:48 pm Questions

- The number of people who are going will be discussed at a meeting tonight, assuming they get the funding, but they might have to cut it down from 6. There

are 11 people on the board, and they are deeming everyone on the board qualified to go (except seniors).

- The conference is happening January 13th-16th. South Asian Student Organization is a national organization, but this individual chapter is not funded. They hold events with Om and the Malaysian Student Association.
- If other board members really want to go, they might fund their own way. There are activities at the conference all day, every day.
- Funding and Recognition does not want to take it back into committee to set guidelines for how precisely the money is used, as after tomorrow airline fees, etc., go up.

6:57 pm Discussion

- They should work with Funding and Recognition to allocate money in the most effective way possible.
- Senate should not dictate what board members they send to the conference.

7:02 pm Call the Question (Tanvir Suri)

7:03 pm Vote on 0405-055 – Special Allocation of \$2000 to the South Asian Student Alliance

Passes, hand vote (18:5:2)

7:03 pm **0405-056 – Supporting the Dedicated Funding for Pennsylvania Port Authority Transit (Resolution from Campus Life)**

- As student senate we should take a stand on this issue.

7:04 pm Questions

- It is not necessary for everyone to sign the document.
- The 8th paragraph means that 12% of trips end at CMU, meaning there's no way to ensure students arrive home safely, even though they are arriving.
- The reason Port Authority is in such straits is that running buses gets more expensive with time, and they haven't received funding proportional to the rising costs.
- The current fee that CMU pays for students is not guaranteed for the 2005-2006 school year.

7:10 pm Motion to Amend the Resolution in the following ways (Joe Arasin):

1st Paragraph: Over the past seven years, Port Authority *of Allegheny County* has...

2nd Paragraph: Cut the words "Allegheny County," "Transit," "leaving Carnegie Mellon students with no substitute for transportation"

3rd Paragraph: Cut

4th Paragraph: change the word "special" to "one-time" and cut the words "but this was a one time solution." And move this paragraph to after the 6th paragraph, i.e. after "Whereas: the chief of police..."

5th Paragraph: Cut the word "annual," and replace "the average Saturday having 114,000 passengers and the average Sunday having 63,000 passengers" with "each including 9.2 million weekend riders." Replace "the elimination of weekend transportation and" with "greatly by the service cuts."

6th Paragraph: Cut

7th Paragraph: Replace "make up the difference that" with "replace" and "would no longer provide for" with "in providing a safe trip home." Move this paragraph to after paragraph 4, ie after "Last year the port authority was able to delay"

8th Paragraph: Cut

9th Paragraph: Move to after the first paragraph, ie "Over the past seven years"

10th Paragraph: Cut everything after the first sentence, ie after "...largely to years of stagnant state funding." Move this paragraph to after the *new* fifth paragraph, ie after "Whereas: The Chief of Police..."

11th Paragraph: Replace "thus" with "further," and cut the word "Pennsylvania." Add to the end of the paragraph "... and that Port Authority transit is vital to the CMU community."

12th Paragraph: None

7:18 pm Discussion

- This is very inefficient, and it will take a very long time to pass this.

7:19 pm Call the Question (Jon Mendelson)

7:19 pm Objection

7:19 pm Discussion

- Removal of clause 3 is necessary because students pay lower than the full fare, and it does not make sense to point that out to the state.
- It would be good to add the mayor of Pittsburgh to the list of people receiving at bottom of the page.
- Anyone can make a motion to set a time limit on a discussion.

- The legislative session ends on November 30th, so it makes no sense to send it back to committee for further revision. The resolution needs to be passed today so that it can be sent out as soon as possible.
- Everyone should sign the document so as to add more weight to it and make clear the number of people Senate represents.

7:26 pm Call the Question (Yew Choe Wong)

7:26 pm Vote on the listed amendments to the Resolution

Passed, voice vote

7:26 pm Motion to add the mayor of Pittsburgh to the list receiving at the bottom of the resolution (Jon Mendelson)

7:26 pm Motion taken as friendly

7:28 pm Motion to allow grammar and language to be corrected by Jen as long as the content remains unmodified (Jon Mendelson)

7:28 pm Passed by Acclamation

7:29 pm Motion to include to the list Doug Shields (Benjamin Hackett)

7:30 pm Motion taken as friendly

7:31 pm Motion to add to the list the chairs of the transportation committees and representatives from where CMU students live (Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, Oakland)

7:31 pm Motion taken as friendly

7:32 pm Add signature of

7:33 pm Motion to change “signed by the senate chair” to “signed by the Senate chair on behalf of the 37 senators of Carnegie Mellon University” in the 12th Paragraph.

7:35 pm Discussion (none)

7:36 pm Passed by Acclamation

7:36 pm Call the Question (Yew Choe Wong)

7:36 pm Objection

7:37 pm Call the Question (Maureen Burns)

7:37 pm Vote on 0405-056 – Supporting the Dedicated Funding for Pennsylvania Port Authority Transit (Resolution from Campus Life)

Passes, voice vote

7:37 pm New Business from the Floor (none)

7:38 pm Points of Discussion

7:38 pm Point of Discussion about the Tartan’s Executive Privilege column this past week

- In this week's issue of the Tartan, the Executive Privilege column accused SDC, AB, and Senate of bad financial practices, etc. The article outlined specific things that went on with SDC and AB, and then seemed to arbitrarily add "senate too."
- This deserves a letter to the editor from student senate about how Senate has done an effective job of serving student interests. The communications chair or the senate chair should get a letter published in next week's issue.
- This letter should be combined with comments about SDC's funding process and the outcome of the cmuTV topic last night at the SDC meeting.
- There should be a discussion about SDC's role on campus and an independent investigation as to what's been going on at SDC over the past two years.
- Come to the information night tonight by meeting at the senate office at 9 pm to walk over to Shady Oak.

7:42 pm Point of Discussion about the construction worker who was recently injured

- A construction worker was severely injured (head trauma) at the construction site near the old student center.

7:43 pm Announcements

- Grand Buffet, a Pittsburgh Hip-Hop group, will be at the Drill Deck on November 19th, tomorrow, to help benefit Leagues, a group that supports our Drama students. Cost of tickets pre-sale is \$8 and at the show \$10.
- Please support the current campaign of letter-writing and e-mail sending for "Save our Transit." If you have a letter, please give it to Julie, the SBVP and if you would like to send a form email, you can go to <http://transit.stusen.org>. Thank you to Joe Arasin for that.
- Due to not receiving any petitions, Senate still has a vacancy in CFA. Please spread the word that we are still looking for someone to fill the spot. Senate will consider the vacancy at the General Body meeting after receiving a valid CFA petition.
- There will be no Student Senate meeting on Thanksgiving, so enjoy your break. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 2nd at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. As a notice, that meeting will be our second to last meeting of the semester.
- For the rest of the semester, academic affairs meetings will be moved to 5:45 on Wednesdays.

- Talk to your professors in lectures and get them to let you make an announcement in front of the class about the PAT issue. Mention the website address.
- KGB's Capture the Flag with Stuff is tomorrow night.
- It's not too late to register for CMU EMS's EMT-B class on OLR.
- The e-mail campaign has gotten 80 handwritten letters, and 50 were sent to Eric and Julie. We can do better than that!

7:46 pm Adjourn