

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of February 3rd, 2005

5:53 pm Roll Call

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

Senators Absent: Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS, excused), Wei Tang (SHS)

Members at Large Present: Justin Berka (SHS), Jonathan Chin (HSS), Hanish Dayal (CIT, left early), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Adam Greenberg (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Fei Liu (HSS), Tro Shaw (CFA, left early), Karl Sjogren (HSS, left early), Aaron Walker (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

Members at Large Absent: Brittany McCandless (HSS), Diana Purcell (CFA), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS), Shingai Samudzi (HSS)

5:55 pm Approval of Minutes from 1/27

- At 6:26, "Trotten" should be "Trotter"

5:57 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

5:57 pm Audience Participation

- As members of Hillel, we would like to make you all aware of steps being taken about various speakers that are coming to campus in the near future. Currently, there is a speaker being protested because of his support of violence in the

Middle East. A speaker who is going to be coming to campus soon is Norman Finkelstein, a man who has been known to make statements about Jews exploiting the Holocaust for monetary value, and Israel inflicting Nazi-like war crimes on Palestinians. Since Norman Finkelstein is coming as part of the University Lecture Series, we think there should be someone else there who espouses the opposing view.

- We want the University, the student body, and especially the student body's most active students to look at the benefits of having this speaker come critically. We have a petition circulating campus. If you'd like to get involved or would like more information, please contact me or Josh (jmann@andrew.cmu.edu)

6:01 pm Ex-officio Reports

6:01 pm Campus Police (Detective Hutchinson)

- There have been a series of robberies in this area. Campus police is working with the City Police and Pitt Police to find the bad guy. For the last two weeks, he's been striking between 7 pm and 10 pm. He starts downtown and moves to the Oakland/Squirrel Hill/Shadyside area as the night progresses. He has struck up to 16 times in the past two weeks, and two of our students were victims this past Monday. The suspect is a light complexioned black male, who wears a mask. We think he's between 5'8" and 6' tall. The mask is very well fitted, with rubber edging around the eye area. He wants money and credit cards, and asks for PIN numbers (sometimes making the victim write the numbers down, sometimes making them accompany him to the ATM). The suspect carries either a black gun or a silver gun. The targets are all over the place as far as age, race, or sex goes. We are asking you to be very conscientious of your surroundings, and to be on guard as you're walking around. If you see anything suspicious, please give us or Pittsburgh City Police a call.

6:04 pm Questions

- There are plenty of scam artists out there – and panhandling is not a crime. We try to put out statements on panhandling every semester. Panhandlers know our students are busy, distracted by their various academic endeavors, and we have to be more aware of what's going on around us. Say no, walk away, and if things get the slightest bit aggressive, please call us.
- Campus police will try to be a lot more aggressive. Anyone who even closely fits the description will be asked for identification. This guy got into the basement of

a residential building. Another thing, if you run into him, please just comply and give him the money. If you decide to fight him, give it every ounce of guts and will that you have, because we can't tell you that he isn't going to shoot somebody. If there's anything that you can report to us, we need it.

- There was a man in Shadyside who resisted, and he hit the victim over the head with the gun twice.
- It seems like every night he'll hit point A, then point B, etc. All the robberies have taken place during the week, never during the weekend. Town is his starting point. He's either using a bus, or someone is working with him using a car. If you see someone out there sporting the mask, first stay away, and second call us.
- The mask is knit, and covers every part of his face but his eyes.
- There are some whistles up here at the front in case anyone would like one.
- **passes out pictures of the suspect and what the suspect might look like**

6:15 pm Standing Committee Reports

6:15 pm **Academic Affairs** (Josh Yearsley)

- Going to a meeting with Gloria St. Claire, Dean of Library Services, to determine how much it will cost the school to have Hunt Library open for an additional 25 hours during the last week of classes.
- Exploring different methods for implementing an activity requirement
- Exploring cultural history alternatives to the world history course
- Planning on sending a representative to each SAC
- Comparing FCE systems at other schools and publicly available systems to look at more student-to-student feedback on classes
- Locating the Enrollment Services representative who is in charge of obtaining updated copies of major requirements for Academic Audit

6:16 pm Questions

- Exploring an Activities Requirement as an option for getting students more involved in extra curricular activities on campus

6:17 pm **Business Affairs** (Edward Ryan)

- Trevor Clark is on fire! (He got a soda machine changed to an athletic drink machine, and some other things.)

