

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of February 17th, 2005

5:45 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (HSS, proxy), Abigail Barnes (CIT), Andres Bermudez (HSS, partial proxy), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Kathryn Cooper (MCS), Laura Drogowski (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA, proxy), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Andrea Hamilton (BHA), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA, came late, excused), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS, came late), Long Pham (TSB), James Rogers (CIT, came late), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS, proxy), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS), Sean Weinstock (HSS), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

Senators Absent: Ananya Bubna (TSB), Maureen Burns (CFA), Trevor Clark (CFA), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Nasheena Porter (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Yew Choe Wong (CIT)

Members at Large Present: Justin Berka (SHS), Jonathan Chin (HSS), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Fei Liu (HSS), Tro Shaw (CFA)

Members at Large Absent: Hanish Dayal (CIT), Adam Greenberg (CIT, excused), Curtis Johnson (MCS), Aaron Kao (CIT), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Diana Purcell (BHA), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS), Shingai Samudzi (HSS), Karl Sjogren (HSS), Kohta Wajima (TSB), Aaron Walker (CIT)

5:47 pm Approval of Minutes from 2/10

5:48 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

5:48 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:48 pm Standing Committee Reports

5:49 pm **Academic Affairs** (Josh Yearsley)

- Town Hall Meetings regarding FCEs will be happening soon. Meetings are for anyone who would like to give input about this past semester's online FCEs. Everyone should be getting an e-mail from their Dean about this.

5:50 pm Questions

- Will get back to you about when Tepper's meeting is.

5:50 pm Motion to move all New Business From Committee to now (Tom Sabram)

5:50 pm Motion passes by acclamation

5:50 pm New Business From Committee

5:51 pm **0405-095 – Special Allocation of \$675 to Progressive Student Alliance (3/4th vote)**

- There is a minority fringe speech going on right now on campus, and we think having Ashanti Alston come to speak would provide a good counterbalance. Would provide an alternative viewpoint.

5:51 pm Questions

- Alston would speak on February 24th at 4:30 pm.
- His description of what he would talk about is that it would be semi-autobiographical, and semi-philosophical.
- Considering that it was Progressive Student Alliance that alerted Student Senate to begin with about Shabazz's past, it would not make sense for us to bring in someone with a shady background.
- We will have about \$14,500 left if all motions up for today pass.

5:53 pm Discussion

- Funding and Recognition has researched this person extensively, and there is nothing controversial in his background.

5:54 pm Call the Question (Josh Yearsley)

5:54 pm Vote on 0405-095 – Special Allocation of \$675 to Progressive Student Alliance (3/4th vote)

Passes, voice vote

5:54 pm **0405-096 – Special Allocation of \$1500 to ALLIES (3/4th vote)**

- Allies needs \$1500 for the honorarium for Mike Wilke. Speaker will talk about the role of homosexuals in the media. It's a great way to bring the gay community together with the non-gay community.

5:55 pm Questions

- The Commercial Closet Association is an archive of various commercials. Wilke gets a lot of corporations coming to him asking about how they can be more inclusive of the gay community in their advertising. The speech he would be

giving us is a version of the corporate diversity lecture he would give to a corporation.

- Will raise awareness of what's going on in advertising. Will be showing some of these ads as part of the lecture.

5:56 pm Discussion

5:56 pm Call the Question (Tanvir Suri)

5:57 pm Objection

5:57 pm Discussion (continued)

- An honorarium is the speaker's fee. JFC and Senate often give organizations money for honorariums.

5:58 pm Vote on 0405-096 – Special Allocation of \$1500 to ALLIES (3/4th vote)

Passes, voice vote

5:58 pm **0405-097 – Special Allocation of \$648 to Tanah (3/4th vote)**

- Tanah will be taking their members to a dance competition at Columbia. The competition is taking place over spring break, so they're only requesting one-way tickets because they would be flying home for break anyway.

