

# CMU Student Senate

RAW Minutes of May 3, 2007

## 5:06 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Rotimi Abimbola (HSS, 2 absences), Matt Adams (TSB, 3 absences, proxy), Robert Bethea (CIT, 1 absence, .5absence), Joel Bergstein(CIT), Gerrit Betz(HSS), Byron Chou (TSB, .5absence), Philip Croul (HSS, 1 absences), Alan Eaton (CIT), Kate Eckerle (MCS, 1 absence), Joe Gershenson (SCS, 2 absences), Danielle Griswold (HSS, 2 absences), Jenny Han (SCS, 1 absence), Ashley Hill (CIT, 2 absence, .5absence), Lauren Hudock (HSS), Jared Itkowitz (TSB, 1 absence), Melissa Kim (CIT, 1 absence), Megan Larcom (TSB), Cyrus Larijani (BHA), Emily Leathers (SCS), Edward Oh (1 absence, .5absence), Evan Osheroff (MCS, 1 absence), Dan O'Toole (CIT, 1 absence), Fredrico Pineda (MCS, 2 absences), Colin Sternhell (HSS), Brian Wade (HSS, .5absence), Lauren Walch (CIT)

**Senators Absent:** Julia Li (CFA, 3 absences), Paris Obdan (CIT, 3 absences, .5absence),

## 5:07 pm Call to Order

## 5:07 pm Approval of Minutes from 4/26/2007

## 5:07 pm Audience Participation

## 5:07 pm Committee Reports

5:07 pm **Academic Affairs** (Evan Osheroff)

- No report

5:08 pm **Business Affairs** (Jared Itkowitz)

- It is confirmed that the Hunt Library Apple Orchard will become a PC cluster. Those Macs will be moved to a Wean cluster
- The Linex computers will be moved to the West Wing cluster to become a Linux cluster
- This will be enacted in the summer
- The computer kiosks will be finalized within the next 17 days and will be operational in the fall

5:09 pm Questions

- Is there any way the kiosks will be done by orientation?

- Hopefully it will be finished in the summer
- Where are the computers going to be?
- It's going to be along the wall that separates the black chairs and Si Senior

5:10 **Campus Life** (Megan Larcom)

- No report

5:10 pm **Communications** (Lauren Hudock)

- We advertised and people voted
- We had 1,933 votes, which is more than in previous years

5:10 pm Questions

5:11 pm **Finance** (Alan Eaton)

- \$1,900 will go into reserves if all the allocations pass today

5:11 pm Questions

5:11 pm **Internal Development** (Gerrit Betz)

- I wrote you the resolutions. Give them a read through
- This year ID had a rocky start, didn't get a lot accomplished. It was mainly focused on paperwork. For the second semester, I tried getting senate together with retreats, coffee, etc
- ID had a \$6000 budget this year. I encourage the new ID to have coffee after meetings at Skibo and splurge on a cool retreat

5:13 pm Questions

- Do you have a budget to pass today?
- We do. Technically all the money is in the same funds. We can't approve the budget today, but that money will be in the Senate funds for next year.

5:15 pm **Chair** (Joel Bergstein)

- Until further notice, you are all senators.
- All of you will be required to attend one meeting next year. I don't know when the elections will be
- If you want to do a budget, we can do that in new business from the floor

5:16 pm Questions

5:16 pm Move to move Old Business after Business from Committee (Emily Leathers), second (Alan Eaton)

- They should be able to leave and not have to wait while we discuss old business

**5:17 pm New Business from Committee**

5:17 pm **0607-105 Special Allocation of \$700 to JSA**

- The DC trip was very successful.
- The school has a list of preferred school busses and the one they took was not on that list.
- The bus they used was \$700 more than they expected

5:19 pm Questions

5:19 pm Discussion

- This wasn't their fault

5:19 pm Call the Question (Colin Sternhell)

5:20 pm Passed by Consent

5:20 pm **0607-106 Special Allocation of \$300 to ISA**

- ISA and JSA got together to hold an etiquette dinner
- The Chef made and prepared dinners and put a cap on the number of students that can attend
- We sold all 35 tickets
- This is the second year we did this and we sold out both years
- We received great feedback. Japanese food is expensive and we hoped our budget could help with the ticket costs
- We hired a chef from Kaya
- The anticipated cost was higher than expected

5:22 pm Questions

- How much were tickets?
- It was \$25 a ticket for about \$30 worth of food
- How many of students that attended were from the 2 clubs?
- There were a lot from JSA, but there were still students outside of those clubs

5:23 pm Discussion

5:23 pm Voice Vote, Passed

5:23 pm **0607-107 Special Allocation of \$500 to The Cut**

- They came last week, and we told them to come again
- They need this funding to be able to function in the summer.
- They need \$500 for the down payment on printing. They can come back again in the fall
- We're going to publish in October so we'll start right when we get back
- The Initial request was \$2800 for the full payment of the first 3 issues

5:24 pm Questions

- What do you plan to use as additional funding?
- There's been a music foundation that has agreed to give us funding
- Is this monthly or weekly?
- Monthly
- Will they be able to spend this money before accounts freeze?
- Yes, they can roll it over.

