

# CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of November 4, 2004

5:36 pm Senate Picture taken

## 5:43 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (H&SS), Abigail Barnes (CIT), Andres Bermudez (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Maureen Burns (CFA), Trevor Clark (CFA), Kathryn Cooper(MCS, proxy), Laura Drogowski (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Aftyn Giles (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Andrea Hamilton (BHA, proxy), Kevin Lee (HSS), Jean Lester (CFA), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS), Nasheena Porter (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS), James Rogers (CIT), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT)

**Senators Absent:** Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Kirk Higgins (CIT, excused), Jonathan Lee (CIT, 2 absences), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT, excused), Courtney Thompson (TSB, excused)

**Members at Large Present:** Justin Berka (SHS), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Aaron Walker (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

**Members at Large Absent:** James Hazelrig (CIT), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Corrine Pascale (CIT), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS)

## 5:46 pm Call to Order

## 5:46 pm Approval of Minutes

5:47 pm Amendments to the October 28th minutes

- October 28<sup>th</sup>, not September 9<sup>th</sup>
- Seth Feinberg (MCS) no longer a senator
- Sergeant Hunt, not Chief Doyle at 5:43
- CMU police has not directed traffic for some time
- “and” spelled incorrectly at 6:27
- Louisa Kinoshi was present
- Jon Mendelson did not make motion at 6:38

5:48 pm Passed by acclamation

**5:48 pm Audience Participation (none)**

**5:48 pm Committee Reports**

5:48 pm **Academic Affairs** (Jon Mendelson)

- No report.

5:49 pm **Business Affairs** (Ed Ryan)

- The boxes that were crushed are replaced.
- Project lucky charms proceeds.
- A campus express survey is being planned. A mass e-mail will be sent to the student body with questions about usage of campus express.
- Poster board will be set up in the basement of the University Center for between \$50.00 and \$70.00.
- The "Master Plan" is the University's projected building plan for the next few years.
- Tuition Accountability – Finding out from Jen whom to ask about line items, etc., for how the University spends money received for tuition.

5:52 pm **Campus Life** (Nasheena Porter)

- Working on creating Escort Booths (like the shelters the Port Authority has for bus stops), where students can wait for the escort service.
- In the process of getting a date for the Single Doubt event.
- Trying to make sure that the bulletin boards on campus are not abused. If merchants or anyone else does not follow the poster policy, they are fined.
- Will know by December about a Spring break trip.
- Going to Harrisburg this coming Wednesday with Julie and others to discuss Port Authority Issues.
- Checking of the boards for poster violations happens once per week.
- A poster policy administrator has been hired.

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

- Working on funding for communications display cases, and getting students to make them.
- Having meetings with RA's on campus. Student concerns include dining, having an Oakland community lounge.

- The movie clip senate is working on is almost done. The viewing that was supposed to happen this past Monday did not work out, but will happen this coming Monday.
- Sean and Courtney worked on walking around campus documenting locations of bulletin boards in academic buildings. The list was sent out to organizations on campus.
- Working to obtain different colors of paper in machines for student organizations to use.

5:56 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Tom Sabram)

- No report.

5:56 pm **Internal Development** (Michelle Birchak)

- Fiscal policy amendments and funded recognition policy are coming up this week.

5:56 pm **Diversity** (Josh Yearsley)

- Preliminary list of people was e-mailed.
- Contact Josh to be on the committee.
- E-mail [jyearsle@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:jyearsle@andrew.cmu.edu) to be placed on the list

5:57 pm Julie would like to know which senators are coming to Harrisburg on Wednesday

5:58 pm **Senate Chair** (Nick Scocozzo)

- There is an event in the Posner center this week, but we will be back there this coming week.
- We now have a clerk.

**5:58 pm New Business From Committee**

5:58 pm **0405-044 - Special Allocation of \$250 to Chabad House**

5:59 pm Questions

- There are 20-30 people known to be coming. AB is cosponsoring the event, and a lot of their funding is already worked out.
- The date and time is Saturday from 9-11.
- This qualifies as a performance if we had already passed the fiscal policy amendments.
- Hasidic is a type of Jew. Hasidic reggae means doing reggae in Hebrew, and Matisyahu came last year.

6:01 pm Discussion

6:01 pm Call the Question

6:01 pm Vote on 0405-044

Passes, voice vote

6:02 pm **0405-045 – Special Allocation of \$35 to the Undergraduate Finance Association**

6:02 pm Questions

- A case competition is a competition in which professors write up scenarios for groups to solve.
- There is \$8000 left in the budget.
- The \$35 covers the cost of materials.

6:04 pm Discussion

6:04 pm Motion to table 0405-045 since a representative is not here

6:05 pm Vote on Motion to table 0405-045

Passes, voice vote.

