

# CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of February 10th, 2005

## 5:40 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (HSS, came late, excused), Abigail Barnes (CIT), Andres Bermudez (HSS, left early), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Maureen Burns (CFA, came late, excused), Kathryn Cooper (MCS, proxy), Laura Drogowski (MCS, left early), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Andrea Hamilton (BHA, came late), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA, came late, excused), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT, proxy), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS), Long Pham (TSB), Nasheena Porter (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS), James Rogers (CIT, proxy, left early), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS, partial proxy), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB, came late), Wei Tang (SHS, left early), Sean Weinstock (HSS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT)

**Senators Absent:** Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Trevor Clark (CFA, excused), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Josh Yearsley (HSS, excused)

**Members at Large Present:** Jonathan Chin (HSS), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Aaron Kao (CIT), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Diana Purcell (BHA), Aaron Walker (CIT)

**Members at Large Absent:** Justin Berka (SHS, excused), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Adam Greenberg (CIT, excused), Fei Liu (HSS), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS), Shingai Samudzi (HSS), Tro Shaw (CFA, excused), Karl Sjogren (HSS), Kohta Wajima (TSB), Aaron Walker (CIT)

## 5:42 pm Approval of Minutes from 2/3

- Jonathan Mendelson's noted absence is excused

5:43 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

5:44 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:44 pm Ex-officio Reports

5:44 pm **Activities Board** (Andrew Moore)

- Working with the Women's Center on Sex Week, and taking the financial lead in a couple of areas. One of those areas is the film they're showing.
- AB has also been working with Mosiac, and substantially funding the honorarium for Gloria Steinem.
- There will be a coffee house in Rangos on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>.
- AB's bid went through for the Spring Carnival concert.
- AB is also working with the Women's Center to bring in a comedian on February 25<sup>th</sup> to perform in McConomy, and on holding an Underground event.

5:46 pm Questions (none)

5:46 pm **Campus Police** (no report)

5:46 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** (no report)

5:46 pm **Greek Council** (no report)

5:46 pm **Student Affairs** (no report)

5:46 pm **Student Dormitory Council** (no report)

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

- The Hundred Days senior event last week was a great success. Packed the second floor of Dot's from 7 – 10 pm. If you have any ideas for future events, please let me (or Heather Andring) know.
- If you haven't signed up for the February SafeZone training, you are no longer able to do so. Sign up for the March 25<sup>th</sup> SafeZone training by March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Working with Dean Murphy and Indira Nair on creating a forum for the controversial speakers policy in response to a number of speakers who have come to campus and who will come to campus in the near future.
- Will be traveling to Qatar with 9 or 10 other students over spring break. There will also be about 6 or 7 members of the Qatar campus coming here later in the year.

5:49 pm Questions

- The Qatar campus is operational, but now is the first time everyone from both campuses will be together.

5:49 pm **Student Body Vice President** (no report)

5:49 pm **Student Body Vice President for Finance** (Steve Kling)

- The deadline for JFC budget proposals is coming up soon. Will have numbers by my next report. Working on making this year's process smoother than last year's.
- There is a constitutional amendment before you tonight in response to a couple of issues that have come up.

5:50 pm Questions (none)

**5:50 pm Old Business**

**5:50 pm 0405-080 – An Act Establishing a Referendum on a Newspaper Fee (as amended)**

5:51 pm Discussion (continued from 2/3)

- The \$5 was decided on based on calculations made during the trial period of the program. The fee does not go to USA Today or any other newspaper, but goes to Student Activities. Student Activities can use the fee however it wants as long as the fee is used for newspapers (i.e. we're not tied to this particular program).
- Distribution will be controlled by swiping your ID card in non-dormitory locations, and will be placed on open racks in dormitories. The card readers will not be able to differentiate between undergrads and grads, but will not accept faculty or staff cards.

