

CMU Student Senate

Official Minutes of December 7th, 2006

5: pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Rotimi Abimbola (HSS, came late), Matt Adams (TSB), Joel Bergstein (CIT), Justin Berka (BHA), Gerrit Betz (HSS), Byron Chou (TSB), Philip Croul (HSS), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Alan Eaton (CIT), Kate Eckerle (MCS), Emily Giancomarra (CFA), Ashley Hill (CIT), Lauren Hudock (HSS), Jared Itkowitz (TSB), Megan Larcom (TSB), Cyrus Larijani (BHA), Emily Leathers (SCS), Paris Obdan (CIT), Edward Oh (MCS), Evan Osheroff (MCS), Colin Sternhell (HSS), Krishan Taylor (SCS), Brian Wade (HSS)

Senators Absent: Robert Bethea (CIT), Virginia Case (CFA), Jarrod Coleman (CFA), Matt Erhard (CIT), Danielle Griswold (HSS), Julia Li (CFA), Frederico Pineda (MCS), Samantha Simmons (CFA), Ray Wong (CIT)

Members At Large Present:

Members At Large Absent: Benjamin Brosbe (SCS), Matt Glantz (TSB), Fei Liu (TSB), Gregory MacLean (CIT), Dylan Ozmore (TSB), Raisa Shulkov (MCS), Ryan Swick (CIT), Damian Valdez (TSB)

Note: Attendance is based solely on role call at the moment and most likely incorrectly reflects those who came late or left early.

5: pm Call to Order

5: pm Audience Participation

5: pm Special Business

5: pm Special Interest Housing (Renee Camerlengo)

- Renee Camerlengo is the Director of Student Life, here to speak about special interest and theme housing
- David Stanfield, dir of student activities in Qatar visiting—one of projects hosting exchange with 10 students from Doha, to participate in Summit, reneec@andrew-- if you'd like to participate.
- Special interest housing—theme housing: any student group who came together under a theme, includes Greeks, special interest housing. We have 2 academic clusters, some house-based thematic or special interest programming.

- Mudge A100- premier facility: whoever wants to live there must submit plan to give back to the Mudge community in that year. This has been very successful. Our workgroup looked at where else this might be beneficial, where students who might be interested in influencing their community.
- We need feedback on areas we're currently exploring. We're really focused on expanding house-based, house-expansion programs, University sponsored programs, and enhancing and shoring up the opportunity for student initiatives.
- Let's talk about the Boss proposal: Currently, the first floor is only 1st year men. This could become the home for an initiative, like the global studies program or PLACE leadership and service focused on (co-ed) first-year students, for whom we'd like to have sustainable spaces.
- Interdisciplinary exploration of the arts program—in tower of Doherty hall. third are: student-generated programs, historically in MM.
- What are your initial reactions?

5: pm Questions

- I was on the frat quad as a first year. If the first year programs are moved to the hill, where there's less freshman, bring hill and first year areas together - adjacencies to other first-year communities.
- Taking something like Boss and putting two programs in there is great, but what do we do with those whom we're displacing?
- ◇ Housing has dictated that this is definitely feasible, based on retention patterns. We wouldn't do this if it was not.
- Will there be less place for student-generated interests housing next year?
- ◇ The house-embedded programs are still student generated. We'd love to renovate MM as well.
- For Mudge A100 - will you have to live in that building?
- ◇ No. We're moving away from that sort of limit.
- I lived in the HSP cluster, and I think it was good that you can stay there as an upperclassman. Why don't we do that with these other programs? First years have reservations for HSP, but then the rooms are given away if HSP's don't use them.
- Any way to give freshman who can't retain a higher place in room draw?
- ◇ No, because there are too many in this situation (Hammerschlag, Donner).
- Is Intergenerational housing possible in Boss?

- What is the current relationship between Boss and McGill? How much do they work together? Will adding freshman programs to that balance well?
- ◇ Boss has historically had historically low retention rates. These are all issues we would need to keep aware of.

6:37 pm Committee Reports

5:37 pm Academic Affairs Final Report (Evan Osheroff)

- Forum earlier this semester relatively successful, with grads and undergrads attending. Used feedback to set agenda for remainder of fall.
- Assigned committee members a SAC to be liaisons for.
- Had discussion about information literacy.
- Still working with FMS about clock-setting.
- Participating with the Carnegie Mellon Code review.
- Worked with the international interp class.
- Dealt with academic development in light of their financial crisis.
- Hoping for a more successful CSAC (C? The 'SAC SAC,' "committee on student advisory councils") next semester.
- Evan would like to remind everyone that Indira is the go-to person, and he thanks his committee much for their help.