6:05 pm **0405-046 – Special Allocation of \$7500 to cmuTV**

6:09 pm Questions

- Senate has its own funding allocation, if senate spends over that amount, the money comes from the Student Senate Reserve.
- Funding and Recognition recommends that cmuTV gets as much as they normally do, and then take the rest out of the reserve.
- Senate has its own account, a UC capital account that is totally separate from GSA, senate reserve. There is the capital reserve just in case senate go into deficit. This allocation would come from the senate reserve.
- Having a video playback unit would help with scheduling more varied material to be played on the channel. Right now, cmuTV has lots of material but can only play what can fit on the space of a DVD, so there would be less repeat if cmuTV could get the playback unit.

6:12 pm Discussion

6:14 pm Call the Question

6:15 pm Vote on 0405-046

Passes, voice vote

6:15 pm **0405-047 – Introduction to Amendments to the Fiscal Policy (Bylaws Amendment)**

6:16 pm Questions

- Executive committee will give its opinion by next week.
- No idea as to who will take over now that Michelle is gone.

**6:17 pm New Business From the Floor**

6:17 pm Nomination of Jonathan Chin for Member at Large

6:17 pm Questions

6:18 pm Discussion

6:18 pm Vote

Passes, voice vote

**6:19 pm Points of Discussion**

- Discussion of problems with light fixtures in senator's room in West Wing
  - Should discuss problem with SDC
  - Discussing the problem with Housing might not be helpful

6:20 pm Motion to give Dan Papasian Speaking Rights during this Points of Discussion

Passed by Acclamation

- Discussion of senators being aware of issues that are important to the community.
  - Senators should talk to members of the community to become informed about issues affecting them
  - The second fraternity in two years was kicked off the quad recently, and many greeks are concerned about their relationship with the university as members of fraternities.
  - Senators should be familiar with why these events occur, and should know what students' reactions are to these events.
  - Some students think that there are signs in the Master Plan that indicate that the University does not want greeks on campus at all (e.g. rebuilding/remodeling of frat houses).
  - However, administrators maintain that they are committed to having a Greek community on campus.
- Discussion of funding for SDC and dorms fee spending supervision
  - Rumors of SDC mismanaging the dorm activities fee, through taking officers out for dinner with money from the fee, as well as a very large budget for buggy

- SDC's budget for buggy has not been 15,000, but more like 8,000 in the past.
- Senate should see it as their responsibility to make sure the dorms fee is well spent
- Discussion of TSA's "pimps and ho's" party as relating to censorship and the role of senate in deciding what is appropriate for organizations receiving funding to do
  - TSA had a "pimps and ho's" themed party.
  - Some people found this theme to be very degrading, especially in that the party was well publicized. However, this particular theme for parties is not at all new.
  - Discussion about whether senate is in charge of monitoring and categorizing organizations' behavior as ethical, unethical, etc.
  - Discussion about whether senate should be concerned if a group of students is not coming to them directly.
  - Senate should not go around trying to censor groups' behavior, but there should be awareness about this issue, because comparisons can be made between it and the Natrat.
  - It might be more effective if Senate did not act as a mediator, and instead individual students or groups of students voiced their concerns directly to the offending organization.
  - Possible that this kind of party theme reflects our generation and not the organization hosting the party.
  - There is now a diversity committee, and this issue falls into their domain.
  - This issue also is the same as the natrat, aside from scale.

6:41 pm Call to an end this point of discussion

#### Objection

- This type of situation could potentially lead to another natrat.
- These days pop culture employs a lot of these terms and themes, and people should not be offended.
- It's not censorship if senate says that we only want to put our funding into organizations that promote positive events.
- Should possibly talk to the group and explore the underlying issues.
- Senate created a committee to look into these issues.

6:47 pm Motion to end this point of discussion

Passes, vote vote

**6:48 pm Announcements**

- Safewalk, an invaluable service that provides walking escorts to students on campus, is currently in dire need of students to volunteer to be escorts to keep this service going. If you are interested in helping out, please take an application up at the front.
- Due to not receiving any petitions, Senate still has a vacancy in CFA. Please spread the word that we are still looking for someone to fill the spot. Senate will consider the vacancy at the General Body meeting after receiving a valid CFA petition.
- Student Senate's next meeting will be on Thursday, November 11th at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. See you there!
- The mile of quarters event will take place this Saturday from 12-2 in the UC gym.
- The Mr. Fraternity contest will be this Saturday at 7:30.
- Two weeks from tomorrow is KGB's Capture the Flag with Stuff. See [www.cmukgb.org](http://www.cmukgb.org) for details.
- ASA is holding their semi-formal on November 14th at the Pittsburgh Aquarium.

**6:49 pm Adjourn**