5:25 pm Discussion

- They've been here before and we should continue being supportive
- It seems well organized

5:26 pm Voice Vote, Passed

### **5:26 pm Unfinished Business**

5:26 pm **0607-100 Campaign Funds Amendment**

5:27 pm Questions

- What is the point behind setting a max cap?
- There are several intentions. One is having a student election where all students can campaign without detracting from the issues they're running for.
- Is this going into the Constitution or the Senate bylaws?
- This will be added to the Elections Board bylaws
- This says Senate and GSA can override the minimum and maximum funds. This is the only time "minimum funds" is mentioned. Shouldn't we put that in somewhere?
- Yes we can change it
- Is there a guideline for how much funds are set?
- It's the Elections board prerogative but Senate and GSA can override it
- Will overrides be done on a case by case basis?
- No. It's overriding the whole minimum or maximum amount. It's not done per person
- Do the Elections Board bylaws have to be approved by Senate?
- Yes
- No committee outside of senate can pass money without GSA and Senate's consent, so shouldn't GSA and Senate set a maximum?
- If people disagree, they can very easily override it
- We might want to be careful about "grounds for dismissal". Would it be appropriate to refer them to the university disciplinary council?

- What's the definition of "in kind" donations? What if someone made a website for you and doesn't charge you? How do you decide a monetary value to something if it's in kind? And wouldn't self made contributions be in kind? If I spend my own money or make a website on resources I already have?
- We don't want to mandate accounting principles in here. It's easier to deal with as they come up
- This seems really sticky. Could you give me a reason you believe this needs to be here?
- We wanted to set up a procedure saying they can set up a maximum if they want. Its anticipating one day someone will want to set up a maximum and there will be a consistent procedure
- What happens if there isn't any money left over for the Elections Board to reimburse candidates?
- If Senate and GSA already passed the cap, money will come out of the Capital Fund.
- Should we add something saying if you're unsure about your campaigning you should talk to someone ahead of time?
- I agree with the thought, but I don't think it should be put in the bylaws
- The Election rules say the maximum anyone can spend on their campaign is \$1 per person on campus.
- What happens if you run without a vice president?
- After you get elected, you appoint one
- Vice President isn't an office you run for, you run with the president

5:46 pm Discussion

5:48 pm Motion to take 1b out (Sean Weinstock), Second (Philip Croul)

- We should allow a max. If someone wants to spend the time and money, they should
- Elections rules read no person may bribe, give, or lend anything of over \$1 in value in order to induce a person to vote or refrain from voting
- I think it's ridiculous that we're telling people how to spend their own money
- If someone does get something, you could accuse that candidate, but they can say they spent their own money
- The whole reason is so everyone has a level laying field. Setting a max is arbitrary and limits a person's personal finances

5:52 pm Motion to set a spending maximum to \$1 per student on campus (Sean Weinstock)

- \$9000 is egregious. There's no point in setting a maximum no one will use
- Someone should postpone this until next year and have it come into effect in the following year. We have a lot on our plate today and I don't know if we're able to discuss this now

5:56 pm Call the Question (Rotimi Abimbola)

5:56 pm Objection (Emily Leathers)

- At very least you need to have Elections board be able to change that number.
- Having a number puts a pressure on campaigns on how much money they should be spending
- I think we should set a minimum values and forget about the maximum.
- I think everyone's minds are set one way or another, so we should vote

5:59 pm Motion withdrawn (Sean Weinstock)

- We are now back to the original amendment

6:00 pm Move the Question (Evan Osheroff)

6:01 pm Hand Vote 16:7, Passed

6:02 pm Hand Vote 1:18:3, Failed

6:04 pm **0607-101 Fiscal Policy Amendment**

6:05 pm Questions

- Is this a combination of what Karl and Kirk's amendments say?
- No.
- Could we have a breakdown?
- We added that you're allowed to project a flowchart. They did it before, but there was not wording saying that it could or couldn't be done. We lowered the JFC deep reserve from 10% to 7%. We don't want that much money to be locked away. We lowered the cap on the Capital Fund from 12.5% to 7%. Presently, if you add the student government Capital Fund and the JFC deep reserve, a quarter of the activities fees is in savings. Now, there will be between 10% and 12% in savings. Overall, the constitution will make into writing what we do presently.
- The money that rolls back every year is smaller and there are cap changes on savings funds. We're putting more money into JFC, but they won't have as much money in savings. It will go into GSA and Senate.