- We've gotten in touch with parking services after their leader mysteriously disappeared last semester – so the parking amnesty program will be happening.
- If anyone has any suggestions with regards to anything business affairs related, e-mail epr@andrew.cmu.edu

6:18 pm **Campus Life** (Adam Atkinson)

- Rebecca Nathan cleared off all the bulletin boards.
- The CMU gear sale is still going to happen, looking to advertise on cmuTV.
- Postponing the Singled Out date event in order to make it run like we want it to. Currently rescheduled for Carnival – in touch with Carnival Committee about that.
- Heather Andring has lots of ideas about how to make Homecoming a better event. Meeting with her in the first part of February.
- Conducting an art survey (level of satisfaction with art resources, what the market is for art events).
- Ed and I are going to have a “non-confrontational sit-down” with computing services to discuss what is going to happen in the coming years with the printing policy.

6:21 pm Questions (none)

6:21 pm **Communications** (Maureen Burns)

- Made posters to advertise vacancies in Tepper, HSS and CFA.
- Making sure movies are all clear with regards to copyright issues. Hopefully we can start advertising and showing the movies as soon as possible. Looking to collaborate with cmuTV and WRCT.
- Got back in contact with the two architecture students who are going to make us display cases. They are currently in the process of designing the cases, once they are done we'll submit them to the Design Committee.
- Looking to meet with all the academic deans on campus. Will work with them to get more in touch with the students.
- Going to plan Pizza Information Sessions for all the residence halls we didn't get to last semester.

6:23 pm Questions

- Once we know the dates for the Info Sessions we'll send them out.

6:23 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Tom Sabram)

- Eight organizations came to see us at our last meeting, and four of them are on the dock for tonight's Senate meeting. The other four organizations we wanted to work with more before bringing their requests to Senate.

6:24 pm Questions (none)

6:25 pm **Internal Development** (Michelle Birchak)

- Finally got a petition for the vacant CFA seat, we'll be looking at it next week.
- The Senate retreat will be on Sunday the 13th at 11 am. Everyone is required to be there – if you can't be there for some really good reason, let me know.

6:26 pm **Diversity** (Josh Yearsley)

- Developing questions to be answered by any committee addressing the Carnegie Mellon Code and the degree to which members of the community can be held accountable to the Code
- Listing Action Items to be charged to each committee of Student Senate

6:26 pm Questions (none)

6:26 pm **Senate Chair** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

- Coming up will be a motion to establish a referendum on the Newspaper Fee.
- At GSA last night they had a discussion about Student Government elections – mainly about how to integrate grad students into the election process. The rules they were voting on passed. They also passed an amendment to change the title of the rules from Student Senate Rules to Student Government Rules.

6:27 pm Questions (none)

6:28 pm Motion to move Filling the H&SS Vacancies to now (Andrea Hamilton)

6:28 pm Discussion

6:29 pm Vote on moving Filling the H&SS Vacancies to now

Fails, voice vote

6:29 pm New Business From Committee

6:29 pm **0405-074 – Non-funded Recognition of Best Buddies**

- International organization that pairs students with people from the community who have intellectual disabilities. Pitt and Duquesne have chapters, and we want to start one here too.

6:30 pm Questions

- There are already 8 students who have been paired with people from the community.

6:30 pm Discussion (none)

6:30 pm Call the Question (Josh Yearsley)

6:30 pm Vote on 0405-074 – Non-funded Recognition of Best Buddies

Passes, voice vote

6:31 pm **0405-075 Non-funded Recognition of Step Up!**

- Organization for everyone on campus. Will conduct a program where the first part is for first year participants to go through a seminar that teaches them how to make a difference in the community. In the spring semester they'll be paired with an upper-class mentor. Want to give students skills to become community leaders.

6:32 pm Questions (none)

6:32 pm Discussion (none)

6:32 pm Call the Question (Tro Shaw as proxy for Andrew Gehling)

6:33 pm Vote on 0405-075 Non-funded Recognition of Step Up!

Passes, voice vote

6:33 pm **0405-076 – Special Allocation of \$6000 to the ArtsPass**

- ArtsPass is the program that enables you to go to lots of Pittsburgh museums for free. We get a bill for each student that goes. All Carnegie Museums are covered by the ArtsPass. ArtsPass also covers the Mattress Factory, Phipps Conservatory and others.
- In the past we've given \$4000 to ArtsPass due to price increases. ArtsPass needs \$6000 for each of their six partners.

6:34 pm Questions

- Six partners are Senate, GSA, CFA, and others.
- We serve 7 to 9 thousand museum visits per year for all the museums.