5:54 pm Vote on 0405-080 – An Act Establishing a Referendum on a Newspaper Fee (as amended)

Passes, voice vote

**5:54 pm New Business From Committee**

**5:54 pm 0405-081 – Non-funded Recognition of the CMU Math Club**

- Club for students interested in mathematics, provides assistance for students looking for career opportunities in mathematics. 60-80 students came to their first meeting. Other goals are to share math with the community and provide academic assistance to area school children. John Mackey is their advisor.

5:55 pm Questions (none)

5:55 pm Discussion

5:55 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

5:55 pm Vote on 0405-081 – Non-funded Recognition of the CMU Math Club

Passes, voice vote

**5:56 pm 0405-082 – Non-funded recognition of Students for Peduto**

- Purpose of the group is to engage students in the local political process.

5:57 pm Questions

- College Democrats has a different perspective than the members of this group do, so they need their own organization.

5:57 pm Discussion

5:57 pm Call the Question (Aaron Kao as proxy for Kathryn Cooper)

5:58 pm Vote on 0405-082 – Non-funded recognition of Students for Peduto  
Passes, voice vote

5:58 pm **0405-083 – Non-funded Recognition of College Prep Tutoring**

- Currently have six members, want to be able to recruit more members via postering, etc.

5:58 pm Motion to postpone until representative is present (Jonathan Mendelson)

5:59 pm Motion passed by acclamation

5:59 pm **0405-084 – Non-funded recognition of Tartans for Israel**

- Club started about a week ago, open to all members of the University community. 50 members so far. Dedicated to Israel and what is going on in Israel. Faculty advisor is Oded Meyer.

5:59 pm Questions (none)

5:59 pm Discussion

6:00 pm Call the Question (Sean Weinstock)

6:00 pm Vote on 0405-084 – Non-funded recognition of Tartans for Israel  
Passes, voice vote

6:00 pm **0405-085 – Non-funded recognition of Alpha Kappa Psi**

- Professional business fraternity. Currently have about 30 members, do not discriminate at all, accepting of all majors, and abide by all Senate rules. Fraternity is co-ed.

6:01 pm Questions

- Stress three things in their fraternity: Brotherhood, Service and Professionalism. A lot of fraternities emphasize brotherhood and professionalism, but we're the only ones who emphasize service as well. Not just a bunch of friends getting together who have common interests.

6:03 pm Vote on 0405-085 – Non-funded recognition of Alpha Kappa Psi  
Passes, voice vote

6:03 pm **0405-086 – Funded recognition of the Undergraduate Investment Club  
(2/3rds vote)**

- Club has been around for the past two semesters, got funded by Dean Murphy last semester in order to carry out their activities. Hold movie nights and lectures. Events have been very well attended. Have been working with both Tom and GSA. Adhere to GSA regulations. Miriam is also in support of them.

#### 6:04 pm Questions

- Planning on holding and have held events like stock competitions, will use money for marketing, gifts for professional speakers, t-shirts.
- Club does not have an investment pool, as they exist for the purpose of education.
- Club is focused solely on investing. People come to their events, so there obviously is a demand for the events. The finance club is focused on wall street specifically, and getting jobs in investing. We do things in real estate, etc.
- There are about 10 people on the board, and 120 people on the d-list.

#### 6:07 pm Discussion

- Club does not deserve to be funded – they can wait until next year.
- The club has put on events so they should be supported.
- Club will not be charging a fee so as to further their goal of educating everyone about investing.
- Should be evaluating the organization based on what services they provide to the community – not how many other organizations there are like it.
- The club was started at the beginning of last spring.
- The club would be limited to a \$500 subsidy in their first year of funding.
- No reason why they should be getting funding now – would be a bad precedent to set.

#### 6:14 pm Motion to give Tom Teracino speaking rights (Tom Sabram)

#### 6:15 pm Motion passed by acclamation

- There are certainly other organizations out there who are similar to us, but people came to our events. 48 people came to our stock options event. That turnout indicates that we're filling a need that is there.
- It would be more worthwhile to fund one larger organization than to fund two smaller organizations that serve the same purpose.
- Non-funded recognition was granted to them in April of last year.
- If the motion is not passed now, they will have to come back this Fall.

