

CMU Student Senate

RAW Minutes of February 22th, 2007

5:05 pm Roll Call

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

Senators Absent: Rotimi Abimbola (HSS, 2 absences, .5absence), Danielle Griswold (HSS, 1 absence)

Members At Large Present: Sean Weinstock (TSB, proxying)

Members At Large Absent:

5:05 pm Call To Order

5:06 pm Approval of Minutes from 2/15/07

- Byron Chou's name was misspelled
- Sean Weinstock was a member at large

5:06 pm Audience Participation

5:06 pm Committee Reports

5:06 pm **Academic Affairs** (Evan Osheroff)

- No report

5:06 pm **Business Affairs** (Jared Itkowitz)

- No report

5:06 pm **Campus Life** (Megan Larcom)

- No report

5:06 pm **Communications** (Lauren Hudock)

- We're going to start discussing senate constituency.
- We want to do it sometime in the last two weeks of March
- We're thinking of having it as a UC Friday.

- It's not a lot of time commitment on your part.

5:07 pm Questions

- Can we do it the second week after spring break?
- ◊ I'm not going to be here that week but we'll think about it.
- There is tabling this Monday from 10:30am to 2:30pm. You can work off half absences.

5:08 pm **Finance** (Alan Eaton)

- No report

5:08 pm **Internal Development** (Gerrit Betz)

- Post responses on the election board
- We'll try to get a server running to have online elections.
- Tell people elections are coming up.
- There is no deadline for submission of petitions yet because it's early, but you can still submit them
- Hopefully we'll have coffee afterwards

5:10 pm Questions

5:10 pm **Chair** (Joel Bergstein)

- Every week I'll do a "Roberts rules I bet you didn't know..." This week I'll read about rescind and reconsider.
- Rescind- If you want to rescind a past motion, you can do it at any time unless the motion of what is was for already started. You can only rescind for motions already passed.
- Reconsider- You can reconsider the vote, not the motion itself. Then if it passes, you can vote on the motion. Someone from the prevailing side has to reconsider on the same day the vote was passed. If the motion to reconsider passes, any action taken on the action is immediately stopped.
- Limited time factor- Motion for reconsider happens on the day it occurs. You can vote a week later.

5:13 pm Questions

- Who can second the motion?
- ◊ Anyone can second. It's understood committee motions don't need a second
- So we should always wait to vote the next week?
- ◊ We can put it on the agenda as a reconsidered motion

5:14 Motion to move allocations for FORGE to now (Alan Eaton)

5:14 Second (Emily)

5:15 pm New Business from Committee

5:15 pm 0607-065 Special Allocation of \$303 to FORGE

- This is a new group focused on refugee aid
- It is not JFC funded but is in the process of getting funding from them
- The budget is for basic supplies, 3oz can of paint, brushes, print copies, chalk
- FORGE stands for Facilitating Opportunities for Refugee Growth and Empowerment
- We have connections with three refugee camps in Zambia
- We fundraise for specific things the refugees need.
- We did a holiday lunch with refugees in Pittsburgh
- The Committee decided to fund for supplies for advertising
- The group is open to everyone on campus

5:17 pm Questions

- No questions

5:18 pm Motion to slate 0607-065 and 0607-066 (Jared Itkowitz)

5:18 pm Second (Gerrit Betz)

5:18 pm Discussion

- Now the allocation is for \$335.63 to FORGE
- This is a great idea. The money is just for operational stuff, none of it goes straight to the charity

5:19 pm Call the Questions (Brian Wade)

5:19 pm Voice Vote, passed

5:19 pm Special Business

5:19 pm Election of CIT Senators

- Nominee: Lauren Walch

5:19 pm Speech for Lauren

5:20 pm Questions for Lauren

5:22 pm Discussion

5:23 pm Call the Question (Krishan Taylor)

5:23 pm Voice Vote, Lauren confirmed

5:24 pm Election of Senate CoSO Representative

- Meet every other Friday at 4:30 for an hour or so. It's not a heavy time commitment

- CoSO does recognition and rerecognition of organizations
- This election only goes for the rest of this semester
- Nominees: Philip Croul, Colin Sternhell, Brian Wade

5:26 pm Speech for Phil

5:26 pm Questions for Phil

5:28 pm Speech for Colin

5:30 pm Questions for Colin

5:30 pm Speech for Brian

5:31 pm Questions for Brian

5:32 pm Discussion

5:37 pm Move to Question (Evan Osheroff)

5:38 Hand Vote 19:1:2, passed

5:38 Roll Call Vote 15:3:2:2:0, Phil confirmed

5:42 pm Motion to move Election of Public Arts Committee Representative to next week
(Emily Leathers)

5:42 pm Second (Kate Eckerle)

5:43 pm Election of Public Arts Committee Representative

- Moved to next week

5:43 pm New Business from Committee (Continued)

5:43 pm **0607-067 Special Allocation of \$200 to Mayur for travel expenses of speaker**

- There is a typo on the Agenda. It should be \$200, not \$250.
- We want to bring an Indian entrepreneur to talk to us about the business world.
- We are working with other organizations to share the cost
- Committee decided to fund it completely
- This is helpful especially for seniors and juniors

5:45 pm Questions

- When is he coming?