5:59 pm Questions

- Tanah performed at Playground.

6:00 pm Discussion

- We're a South Asian Dance Troupe. Every year we have three or four performances. We have try-outs every year that are open to the entire campus. Last semester we went to a dance competition at Rutgers. This semester we performed at Mayur. We also do Playground and Dancer's Symposium.
- They're a legitimate and talented groups – it's worthwhile to send them.
- The showcase is on March 5th, but was originally supposed to be at the end of February.
- 10 or 12 schools are involved. Will be a really big performance.
- We approved their registration fee last semester. They wanted airfare to Columbia then, but we told them to figure out a way to get transportation for less money.
- We've tried renting vans in the past, but every rental car place we've found only allows people 21 and over to drive their vehicles. There are only two people in the troupe 21 or over, so the situation ends up being unfair to them. In the end,

the cost of renting vans as opposed to Amtrak tickets ends up being about the same.

6:07 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

6:07 pm Vote on 0405-097 – Special Allocation of \$648 to Tanah (3/4^{ths} vote)

Passes, voice vote

6:07 pm Standing Committee Reports (continued)

6:07 pm **Business Affairs** (no report)

6:08 pm **Campus Life** (no report)

6:08 pm **Communications** (no report)

6:08 pm **Funding and Recognition** (no report)

6:08 pm **Internal Development** (Michelle Birchak)

- The Senate Social will be March 31st after the Senate meeting. Will get more details at a later date.

6:09 pm Questions (none)

6:09 pm **Diversity** (Josh Yearsley)

- Hoping to move forward with a forum and poll regarding the University's Diversity Policy. If anyone has any ideas, e-mail me or come up to me after the meeting.

6:10 pm Questions

- Diversity has no comment with regards to the Shabazz lecture.

6:10 pm **Senate Chair** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

- Enjoyed seeing you all on Sunday. We also got a lot of things done. If you were absent on Sunday, your absence counts as a general body meeting absence. Will be working with committee chairs to record committee meeting absences.
- We have election rules coming up in the agenda, so grab a copy of those if you don't have one.
- In the next couple of weeks there will be some major special allocations coming up, such as new mains for AB Tech, the WRCT library, renovations to the Third Floor Lounge and renovations to the Danforth Lounge.

6:11 pm Motion to postpone 0405-091, 0405-092, 0405-093 and 0405-094 to next week (Joe Arasin)

6:11 pm Vote on Motion to postpone 0405-091, 0405-092, 0405-093 and 0405-094 to next week

Passes, voice vote

6:12 pm 0405-098 – Confirmation of Appointments to Assistants to the VPF

- These are unpaid assistants. Would have the ability to audit organizations under the framework of the VPF office. Both Kirk Higgins and Kelly Duncan have expressed an interest. Would look at activity reports, etc., and report back to me about anything they found out of line.

6:13 pm Questions (none)

6:13 pm Discussion

6:13 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

6:13 pm Vote on 0405-098 – Confirmation of Appointments to Assistants to the VPF

Passes, voice vote

6:14 pm New Business From the Floor (none)

6:14 pm Points of Discussion (none)

6:14 pm Announcements

- The next Senate meeting will be on Thursday, February 24th at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. This will be our last meeting before Spring Break. The first meeting after Spring Break will be Thursday, March 17th. See you then!
- College-specific town hall meetings on the issue of the new Faculty Course Evaluations will be occurring soon. Please encourage your constituents to attend and also consider attending yourself. Times for these meetings are from 4:30-5:30:
 1. CIT – Monday, February 21st in Scaife 125
 2. CFA – Wednesday, February 23rd in Margaret Morrison A14
 3. H&SS – Thursday, February 24th in Gregg Hall, Porter 100
 4. SCS – Monday, February 28th in UC Rangos 1
 5. MCS – Tuesday, March 1st in Doherty 1212

6:15 pm Adjourn