- Movies that the Club has shown include Wall Street, Boiler Room, and Trading Places.

6:22 pm Motion to Move the Question (Tanvir Suri)

6:22 pm Vote on Motion to Move the Question

Passes, hand vote (17:4:5)

6:23 pm Vote on 0405-086 – Funded recognition of the Undergraduate Investment Club (2/3rds vote)

Fails, hand vote (12:11:4)

6:24 pm Motion to move 0405-088 to now as representative has class (Laura Drogowski)

6:24 pm Motion passes by acclamation

6:24 pm **0405-088 – Special Allocation of \$500 to Tartans for Israel**

- Running an event, flyers for which the president is holding up. Bringing in a speaker from Israel who is a political and military analyst. Lectures all over the world. Also bringing in a panel of students and professors in the Pittsburgh area who have served in the Israeli military. The event will be held this Wednesday.
- Funding and Recognition has thoroughly researched this speaker, and he has neither said nor done anything that could at all be construed as controversial.

6:26 pm Questions

- There is no one from the opposing side coming to speak because this is not a political event. Completely non-confrontational.
- Have not heard any opposition to this event at all. The people who usually oppose our events are actually in favor of it.
- The goal of Tartans for Israel is to create cultural and political awareness of Israel and it's situation in the world.

6:28 pm Discussion

6:29 pm Vote on 0405-088 – Special Allocation of \$500 to Tartans for Israel

Passes, voice vote

6:29 pm **0405-087 – Special Allocation of \$4300 to the Filmmaking Club**

- Had only one camera to begin with, so having it break is a real crisis. Without this allocation, the organization will have a really hard time functioning.

6:29 pm Questions

- Both camera and monitor were in use for 5 years.
- There are about 45 active members in the club.

- The equipment to be purchased will last about 10 years.
- In any given month there are many projects going on. The three rivers film festival showed one of our movies.
- AB Films shows films, and does not make them. We hold a film festival of our own every year to show the films students make on campus, as well as student films from Pitt and the greater Pittsburgh community.
- Last camera was purchased with money from our budget many years ago. We were under the impression that there was an insurance policy for the camera – but then found out after the camera broke that there was no such policy.
- The camera broke about two months ago, and we'll definitely be getting an insurance policy for this camera.
- We'll be instituting a sign-in/sign-out policy for all our equipment and a new liability policy. Insurance will cover the loss of any future equipment.
- Not getting any money from GSA. About 4-5 members of the 45 active members are grad students.
- The film festival is a fund-raiser. Applied for funding from various departments. Will consider going to GSA for funding.

6:38 pm Discussion

- Having a camera is very important for their organization. Definitely a valid use of the special allocation funds.
- The film festival is really good and has really good attendance. Organization is a really good way for students interesting in filmmaking to do this kind of thing.

6:39 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

6:39 pm Objection

6:40 pm Discussion (continued)

- Should not award them the full cost of the camera, as doing so would be rewarding them for bad planning.
- The members of the organization have obviously learned from their mistakes.
- They should consider going to GSA in addition to coming here.

6:43 pm Motion to give Larry Suarez speaking rights (Tom Sabram)

6:43 pm Motion passed by acclamation

6:43 pm Discussion (continued)

- Buying another of the same camera would be much more expensive than what they're planning to buy.
- Should be careful of becoming the campus insurance company.
- Lots of people are obviously very interested in this group, and they need a camera to keep up their organization.
- No confidence that GSA will give them funding. If we fund an organization to begin with, it's our job to make sure they take precautions when buying equipment. If we didn't, it's our fault. It's not our job to enact retribution for what happened in the past.
- Funding this purchase does not set a bad precedent. We're here to help students when they're putting on great services for the community. GSA will not fund them, as 90% of their organization is undergrad.

6:47 pm Call the Question (Maureen Burns)

6:47 pm Objection

6:47 pm Discussion (continued)

- Right now we're working on various preproduction aspects of films we're working on, and obviously can't do any actual filming.
- There are many less expensive cameras we could buy, but this is the least expensive professional grade camera we could get.