5: pm Questions

- What parts of judicial system are you looking into with the Code?
- ◇ Our focus first is the code generally – we may not change anything, we may change one line, we don't know. There may be a later thingy that goes over judicial codes, but that's a ways off yet.

5:43 pm Business Affairs Final Report (Jared Itkowitz)

- BA has gotten their feet wet in lots of different things, but has had trouble getting deep into any of them. We worked on campus printers and parking issues.
- The next thing is an investigation of the art store. Emily Giacomarra is investigating prices and products relative to comparable art stores.
- Readership committee is up and running.
- There's a meeting set up in one week on computer kiosks in the UC and we have a go ahead from Marcia, so hopefully we'll have this settled in a semester!

6:09 pm Campus Life Final Report (Kelly Duncan)

- Healthy Campus 2010: have to reschedule form for second Monday of classes. Contacted Tartan about forum articles and things. I (Kelly) will still head up some referendum issues even if I'm not still chair.
- Yesterday, I went to a public art forum. Two pieces had already been placed: One the bust of Nikolai Tesla in the robotics institute and second a modern art piece in Tepper. They looked into a third piece: two popcorn things that were requested to be placed in the UC, maybe by the Wean commons or in McConomy. They decided against Skibo's hallway, Scotland Yard, or the eateries on the 2nd floor. Senate will have to appoint two new people to the public art committee in the spring, hopefully they will keep better contact to Senate than the ones we have now.
- We want to get more signs in buildings for unknown resources like bathrooms, also want to put signs on buildings that are lesser known like the physical plant, etc.
- Things to look for next semester include getting plaid cash accepted at more places, paving the path at Skibo gym (currently just dirt) and fixing paths around the UC. We would also like to have more accessible napkins and paper towels around campus.

5:53 pm **Communications Final Report** (Gerrit Betz)

- Communications had an ambitious semester, but it wasn't very original. A look through past committee reports showed that many ideas were rehashes of old ideas, and points to a need for better passing on of knowledge.
- Want to stress having strong links between ID and Communications, better institutional memory, and that senate table as much as possible to increase presence and availability. Every time we tabled, we've gotten great results!

5: pm Questions

- Can I get the smoking e-mails from students?
- ◇ Sure, eventually.

5:58 pm **Finance Final Report** (Joel Bergstein)

- We spent a little less than normal, but we also didn't have the large funding motions of Arts Pass and the lacrosse team like last year, the sum of which equals our remaining semester allotment (\$12,000).

- We tried to get lots of information in the appendices so that discussion would go smoothly in the general body. Hopefully we will have these out by Tuesday night, so that there is a full two days to read them before the meeting.
- We will try to use a standardized form online so that the finance meetings will have easy to access agendas for all senators. A sort of dreamy goal would be to publish every special allocation so that people can see where their money goes.
- Would also love to have a non-senator on JFC.
- I feel the relationship between finance and senate was better this year, less frustration. We only amended one motion, and sometimes finance has been discouraged by some motions that failed. The discussion at the beginning of the year about funding philosophy wasn't that helpful, so I would encourage every senator to come to one finance meeting so that everybody can relate to it.

6:05 pm Chair Final Report (Emily Leathers)

- You all did a great job this fall, it's been an honor to work with you. What comes up most in my mind as the rough points are respect for the body and respect for ourselves. Paying attention in meetings is one example of that, and something that should continue to be worked on in the upcoming semester. I think one solution for that is to schedule as many meetings in the UC as we can.
- Another thing that's come up is consistency in how the general body makes decisions. It's hard to have a funding philosophy discussion when many of us are new, and that certainly contributed to some of the inconsistencies this fall. It would be worth having a similar discussion at the beginning of next semester now that everyone is a bit more experienced.
- Thanks again for being such wonderful people to work with and for putting up with me.

