

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of January 13th, 2005

5:41 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Abigail Barnes (CIT), Andres Bermudez (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Maureen Burns (CFA, came late), Trevor Clark (CFA), Kathryn Cooper (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Andrea Hamilton (BHA), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS, proxy), Margaret Richards (SCS), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

Senators Absent: Adam Atkinson (HSS, excused), Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Laura Drogowski (MCS, excused), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Nasheena Porter (HSS), James Rogers (CIT), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT, excused), Thomas Sabram (CIT, excused), Courtney Thompson (TSB)

Members at Large Present: Justin Berka (SHS), Jonathan Chin (HSS), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Adam Greenberg (CIT), Diana Purcell (CFA, came late), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS, left early), Aaron Walker (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

Members at Large Absent: James Hazelrig (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT, excused), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Fei Liu (HSS), Brittany McCandless (HSS, excused), Corrine Pascale (CIT), Shingai Samudzi (HSS, excused)

5:42 pm Approval of Minutes from 12/9/04

- Sean Weinstock was present
- Andrew Gehling, and not his proxy, was present
- Stephanie Rosenthal was present
- At 6:12 pm “Greenburg” should be spelled “Greenberg”

- In the JFC Chair report at 5:54 pm, the text "... set of recommendations for how to expect a Chair to behave..." should be "... set of recommendations for how to expect representatives to behave..."

5:43 pm Minutes approved by acclamation

5:44 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:44 pm Ex-officio Reports

5:44 pm **Activities Board** (no report)

5:44 pm **Campus Police** (no report)

5:44 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** (no report)

5:44 pm **Greek Council** (no report)

5:44 pm **Student Affairs** (Jennifer Parry Bird)

- Welcome back. Thanks to all who participated in Summit. 152 people registered, and with only 10 no-shows, 142 people participated. Nothing but positive reviews across the board.
- Winter Gala is three Fridays from now. Sponsored by Student Affairs with help from Senate – it will be a big event taking place in the UC.

5:45 pm Questions

- The deadline for RA applications has been extended to January 19th because of technical difficulties with the online application. Applicants must still attend one information session per area they are applying for.

5:47 pm **Student Body President** (Erik Michaels-Ober)

- Welcome back from break. GSA voted on two major issues of concern to Senate. The first is their graduate referendum on the Newspaper Fee. GSA voted no to paying the fee, so if Senate were to move forward it would be an Undergraduate proposal only. There is also a time constraint if Senate would like to move forward even without GSA involved. GSA also voted on the proposed amendments to the Constitution.
- Monday is Martin Luther King Day. This year's lineup of events seems to be particularly good – everyone should show up.
- At the end of last semester Jay Pujara resigned his position as Student Body Dining Chair. Elizabeth ("Izzy") Buckser will fill the position. Izzie was chair of the SDC dining committee. Her e-mail address is ebuckser@andrew.cmu.edu.
- The Tartan is to be commended for the special edition put out this week regarding the Natrat and relevant issues. The special edition included

statements from members of the Tartan Staff, as well as President Cohon and Dean Murphy. A great step in the process of fulfilling the recommendations of the commission report – commend the Tartan for heading in the right direction.

5:51 pm Questions (none)

5:51 pm **Student Body Vice President** (Julie Beckenstein)

- Over the break Governor Rendell allocated money to buses. Cuts will still occur in March, but service will remain on nights and weekends. There will not be a huge effect on the campus community.

5:52 pm Questions

- Will keep pushing for more funding and more recognition of the issue, just not right now.

5:52 pm **Student Body Vice President for Finance** (Steven Kling)

- GSA voted the reserves recommendations through with no amendments, unanimously. Today you'll be discussing JFC delegates. The first JFC information session is next Tuesday, and the next one is the Wednesday after that. We're starting the process early this year, so some of the time crunch should be alleviated.

5:54 pm Questions (none)

5:54 pm Standing Committee Reports

5:54 pm **Academic Affairs** (no report)

5:54 pm **Business Affairs** (no report)

5:54 pm **Campus Life** (no report)

5:54 pm **Communications** (no report)

5:55 pm **Funding and Recognition** (no report)

5:55 pm **Internal Development** (no report)

5:55 pm **Diversity** (no report)

5:55 pm **Senate Chair** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

- Currently doing new things with the website – so if it goes down, it might be because we're working on it. We are going to be fixing the committee e-mail addresses, but they are not working as of right now.

5:56 pm Questions (none)

5:56 pm Special Business

5:56 pm **0405-060 – Constitutional Amendment Related to the Reserves**

- We spoke about these amendments at the last meeting. The amendments create separate accounts based on use so it's much clearer what kind of expenditures the accounts are for. Gives Senate and GSA more power in figuring out what they can and cannot spend.