6:49 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

6:49 pm Vote on 0405-087 – Special Allocation of \$4300 to the Filmmaking Club

Passes, voice vote

6:50 pm **0405-089 – Special allocation of \$1500 to Vijay Palaparty for Transpose (3/4<sup>th</sup> vote)**

- Money is to fund Transpose, an event featuring Indian dances and a professor from the City University of New York. Will also be a performance by several people from Broadway. A classical dance performance by Indian people from Pittsburgh will be included. Has been funded by lots of other sponsors. Program will benefit everyone.

6:51 pm Questions

- Event has two parts – part one at St. Paul's cathedral and part two at the Andy Warhol museum. Event will happen in April. Money will cover the facility and the musical group (why it's a 3/4<sup>th</sup> vote).
- Event will not be held on campus because it's too expensive.

- Anyone can attend the event. In past years there have been fewer Indian people than non-Indian people.
- Marketing and PR will take place on campus specifically. A ticketing program will be in effect. Outside people will be charged \$5 or \$8 dollars, probably free for CMU students.

6:55 pm Discussion

- Would assume that most of the people there would be CMU students, with a small number of those who are not.
- Even if a lot of people are not from CMU, having CMU sponsor the event is great PR for the school.

6:56 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

6:56 pm Vote on 0405-089 – Special allocation of \$1500 to Vijay Palaparty for Transpose (3/4<sup>th</sup> vote)

Passes, voice vote

6:56 pm **0405-090 – Special Allocation of \$1562 to MAPS (3/4<sup>th</sup> vote)**

- Money will allow MAPS to attend the SNMA Annual Medical Education Conference. Will cover registration fees and transportation.

6:57 pm Questions

- Five students wanted to attend, but now only 4 because one of them is a senior.
- Everything we learn at the conference will be posted to our website, thinking about doing a presentation for other organizations like DOCS.
- The conference will cost \$380 per student.
- Students have to pay for food and transportation once they get to St. Louis.

7:01 pm Discussion

- Their going to this conference will not benefit the community as a whole at all. This conference is a private issue that will not benefit all CMU students. Either DOCS or HPP offered a seminar last weekend about applying to medical schools. This conference won't benefit enough people.
- Having them go to this conference does not violate the bylaws, as it does not fit the description of an academic event.

7:08 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

7:08 pm Objection

7:09 pm Discussion (continued)

- Going to this conference is about getting ourselves out there, making contacts and bringing them back to the community.
- There is a precedent for this kind of thing, for example funding the cultural group that went to a conference. However, going to this conference does not inspire their organization.
- This trip could expand CMU's reputation as a whole. It's definitely a positive thing to fund people's interest. We funded SALSA to go to their conference.
- Going to workshops about applying yourself and making yourself a better person, and then bringing it back here.
- Important to realize why it's possible to fund travel. We have to look at what they're bringing back to campus versus the amount of money we're giving them.
- The activities fee should not pay for professional development.
- The school is research based – we don't have a lot of opportunity to talk to people who are going to medical school. The conference is about seeing what's going on in the rest of the US – not just Pittsburgh and the East Coast. In addition to information about medical school we can bring back information about veterinary medicine and dentistry.
- Discourage the Senate Body from making comparisons between other things we've funded and this. Whether this will bring anything back to campus is unsure – it depends on what kinds of efforts they make.
- Tuition money should be spent on this kind of thing, not the activities fee. If we feel students are not getting a good enough education about how to get into medical school then that should be taken up with the school.
- A lot of campus events about getting into medical school are not well attended. There are resources here that serve the same purpose as this conference that people don't take advantage of.

7:16 pm Call the Question (Michelle Birchak)

7:16 pm Objection

7:17 pm Motion to Move the Question (Jonathan Mendelson)

7:17 pm Vote on Motion to Move the Question

Fails, hand vote (15:8:3)

7:18 pm Discussion (continued)

- Having members of MAPS attend this conference does not benefit the campus community. No doubt they should go – but they should be talking to the career center about this, not us.
- They are not trying to go to this conference for their own gain, but to get information and distribute it to their members and the campus community.