6:07 pm New Business from Committee

6:07 pm 0607-041 Special Allocation of \$500 to International Student Union for Booth 2007

- Booth for 2007 carnival. Request was \$5,000, we recommend \$500.
- I am really confused about this, I thought this was supposed to be tabled, and then I got here and found out that I was speaking.
- Was this a blitz booth?
- No, we wanted to get capital for five years into the future.
- It was listed as a blitz booth under Carnival's website.

- Yes, it was a mistake, if you had e-mailed me we could have resolved this.

6: pm Questions

- Well, now that this is the way it is and they have the plot that they have, this can't change, can it?
- No.
- Well, then that means that you're still a blitz booth, and we'll fund it as a blitz booth.
- ◇ No, it's just a confusion on Carnival's side. They know we're not a blitz booth, but we're listed on the website incorrectly. We have a two-story booth.
- Wait, they were assigned a /plot/, which means...
- Maybe.

6: pm Motion to postpone until next business meeting (Justin Berka)

6: pm Objection (Kelly Duncan)

- Because the new session starts next semester, is that ok?
- Yes, of course.

6: pm Voice vote, passed

6:14 pm **0607-042 Special Allocation of \$500 to Dance Marathon for Dance Marathon Operations**

- Want the money to account for some unexpected changes in expenses, like that AB tech normally charges less in the fall because they are training new members, but this is in the spring this year so that price goes up, along with some other ones.
- We run it as an organization with subcommittees, but nevertheless we had some unforeseen costs like with AB tech (\$450 to \$900) for lights and sound, which are essential.

6: pm Questions

- The money is not going to St. Jude's this year? Where is it going?
- ◇ The Children's Home of Pittsburgh, so that students can see directly where it's going. They might expand and dedicate some of their new wing to us.

6: pm Discussion

- I'm on finance, I think we should fund this. I dealt with Greek sing, and I know that AB tech costs can be high and still jump unexpectedly.

6:17 pm Hand vote, passed (22,0,2)

6:17 pm **0607-038 Fiscal Policy Amendment – Reimbursement Policy**

- This would give the finance committee the backing of a bylaw, and then this means that the gen body would truly want to fund an event if it is after the event date.

6: pm Discussion

- I think it's sweet.

6: pm Call the Question

6: pm Hand Vote, passed (22,0,1)

6: pm Special Business

6: pm **0607-039 JFC Bylaw Amendment**

6: pm Call the Question

6: pm Hand Vote, passed (22,0,1)

6:23 pm **Election of Senate Chair**

- Nominees: Emily Leathers, Jared Itkowitz, Joel Bergstein, Kelly Duncan, Gerrit Betz (decline)

7:20 pm Joel Bergstein confirmed

7:20 pm **Election of Academic Affairs Chair**

- Nominees: Evan Osheroff

7:25 pm Evan Osheroff confirmed

7:25 pm **Election of Business Affairs Chair**

- Nominees: Jared Itkowitz

7:26 pm Jared Itkowitz confirmed

7:26 pm **Election of Campus Life Chair**

- Nominees: Megan Larcom (decline), Emily Giancomarra (decline)

7:28 Motion to postpone election

7:31 Voice vote, passes

7:31 pm **Recess**

7:51 pm **Reconvened**

7:51 pm **Election of Communications Chair**

- Nominees: Gerrit Betz (decline), Lauren Hudock, Phil Croul (written speech), Colin Sternhell (decline)

8: pm Lauren Hudock confirmed

8: pm **Election of Finance Chair**

- Nominees: Alan Eaton, Emily Leathers

8: pm Alan Eaton Confirmed

8: pm Election of Internal Development Chair

- Nominees: Gerrit Betz, Kelly Duncan

8:14 Kelly Duncan's speech

8:16 Questions for Kelly Duncan

8:22 Gerrit Betz's speech

8:25 Questions for Gerrit Betz

8:28 Discussion

8:33 Call the Question

8:34 Roll Call Vote, Gerrit Betz confirmed

8: pm Election of Campus Life Chair

- Nominees: Kelly Duncan, Megan Larcom

8: pm Megan Larcom confirmed

8: pm Election of Sergeant-at-Arms

8: pm Motion to postpone to first meeting of spring session

8: pm Voice vote, passed

8: pm New Business from the Floor

8: pm Points of Discussion

8: pm Announcements

- Good luck on your finals!
- Please get in touch as a committee to schedule your Spring meeting time.

8: pm Move to Adjourn

8: pm Adjourn