

CMU Student Senate

RAW Minutes of March 29, 2007

5:05 pm Roll Call

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

Senators Absent: Matt Erhard (CIT, 3 absences)

Members at Large Present:

Members at Large Absent:

5:06 pm Call to Order

5:06 pm Approval of Minutes from 3/22/07

- It should be Joel Bergstein instead of Jared Itkowitz for the Business Affairs report

5:08 pm Audience Participation

- The meeting for the bike painting program will be 6:30 today

5:09 pm Committee Reports

5:09 pm **Academic Affairs** (Evan Osheroff)

- No report

5:09 pm **Business Affairs** (Jared Itkowitz)

- No report

5:09 pm **Campus Life** (Megan Larcom)

- We have paid positions for postering jobs. Ask your friends if they are interested.

5:09 pm Questions

5:09 pm **Communications** (Lauren Hudock)

- I have posters made and I need them printed
- I want to be doing tabling all next week. Please sign up.
- The constituency meeting will be within the next couple weeks.

5:10 pm Questions

5:10 pm **Finance** (Alan Eaton)

- The Senate surplus stands at \$14545
- We have \$1745 left for the semester if all allocations pass, \$16290 including the surplus
- The numbers are at the end of the appendix

5:11 pm Questions

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

- No report

5:12 pm **Chair** (Joel Bergstein)

- Platforms are due April 4 at midnight
- Elections are on Monday and Tuesday of the preceding week
- You are removed from senate if you have 3 absences. Please come to every meeting or send a proxy

5:13 pm Questions

5:13 pm Unfinished Business

5:14 pm **Duties of the President Constitutional Revision**

- The changes are more general house cleaning. The president should know what's going on at the meetings but not necessarily have to attend all of it
- I got rid of office hours
- Having public notification lets the student body know what is going on

5:16 pm Questions

- Have we defined public notification?
- ◇ No. Its up to you guys to decide. It can change from year to year
- I think we should define it before passing it.
- It should be a week and 72 hours at minimum. Minutes aren't released until a week later when they are approved. We probably want to change notification to some different system.
- How do we want to define public notification?

- We can probably add in a statement that requires raw minutes or unofficial minutes to be posted within 24 to 48 hours within the meeting.
- ◇ GSA already posts their minutes on their website.
- We can introduce next week an amendment defining public notification, on condition that this passes
- ◇ I'm going to withdraw number 5 in the duties. 6 is the new 5.
- Does Senate get a certain number of seats on the DAC?
- ◇ No. We are trying to make it as inclusive of the student body as possible. We will submit a list and Senate can veto some members
- Why did you choose a 2/3 majority for vetoes?
- ◇ I was just going by convention
- Does SDC have voice at all regarding appointments?
- ◇ The student body president meets with SDC. We can add a clause if you want.
- We define public notification as making legislations available on a website or sending emails. Is it ok if we post minutes on our bulletin?
- When was the last time you vetoed something?
- ◇ We vetoed academic development rights

5:24 pm Discussion

- Do you guys think anyone should have reserved seats?
- SDC should have some seats
- ◇ You guys should all have representation. A responsible student body president, SDC president, and VP will try to be representative. You guys can override it if you guys don't feel represented but the list will be made to be as inclusive as possible. The goal is to have the best DAC possible.
- I support getting rid of numerical stipulations, but SDC should have some overrule power
- ◇ There is no way to do that because of the organizational structure.

5:28 pm Hand Vote, 21:4:1 passed

5:29 pm **Bylaws of the Tartan Wiki Moderating Board**

- This is basically governance contract for moderating board.
- It just sets up basic rules

5:30 pm Questions

- What do you mean by "funding is available" in number 4?
- ◇ If they request a special allocation and there becomes money available

- The “established each calendar year”, is it the January to February year, or the school year?