6:35 pm Discussion

- Amount of money they need has increased due to increased museum visits. ArtsPass has also been operating at a deficit. For instance, pay \$8 a head per visit to the Carnegie Science Center, and even that is at a big discount.
- The number of students who go, as opposed to the number of visits per year, is not known. Everything is done manually at this point.
- This allocation is worth every dollar – and it's obviously invaluable to many students (and not just CFA students). The popularity of the ArtsPass has spread throughout campus.

6:38 pm Call the Question (Maureen Burns)

6:39 pm Vote on 0405-076 – Special Allocation of \$6000 to the ArtsPass

Passes, voice vote

6:39 pm **0405-077 – Special Allocation of \$175 to the Carnegie Pulse**

- Holding a UC Fridays event in February. Having school bands come, popcorn, cotton candy, games, face painter, balloon artist, and a caricature artist. Special allocation to held with expenses, Student Activities is helping.

6:41 pm Questions (none)

6:41 pm Discussion

- A lot of organizations go out to do UC Fridays – this allocation is unnecessary, have never seen a UC Friday plan this elaborate.
- The UC Friday program has been around for a number of years. Up until this year the program has been entirely funded, operated and planned by student activities. This year, individual organizations are allowed to plan and operate UC Fridays.
- There have been a number of UC Fridays events planned by various organizations – and if each organization has wanted to spend more than Student Activities has allotted them, they'd go into their own budget. The Pulse is in a situation where they have no budget to go into.
- The question is, is the amount of money they're requesting worth the activities they are willing to produce for it.

6:46 pm Call the Question (Tro Shaw as proxy for Andrew Gehling)

6:46 pm Objection

6:47 pm Motion to amend 0405-077 to say "... Special Allocation of \$350 to the..." (Joe Arasin)

- Compared to a lot of the things we fund, this is an ideal use of the student activities fee. If we can make this event better we should do so.

6:48 pm Discussion

- The Carnegie Pulse has put a lot of work into this and has brought many different groups together to make this event.
- Everything is being put out at a very good price. We looked at two other booking agencies, and two performers that were Carnegie Mellon students, but they were much more expensive.
- Funding this event is like funding two UC Fridays events.
- Performers will be performing for two hours.

- Worried about the precedent this sets. Not comfortable because people will think they can just get \$350 any time they want to do a UC Fridays event.
- Encourage Senate to think about the services you're being offered for the money requested.
- It seems like our objections are more with the venue as opposed to the event itself. We wouldn't object to giving them the money if it were any other day.
- It's very rare that we sponsor events that so many people would be interested in. This would be a great event for the whole community.
- Original amount of \$350 was cut because the items we thought were unnecessary (an additional performer) would just take the event from being over-the-top to being an excellent event.

6:55 pm Vote on Motion to amend 0405-077 to say "... Special Allocation of \$350 to the..."

Passes, hand vote (11:6:7)

6:57 pm Call the Question (Josh Yearsley)

6:57 pm Vote on 0405-077 – Special Allocation of \$350 to the Carnegie Pulse

Passes, voice vote

6:58 pm Special Business

6:59 pm **0405-078 – Filling the H&SS Vacancies (2 seats, 9 petitioned)**

6:59 pm Motion to move Karl Sjogrin to the front because he has to leave

6:59 pm Motion passes by acclamation

6:59 pm Speech (Karl Sjogrin)

7:02 pm Questions

7:04 pm Speech (Benjamin Hackett)

7:04 pm Questions

7:14 pm Speech (Fei Liu)

7:17 pm Questions

7:17 pm Speech (Jimmy Song)

7:20 pm Questions

7:22 pm Speech (Sean Weinstock)

7:23 pm Questions

7:24 pm Statement (Katelin Jones)

7:25 pm Discussion

7:45 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

7:45 pm Objection

7:46 pm Vote on 0405-078 – Filling the H&SS Vacancies (2 seats, 9 petitioned)

Sean Weinstock takes the first seat, roll call vote

7:52 pm Discussion (continued)

7:52 pm Call the Question (Maureen Burns)

Benjamin Hackett takes the second seat, roll call vote

7:55 pm **0405-078 – Filling the TSB Vacancy (1 seat, 3 petitioned)**

7:59 pm Speech (Long Pham)

8:01 pm Questions

8:03 pm Speech (Kohta Wajima)

8:05 pm Questions

8:05 pm Discussion

8:15 pm Call the Question (James Rogers)

