

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of January 20th, 2005

5:40 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (HSS), Abigail Barnes (CIT), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Maureen Burns (CFA), Kathryn Cooper (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Andrea Hamilton (BHA), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS), James Rogers (CIT), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

Senators Absent: Andres Bermudez (HSS), Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Trevor Clark (CFA, excused), Laura Drogowski (MCS, excused), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Jonathan Lee (CIT, excused), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS, excused), Nasheena Porter (HSS, excused), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS, excused), Akil Simon (CFA)

Members at Large Present: Justin Berka (SHS), Jonathan Chin (HSS), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Adam Greenberg (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Fei Liu (HSS), Diana Purcell (CFA), Shingai Samudzi (HSS), Aaron Walker (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

Members at Large Absent: Hanish Dayal (CIT), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS)

5:42 pm Approval of Minutes from 1/13

- Diana Purcell (CFA) was present
- Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Ananya Bubna (TSB), Laura Drogowski (MCS), and Aftyn Giles (CFA) were excused
- In the 3rd point at 5:47, “Izzie” should be spelled “Izzy”

5:43 pm Minutes approved by acclamation

5:43 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:44 pm Standing Committee Reports

5:44 pm **Academic Affairs** (Josh Yearsley)

- Meetings are Mondays at 5:00 pm in UC 320. If anyone has any ideas feel free to e-mail me or come to the meeting.

5:44 pm Questions (none)

5:44 pm **Business Affairs** (Ed Ryan)

- The product of many semesters of fruitless work of the Business Affairs Committee. Now have posters of the Master Plan. Does not know if it is the 10 or 20 year Master Plan. The posters are going on display near Package Pick-up in the UC. Meetings for Business Affairs are at 6:00 pm on Mondays in UC 318G.

5:46 pm Questions

- There will be an explanation along with the posters as part of the display.
- Wean still exists in future plans.
- The posters will be in the UC by the Package Pick-up Center.
- Meetings are at 6 pm Mondays in 318G.

5:47 pm **Campus Life** (Abigail Barnes)

- Working on having all clocks on campus synchronized. Looking into library hours during finals. Looking into fixing the muddiness in several places on campus. The CMU gear sale will happen. Meetings are at 5 pm in the Morewood activities room.
- Looking for desirable people to participate in Singled Out. E-mail Adam.

5:49 pm Questions (none)

5:50 pm **Communications** (no report)

5:50 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Tom Sabram)

- Meetings are on Tuesdays at 4:30 in UC 318G. Will be sending an e-mail to Student Activities so that they can inform all student organizations as to the change. Have about \$30,000 for the semester.

5:50 pm Questions (none)

5:50 pm **Internal Development** (Michelle Birchak)

- In meeting discussed what the purpose of ID is, and goals for this semester. Meetings will be on Mondays at 6:00 pm in the Senate Office. Please let people know about current Senate vacancies.
- Last week we had a motion come up and no one voted. This may be due to the use of computers in meetings. If you are using computers, pay attention and try to use them for senate business. Do not make ID take away the computers...

5:51 pm Questions

- Vacancies are in HSS, CFA, and TSB.
- Petitions can be picked up at the info desk and online.
- Petitions will be voted on February 3rd.

5:53 pm **Communications** (Maureen Burns)

- Those of you who were on Communications who are not now, please give back your staple guns.
- Those of you who are on the committee now, please meet after the meeting.

5:53 pm Questions (none)

5:54 pm **Diversity** (Josh Yearsley)

- Sent out e-mail about the Diversity Committee, thank you for your responses. We'll be meeting on Wednesdays at 5 pm in the Senate Office. Agenda is basically the agenda from Recommendation Three in the Natrat report.

5:54 pm Questions (none)

5:54 pm **Senate Chair** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

- Courtney Thompson has resigned, creating a TSB vacancy. E-mail addresses for stusen.org should now be working, as should committee lists. Apologize to any of you who have gotten strange e-mails over the past couple of days. Would like to speak to any new Members at Large after the meeting.