◇ The January to December year

5:31 pm Discussion

◇ You don't specify we go by Roberts so you should specify we go by quorum somewhere. Maybe we'll add something under Administration

◇ Right above number 1, we want to write “The body shall follow Robert's Rules”

5:33 pm Voice Vote, passed

5:33 pm **Community Notification Senate Bylaw Revision**

- Add to duties of the student senate: Make available unofficial records of passed legislations to camp community after 48 hrs of any allocations or legislations
- We started going over this earlier

5:34 pm Questions

5:34 pm Discussion

- Inform is already defined in the constitution, by posting on our website or emailing everyone
- We can put out information but we can't force the student body to read it
- I think there should be a better way than just posting it on our website
- Unless you have an amendment, that's how it is right now
- What if we have a weekly email?
- We have a student government e-board.
- We could spam the whole student body every week, but that doesn't mean people will necessarily read it
- We should make an effort to inform people.
- ◇ The revision isn't telling you how to inform the community, it's just saying you have to do it
- We can post it on our website and do something bigger to let people know it's there
- Posting on the website isn't much of an issue. People interested will look at website
- ◇ If notification goes beyond 48 hours, the veto potential lasts a week.
- We'll post unofficial minutes 48 hours after Senate meetings

5:38 pm Voice Vote, passed

5:39 pm **New Business from the Floor**

5:39 pm New Business from Committee

5:39 pm 0607-079 Special Allocation of \$2000 to Spirit Fashion Show

- Spirit fashion show is on April 14th
- This is our 20th anniversary. We had it every year since 1987. We have about 850 people coming to the show. We have students around city attending as well as CMU students
- It's like Lunar Gala
- It's during diversity weekend. Prospective students will come to the show too
- They have lots of outside funding. Committee decided on \$2000, original request was \$3000
- This year Spirit budget was cut and we had to do a lot of fundraising to raise money

5:41 pm Questions

- How much did they get from senate last year?

5:42 pm Discussion

- A lot of people go to this. It's very well publicized.
- We should support it. They need the money. It's going to be bigger and better this year.
- How much did we give Lunar Gala?
- \$1000
- I don't know how much we gave them last year. Do people want to hear how much we gave last year before voting, or does that not matter?
- No, we can vote

5:44 pm Voice Vote, passed

5:45 pm 0607-080 Special Allocation of \$590 to IVCF Travel Arrangements for

“China's new Genocide”

- IVCF is requesting allocation to bring speakers to campus
- Human rights abuse in china. Falun Gong practitioners will be used as live organ donors
- The number of Falun Gong member grew and the Chinese Communist regime took that as threat to their government and they are now being persecuted
- They need funding for travel expenses, advertisements, and snacks
- Committee decided to fund travel expenses.

- This is a human rights forum and we thought it was a unique opportunity for the campus. They visited over 30 cities and we were able to get them to come to this city in their international tour.
- There will be an event at U Pitt also

5:49 pm Questions

- Could this be a political event?
 - ◇ Typically when it's human rights, it's not political
- Are we funding for the event at Pitt also?
 - ◇ The budget was only for CMU. There are two presentations, but we're only funding the one here
- Could people go to Pitt for their lecture? Why don't we have a shared presentation?
 - ◇ They are two different communities. It was better to have separate ones
- How are we funding just the one event here if there are travel expenses?
 - ◇ We're funding half of travel expenses

5:52 pm Discussion

- It seems like a debatable issue because it's not proven fact that this is happening
- You could use the same logic for the North Korea event and we did fund that
- This seems like political event. I'm worried it is political because they talk about the Chinese Regime a lot
- Bylaws say we can not fund political events
- This is fundable. Just because something is political in nature, doesn't mean it's not fundable. Speakers are only coming here to talk about the event, not to raise support for their cause
- Even if it may be political, it's still a good event to bring to campus
- We don't fund political issues because we don't want student activities money to go to supporting any side of a political issue. As long as something is not being presented as propaganda, we can fund it.