- Have you gone to GSA yet?
- We will present it later. They will vote on it in June
- There will be one year with a lot of money?
- Yes. There will be an awkward accounting year.
- How do you feel money will be spent faster?
- If there's more money, more allocations will be made
- If Senate and GSA had more money, they could fund bigger projects i.e., McConomy
- Do you know on average how much rolls over?
- Right now, there's a huge variance every year. The goal is to decrease that variance
- We don't know the expected income for the next year until the closing of budgets, right?
- It'll be like it is now. We don't say it until the end of the year
- The short term goal is to spend money as fast as possible. The long term goal is that if JFC is more restrained, we'll lower the variance.

6:24 pm Discussion

- I don't think this is ready for a vote today. We will not be hurt by voting on this next year. I think it should be tabled.

6:26 Motion to divide pages 1 and 4 from everything that comes on pages 2 and 3 (Emily Leathers), Second (Philip Croul)

- It's not ready to be voted on, especially the first part
- I'm leaving all the money together. The other part, on pages 2 and 3, the Account Director is changed to Director of Student Activities

6:31 pm Call the Question (Philip Croul)

6:32 pm Hand Vote, passed

6:32 pm Discussion (Continued)

- We're now on pages 2 and 3

6:33 pm Call the Question (Philip Croul)

6:33 pm Hand Vote, 20:0:1, Passed

6:34 pm Discussion (Continued)

6:34 Motion to Table to the third meeting of next session (Krishan Taylor)

6:34 pm Hand Vote, passed

6:36 pm **0607-102 Statement of Purpose for the Student Activities Fee**

6:37 pm Questions

- Is it ok to make this a separate policy as apposed to putting it in the bylaws?
- Yes.
- Where will this go?
- It will be in the word, the binders, etc

6:38 pm Discussion

- Do we need the subtitle?
- Yes

6:40 pm Move to strike the subtitle (Evan Osheroff), Second (Krishan Taylor)

- I feel it is an immature statement
- Now it's just going to read "Statement of Purpose for the Student Activities Fee"

6:41 pm Call the Question (Alan Eaton)

6:41 pm Voice Vote, passed

6:45 pm **Student Senate Fiscal Policy Amendments**

- This is a procedure for approving new funding by the Student Senate
- The Second amendment allows Student Senate to build up their reserve. It certifies whatever funds that are not spent goes into this account
- We're voting on the amendments one at a time

6:49 pm Questions

- If 2.5% is already in the fund, do they have to put in another 2.5% every year?
- Yes. It allows the account to build
- If the minimum is already met, you have to put in more money?
- Yes.

6:50 pm Discussion

- We should change it so we're not defining who in the student body is eligible to vote in two different places

6:53 pm Call the Question (Philip Croul)

6:53 pm Objection (Emily Leathers)

- I'm not sure you know how many motions are turned away by the finance committee. We should in the future make finance committee report all allocations, even if it's \$0.
- All the motions that come are reported to excom.

6:55 pm Call the Question (Philip Croul)

6:55 pm Hand Vote, passed

- The next amendment says organizations must have at least one event planned as defined in article 4. Organizations must carry out at least 1 event before receiving new funding

#### 6:56 pm Questions

- Does it matter when the group was recognized?
- This only talks about new funding eligibility, regardless of when they were recognized
- In 6, what kind of bodies are you talking about?
- Activities Board, Elections Board, Coso etc. They are under student government but external to Senate and GSA
- What is the spirit of these amendments?
- The first one allows better accountability in the eligibility process. So organizations can demonstrate achievement before they are funded
- Can we change it to “funding eligible” instead of “funded eligible”?
- Yes
- Amendment 2 says what events are allowed funding. It only defines political and charitable events

#### 7:02 pm Discussion

- We're now discussing amendment 1

#### 7:02 pm Call the Question

#### 7:02 pm Objection (Emily Leathers)

- The definition of discriminatory is iffy.
- It makes more sense voting on section D before this one
- Ok, we're discussing amendment 2 now