5:55 pm Questions (none)

5:56 pm Ex-officio Reports

5:56 pm **Student Body Vice President** (Julie Beckenstein)

- Creating an ad-hoc committee to deal with dining issues. Created to look into the future of dining, e.g. Parkhurst contract is coming up in Spring 2006. The committee will be made up entirely of students with ex-officios like Dean Murphy, Tim Michael, etc. The chair will be Mark Roboff. Mark Roboff was SDC president last year, and knows a lot about dining. Meeting will be at 5:30 on Monday in 318G, but it looks like that will change. E-mail Mark Roboff and self if you would like to attend, so that can take your time constraints into consideration. E-mail for Julie is sbvp@andrew.cmu.edu and mroboff@andrew.cmu.edu.

5:57 pm Questions (none)

5:57 pm New Business From the Floor (none)

5:57 pm Points of Discussion

5:57 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Senator Time Commitment, General Efficacy, Individual Projects

- The collective amount of work that gets done in Senate proportional to the number of people is not a lot. Senators should be setting an example for the school committee. Find issues that you care about. If everyone put in just two hours a week, a lot could get done.
- A lot of the issues that Senate deals with are not something to get excited about. Boring bureaucratic details, etc. Business Affairs on average requires a few minutes and about an hour of legwork per week. Even if an assignment seems boring and meaningless, it means something to someone or else the issue wouldn't have come up to begin with.
- Students are concerned with the same issues they were five years ago. Need to find a way to get the general student body at CMU more involved.
- A good way to get messages across are the information sessions, and keeping up communication with the RA's. At the last information session there were only a few senators and many students.
- There should be a committee or subcommittee to research the efficacy of Senate.
- Issues regarding efficacy of general body meetings should be directed to the Senate Chair. Issues regarding the efficacy of Senate in general should be directed to the Internal Development committee. In committee work there are many instances where we do not have the connections to get anything done quickly (e.g. Master Plan Posters).
- Senators should spend more time interacting with each other about what we think needs to happen on campus.
- A questionnaire might be an effective way to determine Senate goals.
- Developing Senate goals is something that can happen on February 13th at the Senate Retreat.
- There are lots of small projects that can be completed outside of committee. Individuals totally separate from Senate can take the initiative. If nothing appeals to you specifically, talk to Erik (he has a long list of things he thinks should be done). Everyone should have a pet project.
- Should there be an interactive board for Senator communication?

6:17 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Credit Card Debt Prevention

- There should be an orientation presentation to freshman about credit cards and credit card debt.
- There was something along those lines at orientation this past summer.
- The credit card event should be mandatory.
- The person in charge of freshman orientation is Anne Witchner.
- Credit Card Debt is not just a problem for freshmen – it might be more effective to have a financial management series with pizza or somesuch.
- Mandatory events do not really mean much at orientation. Not everyone needs this information so not everyone should have to attend.

6:26 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Over-posting and the Poster Policy

- Problems with over-posting especially near ATMs.
- Reason for this might be: Tartan had a recruitment meeting, looking for a lot of people. Scotch n' Soda is also looking for people.
- Certain bulletin boards on campus can only have posters of a certain size, with one poster per board, and no active posters can be covered. Most of the poster boards in academic buildings are regulated by these rules.

6:28 pm Point of Discussion Regarding SDC – Senate Relations

- SDC and Senate do lots of things that overlap, we should have a Senate liaison.
- There was a Senate liaison last year, feel free to start that again.
- Should see Campus Life about this.
- SDC gets money from the Dorm Fee charged to all residents.

6:30 pm Announcements

- There are currently four vacancies in Senate, 1 CFA, 2 H&SS, and 1 TSB seats. The CFA seat will be filled on a rolling basis and will be voted on once a petition is submitted. The deadline for H&SS and TSB petitions will be Tuesday, February 1st and will be voted on Thursday, February 3rd.
- The Activities Fair is scheduled for 5-7pm on this Friday, January 21st. We are looking for at least two people to help with this.
- The next Senate meeting will be on Thursday, January 27th at 5:30pm in UC Peter/McKenna/Wright. See you then!
- The next JFC meeting will be Monday at 8:30 pm.
- Interested in the Dining Committee? Meet over there in that corner right now.

- If anyone has nothing to do on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 pm there will be a dance concert, like Dancer's Symposium. \$3 admission.
- Go Steelers!

6:32 pm Adjourn