5:57 pm Voice Vote, passed

5:57 pm **0607-081 Special Allocation of \$450 to Womens Club Soccer**

- Club soccer has 17-20 women, independent of varsity soccer
- It's a new club so it's trying to get basics done
- They still participated in collegiate sports this past season
- The committee decided to fund balls, cones, and the regional tournament

- We started at the beginning of the year. There was a lot of out of pocket funds first semester. Club soccer is a good way to get people involved in sports that can't commit to varsity

5:59 pm Questions

6:00 pm Discussion

Motion to raise amount to \$750 (Philip Croul)

- We funded uniforms for hockey and volleyball
- How much are uniforms?
- ◇ About \$1000 to \$1200 for shirts, shorts, and socks.
- Regular season is in the fall. Regionals is now. They can come back in the fall for more money.
- ◇ We would have to get uniforms this summer if we want them for the fall
- I feel we have enough in our budget to fund it now
- Where does our budget stand now?
- Our budget is in last page of the agenda
- What are the big allocations we're looking at?
- Sig Ep is supposed to have a barbeque and it would be around \$2000, Artspass haven't contacted us yet but it would be \$5000- \$7000
- How much did each girl spend?
- ◇ We had to pay for gas and refs. We'll probably have to cover whatever we don't get with fundraising

6:03 pm Hand Vote 17:7:3 passed

6:04 pm Discussion (cont)

- We're now discussing on allocating \$750 to Womens Club Soccer
- We should fund this. It's a starting group.
- I think we should raise the amount
- I think we should fund what they need over the summer
- They can deficit spend. We told them to come back in the fall when we have more money
- Do we have an emergency account beyond our reserve fund?
- JFC or Student Government operating reserves
- We have enough funds and places with large amounts of funds we can go to

6:07 pm Call the Question (Evan Osheroff)

6:07 pm Voice vote, Passed

6:07 pm **0607-082 Special Allocation of \$300 to MAYUR for Cricket World Cup Screening**

- There was a miscommunication between JFC and MAYUR so they didn't get funding from them
- They are on track this year and they will be fine next year
- We split up their allocations.
- They're only asking for 10% of the total cost for screening
- Cricket is huge sport. We want something binding South Asian community members together
- Committee decided to fund the full amount

6:09 pm Questions

6:09 pm Discussion

- This is good idea

Call the question (Jared Itkowitz)

6:09 pm Passed by Consent

6:09 pm **0607-083 Special Allocation of \$500 to MAYUR Booth**

- We've given \$500 to groups asking for help for booth in the past

6:10 pm Questions

6:10 pm Discussion

- Is this for blitz?

◇ Yes

6:10 pm Call the question (Jared Itkowitz)

6:10 pm Passed by Consent

6:10 pm Points of Discussion

- MAYUR asked for funding for a bonfire. The total amount was \$828.
- We funded bonfires before. There are lots of tangential costs, FMS, the fire department, etc.
- The idea came up because we believe a bonfire is the easiest way for other students to reach out to other members of the community
- Committee decided not to fund it because they can deficit spend and they are in debt this year.
- Generally they're looking at working with other organizations, maybe if they don't have enough money this year it might not be the best time for them to reach out

- Many of you may not be familiar with what happened with JFC last year but you should take that situation into consideration
- We should help them go make their presence on campus but we did just fund 2 of their events

6:15 pm Hand Vote, 5:16:2 failed

- We wanted to discuss the notification system. Are there any opinions?
- I think the posting on the website would work as long as people know about it. Maybe if we spammed everyone for a little while?
- I think we can put together a d-list of people interested. We tell them we post our minutes every week for the first 3 times and inform them of any important meetings, instead of spamming the entire campus
- Senate wants to do something for orientation next year. Anyone have suggestions?
- Giving out lanyards is a good idea. Half the people will use it
- If we take over the sex talk, we should label and pass out condoms

6:20 pm Announcements

- Petitions are due Monday at 5:00pm
- You don't need one if you filled a vacancy this year, but tell someone you did.
- You can run as a senator and for an executive spot but you need more signatures
- Come to alumni lounge at 6:30 if you want to help with bike day
- I need people to sign up for tabling. If you guys can pick up some posters after class tomorrow, I'll be in the UC
- Casino Royale this Saturday at 10pm

6:23 pm Motion to Adjourn (Alan Eaton)

6:23 pm Adjourn