#### 7:05 pm Move the Question (Evan Osheroff)

7:05 pm Hand Vote 17:7, Passed

7:06 pm Hand Vote 19:3:1, Passed

#### 7:07 pm Discussion (Continued)

#### 7:07 pm Call the Question (Evan Osheroff)

7:07 pm Hand Vote 22:0:1, Passed

#### 7:09 pm **0607-103 Resolution on Executive Pay (1)**

These are conflicting resolutions, for and against executive

If one is passed, both are read, neither passed then neither are read

#### 7:09 pm Questions

7:11 pm Discussion

I think at this school, we don't need people doing things for the money. I can see the merits, but you can pay them in a different way. Maybe academic credits

Both will be read at the next session. I think everyone's minds are made up and someone should call the question

We shouldn't be paying executives, especially out of student activities fee. You need at least the majority of the student body.

There are already professional benefits to executive positions. This may become a precedent to paying other members of student government. I recommend voting down the first amendment

7:18 pm Call the Question (Krishan Taylor)

7:18 pm Objection (Emily Leathers)

What if we change the form of compensation, so it doesn't have to be money?

That doesn't apply to the resolutions

7:20 pm Move the Question (Fredrico Pineda)

7:20 pm Hand Vote 15:4, Passed

7:21 pm Hand Vote 2:16:2, Failed

7:21 pm **0607-104 Resolution on Executive Pay (2)**

7:21 pm Questions

- Paragraph 2 is worded weirdly

7:22 pm Discussion

- What is the spirit of this resolution?
- The spirit is that the student activities fee was not meant to pay execs
- We should reference to the Statement of Purpose for the Student Activities Fee in paragraph 2

7:24 pm Call the Question (Krishan Taylor)

7:24 pm Hand Vote 14:5:1, Passed

**7:25 pm New Business from the Floor**

7:26 pm Motion to suspend elections rules that state elections must occur in March and April (Joel Bergstein)

7:26 pm Questions

- Shouldn't we know what exactly is going on?
- The plan is to hold elections from September 3 to 5
- Do we know what the problem is?

- Not yet
- All I'm asking is to give Elections board the opportunity to hold an election in September without violating the elections rules

7:26 pm Discussion

7:28 pm Call the Question (Evan Osheroff)

7:28 pm Voice Vote, Passed

7:28 pm Motion to Amend the student government Constitution (Emily Leathers),  
Second (Robert Bethea)

7:31 pm Discussion

- This is just an introduction
- It's probably more appropriate to have a committee review this, rather than call out an amendment randomly
- That's fine. I just noticed it now
- We will vote for Coso reps for over the summer. Those will reset for the fall

**7:34 pm Points of Discussion**

- Joel has been a really great chair
- I think we really need to figure out what happened with the elections
- We should also decide what we're going to do with the Senior votes
- It's wrong to have the elections in September
- There really is nothing we can do about it
- We shouldn't be leaving right now. We should discuss elections right now
- When there's a discussion, you will know about it. I will attempt to set up a meeting on a reading day
- I think we should write up a resolution
- I will write up a resolution and we will vote by email
- As much as our opinions matter, we made and appointed an Elections board for a reason
- There's definitely been a slip on the outlook of the body that has contributed to the elections.
- Jen Church said elections can't be held on finals week
- No one was anticipating this. I feel the rules can be bent in situations like this. People will be upset if elections are pushed back to next year.
- I think the turnout will be really small if we push it back

- I think there should be a 2 week period during the summer when people can vote, online. There's the problem with the present seniors and the freshmen next year. There should be a voting period in the summer
- I don't know why we're discussing this now because everything needs to go to Elections board
- The first priority now, is determining the scope of this incident. The person conducting the investigation said no one is to touch the server in any way until that investigation is complete
- There's a possibility that the incursion was accidental. Once we know, there will be full disclosure. As of right now, results are not available
- I'm not sure how comfortable I am having another vote on the same server and the same process. One pro of having elections in the fall is that we have a new server that's more secure so that this doesn't happen again
- I would rather have any executive win rather than having an interim for the summer
- We selected someone for the summer because we did not want to give an endorsement of any candidate to the student body
- This year, we were inconsistent in a lot of things regarding funding, so the new senate should consider that for next year

**7:56 pm Announcements**

- Senate party Friday
- Senate can still meet over the summer, so let me know if you're staying

7:57 pm Motion to Adjourn (Krishan Taylor)

**7:57 pm Adjourn**