5:58 pm Questions (none)

5:58 pm Discussion (none)

5:58 pm Vote on 0405-060 – Constitutional Amendment Related to the Reserves

Passes, voice vote

5:59 pm **0405-062 – Appointment of the Undergraduate Delegation to the Joint Funding Committee**

5:59 pm Hanish Dayal does not accept his nomination

5:59 pm Maureen Burns does not accept her nomination

6:00 pm Nomination of Josh Yearsley (Michelle Birchak)

6:00 pm Nominations to fill the two seats are open to the floor

6:00 pm Josh Yearsley accepts his nomination

6:01 pm Nomination of Abigail Barnes (Nicolette Louissaint)

6:01 pm Abigail Barnes accepts her nomination

6:01 pm Nomination of Nicholas Scocozzo (Nicolette Louissaint)

6:01 pm Nicholas Scocozzo accepts his nomination

6:02 pm Ending List of Nominees is Josh Yearsley, Abigail Barnes, Nicholas Scocozzo

6:03 pm Discussion of voting policy and procedure

6:07 pm Procedure chosen is as follows: There will be a general debate of all the candidates, all will be escorted out, motion for one person to be elected, roll call vote on each candidate

6:09 pm Nicholas Scocozzo withdraws his acceptance of his nomination

6:09 pm The chair accepts the withdrawal

6:10 pm There will be a vote to fill the slate with the two candidates

6:11 pm Discussion

6:12 pm Call the Question (Edward Ryan)

6:12 pm Motion to fill the open slots with Abigail Barnes and Josh Yearsley

Passed, voice vote

6:13 pm Discussion of the current slate

6:13 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

6:13 pm Vote on 0405-062 – Appointment of the Undergraduate Delegation to the Joint Funding Committee

Passed, voice vote

6:14 pm New Business From the Floor

6:14 pm Motion to make Kelly Duncan a member at large (Joe Arasin)

- Worked very hard on a committee appointed by teachers to oversee student government at her high school. Always wanted to make a difference – this would be a good way to go about it.

6:15 pm Questions

- On the committee at her high school she made sure the student government did not under-fund or over-fund certain events, and oversee the election process. She is still looking at committees, and is a physics major.

6:16 pm Discussion

6:17 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

6:17 pm Kelly Duncan made a member at large by voice vote

6:17 pm Points of Discussion

6:17 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Senate Efficiency

- Senate is not good at efficient discussion. Should there be a committee to investigate senate efficiency?
- It is actually only a few people out of the whole who are not efficient. It does not make sense to address the issue of streamlining and efficiency by creating more bureaucracy.
- Senators are out of practice after the break. Isn't efficiency an Internal Development issue?
- Any time there is a large number of people together, there is going to be some deficiency when it comes to organization of discussion. There are trade-offs between efficiency and having a good debate.
- Last spring there was a limitation on the number of times a person could speak in a particular debate (twice). This limitation forced people to make their points count – the concept is worth considering.
- Thinking more that Senate's non-efficiency is due more to random inappropriate questions than debate.
- It might be the Chair's job to take care of this.

- Issue of personal courtesy – there are people who make jokes instead of asking questions, etc.

6:20 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Newspaper Fee Issue

- Would Senate like to move forward with the newspaper issue? Seems to have a very good response with the student body. One thing suggested by GSA was that there could be separate swipe cards for newspapers instead of student ID's (with student ID's there is no way of distinguishing between grad and undergrad cards).
- If we move forward with the plan without the grad students, and use swipe cards, etc., we're going to have to add to the tuition fee. All these small expenses will add up.
- There are results from the survey about newspaper usage – but the survey did not differentiate between grads and undergrads. Anyone is welcome to look at them.
- GSA's concerns about the fee mainly relate to a distaste for fees in general. The grad students have felt the burden of the new Technology fee more than the undergrads, because it is not included in their stipends. They fear that implementing a newspaper fee would lead down a slippery slope where anything can be subsidized. Also brought up the fact that all three papers are available for free online, which also raised environmental concerns. However, there was obviously some demand for the newspapers as students were picking them up anyway. Pointed out that it is definitely worthwhile to governing bodies to have informed constituents.

6:26 pm Announcements

- There are currently three vacancies in Senate, 1 CFA and 2 H&SS 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 petitions will be Tuesday, February 1st and will be voted on Thursday, February 3rd.
- The next Senate meeting will be on Thursday, January 20th at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. See you then!
- Reforming the diversity committee -- any interest e-mail jyearsle@andrew.cmu.edu
- Next JFC meeting is scheduled for this evening at 8:00 pm. If anyone would like to attend, you are constitutionally able.

6:28 pm Adjourn