7:20 pm Call the Question (Nasheena Porter)

7:20 pm Objection

7:20 pm Discussion (continued)

- This is an academic and professional endeavor, and should not be funded by the student activities fee.

7:21 pm Vote on 0405-090 – Special Allocation of \$1562 to MAPS (3/4<sup>th</sup> vote)

Fails, hand vote (2:17:7)

### **7:22 pm Special Business**

7:22 pm **0405-091 – Introduction of Constitutional Amendments from the Presidential Ad-Hoc Committee on Graduate Involvement in Student Body Elections and Referenda**

**0405-092 – Introduction of the Student Government Election Rules**

**0405-093 – Introduction of the Student Senate Election Rules**

**0405-094 – Introduction of Constitutional Amendment Regarding VPF Duties**

- Last year there were some hiccups in the election process. The grad students did not feel like they had any control. So the basic gist of the amendment is that this enables them to approve the executives. They will also be willing to offer up money to help with election expenses. As per the current rules, all the elections are held in accordance with the student senate election rules, and we are the only body who approves the results.

7:24 pm Questions

- The whole point of these is to get GSA more involved. There have been complaints about how the executives are too close to senate, and not involved enough with GSA.
- The other two motions exist because without them the primary motion would be out-of-wack.
- Student Senate would maintain control over it's own elections – only they executives will require GSA approval.

7:26 pm Motion to amend 0405-094 to say "...Subparagraph b"

- Was meant to be “b,” not “j” by intent

7:26 pm Motion passes by acclamation

7:26 pm Questions (continued)

- The Chairs of the committees mentioned in 0405-094 are not allowed to make the ex-officio member leave a meeting. However, even Senate cannot make ex-officio officers leave unless they are causing a disturbance.

### **7:31 pm New Business From the Floor**

7:31 pm Motion to make Curtis Johnson a new member at large (Louisa Kinoshi as proxy for Nicolette Louissaint)

- Freshman in MCS, biology major. Would like to work with the Diversity Committee or Academic Affairs.

7:32 pm Questions (none)

7:33 pm Discussion

7:34 pm Vote on motion to make Curtis Johnson a new member at large

Passes, voice vote

### **7:35 pm Points of Discussion**

7:35 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Repetitive Comments

- If you're going to make a point that's the same as everyone else's, don't object to calling the question

7:36 pm Point of Discussion Regarding the Opening of the Assistant to the Student Body Vice President of Finance Position

- The position of being an assistant to the Student Body Vice President of Finance is open. Please come speak to me if you'd like to fill the position. Right now, you can do it with only getting the approval of Senate. If you take the position you can perform all the audits you want.

7:38 pm Point of Discussion Regarding the Special Allocations Budget

- There have been a few large allocations so far this year – mainly the ArtsPass, the Filmmaking Club, etc. In the first week we gave out approximately \$8000. Nothing terribly abnormal right now about the amount of money we're spending.
- If there are cases when we believe a fraction of the money should be funded by GSA, we should do it – they usually don't spend their entire special allocation budget.
- There's been a meeting to talk about revisions to the special allocations policy.
- GSA committees meet once a month.

### **7:40 pm Announcements**

- When you pull your laptop plugs out of their sockets, make sure you do not pull anything else out! Otherwise the Chair will be yelled at, and that is bad.
- 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 17th at 5:30pm in UC Peter/Wright/McKenna. See you then!
- Colleges are having Town Hall meetings soon – watch your e-mail!
- Adam Atkinson is in two shows – you should come see them. One is on Sunday in Chosky Theater. The other is WASP – which is next weekend. Tomorrow there's a date auction at 8 pm in Rangos. Lots of people will be auctioned off. Free pizza and pop.
- If anyone is interested in having dinner tonight after this meeting, meet here and we'll find a place to go.

### **7:41 pm Adjourn**