8:15 pm Vote on 0405-078 – Filling the TSB Vacancy (1 seat, 3 petitioned)

Long Pham takes the TSB seat, roll call vote

8:19 pm **0405-080 – An Act Establishing a Referendum on a Newspaper Fee**

- Two things important to point out – the value of the program to the students (did the Pilot Program last fall), need to inspire critical thinking about the world outside campus. Newspapers offer a good window into the outside world. Conducted a survey to find out the desirability of the program to students – 73% of the 300 students who responded to the survey said that they'd agree to a minimum charge of \$4 per student per semester. In an online poll conducted by the Carnegie Pulse, 70% agreed to pay for the service.

8:21 pm Questions

- The survey put forth by the company asked if they'd be willing to pay nothing, between 4 and 7 dollars, and other amounts.
- Only 11% said they wouldn't be willing to pay anything for the service.
- The results of the survey were sent to an independent company for analysis.
- The papers that would be a part of the program would be USA Today, The NY Times, and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette.
- With the \$5 fee, we would be able to put out more NY Times papers, hopefully meeting student demand for them.
- For now, we can't stop Grad students from taking our papers. The technology we're currently using (the only technology that doesn't require too significant an

investment) does not differentiate between Grad and Undergrad IDs, though it does block out faculty and staff. To a certain extent, no matter what ID distinctions can be made, there will never be a full-proof system. There will be “For Undergraduate Students Only” signage, etc. Sources of papers will be placed strategically as well.

- Will be measuring daily to adjust where to put papers on a day to day basis so as to make sure we’re not running out of papers in certain places before others.

8:28 pm Discussion

- It’s unfortunate that there’s no way to keep grads from getting the papers – but we should send this to our constituents. If grads are a problem, we can take it to GSA.
- Unhappy with how this is being put forth to the campus. Not sure how good 20% readership during the elections is, but people should be aware of it before it goes to referendum. Would like to see the wording changed.
- The wording is misleading – a lot of people aren’t going to read the introductory paragraph if one is included, and will only read the referendum itself.
- People should not be forced to buy things they’re not going to use. Additionally, these three newspapers are the most widely available.
- When we ran this program, there was no negative feedback. We could have an introductory paragraph explaining the situation in greater detail. The 20% readership figure is 20% readership every day (there could be different people reading the newspapers every day). 20% usage is a lot larger a participation percentage than most other activities that we fund.
- By having a referendum, we’re not forcing this on the student body – only letting them choose.
- Just because someone didn’t pick up the newspaper at the distribution point doesn’t mean it’s not getting read by them (often newspapers that are just lying around where someone left them are read).
- The wording of the referendum can be left in the hands of the elections board.

8:43 pm Motion to amend the referendum to say: “...Student Body; The wording may be changed by the elections board and then approved by the Student Senate” (Meg Richards)

8:43 pm Discussion

8:44 pm Call the Question (Michelle Birchak)

8:45 pm Vote on the Amendment to the Referendum

Passes, voice vote

8:45 pm Motion to strike the clause "...and then approved by the Student Senate" from the referendum (Meg Richards)

8:46 pm Discussion

8:47 pm Vote on Striking the clause "...and then approved by the Student Senate" from the referendum

Fails, voice vote

8:48 pm Motion to Postpone 0405-080 – An Act Establishing a Referendum on a Newspaper Fee until next week's meeting

8:48 pm Discussion

- We can amend this so that it is clearer next week, and not be so rushed about it.

8:48 pm Call the Question (James Rogers)

8:48 pm Vote on Postponement of 0405-080 – An Act Establishing a Referendum on a Newspaper Fee

Passes, voice vote

8:48 pm New Business from the Floor (none)

8:48 pm Motion to move straight to Announcements (Michelle Birchak)

8:48 pm Motion passes by Acclamation

8:49 pm Announcements

- There is still one vacancy in Senate in the College of Fine Arts. The CFA seat will be filled on a rolling basis and the vote to fill it will occur at the meeting following the submission of a petition.
- As a reminder, the Student Senate retreat will be held on Sunday, February 13th at 11:00am in Rangos 1. Attendance is mandatory and will count as a general body meeting absence, unless otherwise excused.
- The next Senate meeting will be on Thursday, February 10th at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. See you then!
- Everyone who ran today was a strong candidate, and should still become active in Senate activities.
- All 15 chairs that came over from the other side of the partition need to go back to the other side of the partition!

8:50 pm Adjourn