◊ Next Friday

5:45 pm Discussion

5:45 Call the Question (Cyrus Larijani)

5:45 Voice Vote, passed

5:45 pm Old Business from Committee

5:45 pm **0607-063 Statement of FCEs**

- This is the new version. I got rid of the first part and the last two sentences were changed.
- This applies to the entire university.

5:47 Questions

- Who's in charge of FCEs?
- ◊ It's distributed by the administration

5:47 pm Discussion

5:47 pm Call the Question (Gerrit Betz)

5:47 pm Voice vote Passed

0607-064 Statement of Electronic Media Usage

5:48 pm Questions

5:48 pm Discussion

- I'd rather have it as "technological advances".
- That's what it said before. We decided to take that out last week
- This is concise and to the point

5:49 pm Call the Questions (Colin Sternhell)

5:50 pm Voice Vote, passed

5:50 pm New Business from the Floor

5:50 Motion to give \$2000 to the Campus Connections to Qatar trip (Kate Eckerle)

5:50 pm Second (Alan Eaton)

- I think the issue was that \$5000 was too much but a lot of us were supportive of the motives of the trip. I think \$2000 would be doable
- We should support this. They did work to get more funding. Most people on campus don't know there is a campus in Qatar
- We can vote this on this today or next week
- We should vote this down. Groups know if they want to come back they are welcome to
- ◊ I am part of this organization so I can answer any questions you have(Alan Eaton). We talked to Church and Indira and they support it. I talked to finance committee members and they supported this

5:56 pm Move to Question (Sean Weinstock)

5:56 pm Hand Vote 10:15, failed

- It's much more acceptable at this lower rate. Before these trips people weren't aware we had a Qatar campus. My recommendation is that they do something when they get back.
- Last year it was unsuccessful so Campus Life isn't funding it. I'm still not convinced this benefits the campus.
- Do you feel you'd be able to get people to do the applications?
- Yes. There are a healthy amount of people interested in this. It's a quick turnaround but it shouldn't hinder us because there is enough interest
- Do you plan on opening this to the whole community?
- ◇ Yes. We will advertise starting tomorrow
- I'm opposed. Most of the campus has spring break plans already
- The numbers add up this time, but it still sounds like a really cheap spring break vacation
- Coming from the Finance Committee, we thought this was a more fair amount
- What happened to the \$3000?
- ◇ They're getting money from Indira and Church.
- The following week, students from the Qatar campus will come to Pittsburgh and we'll have a discussion board for Q&A
- It seems to be a good opportunity for people who want to go, but I'm concerned it doesn't help the rest of the campus. The people who are interested in going will benefit greatly, but I don't see the impact on the campus community.
- This is a great way to open the Qatar campus to this campus. People will start asking questions about Qatar and make its reputation grow. This isn't a glorified spring break
- I thought this was a much better motion to fund than what we funded in the past. This will benefit the campus. This will say to people in Qatar that CMU is trying to grow. Not funding something like this will probably set us back. I want people to consider what we have funded before. They went and got extra funding and cut the budget in half.
- I don't think past funding motions are important because a lot of us here now weren't there to vote for the past motions. I do think this is a glorified spring break but I'm more comfortable voting on \$2000 than \$5000.
- The issue is that just because there is a \$3000 decrease, doesn't mean we should vote on it. They're advertising this two weeks before spring break.

- I'm going to abstain because of the short notice. I'll be all for this next year. I know the value of broadening horizons to other cultures. By going to Qatar, we're helping the campus grow globally
- One of the main things we're doing over there is meeting the student government. I want to point out what that benefit is to CMU. It's inconsistent to think of how this gives back to the school. It's unreasonable to apply that to every single motion. By trying to apply something tangible to the trip undermines the purpose of the trip. Also, time constraints haven't stopped senate before.
- My opinion is that this does bring something back to campus. What's a better presentation than having people from Qatar and people from Pittsburgh in one room talking about their experiences? I can think of other allocations that haven't affected me or a lot of people here, but they have impacted a group of people.

6:17 pm Move the Question (Jared Itkowitz)

6:17 pm Hand Vote 22:3, passed

6:18 pm Hand Vote 14:9:4 motion failed

6:21 pm New Business from the Floor

6:21 pm Points of Discussion

- We need a new design for the Senate poster. It would be nice to do this before March first.
- Minutes are thick and killing trees. Would it be ok if I just email you the minutes rather than printing them out every week.
- What if we don't print out 30 but print 4 or 5 that people can just look at in the meeting? Printing one for everyone would be worth it if everyone puts them in their binder and not throw them away
- I don't read them after senate. But I keep them for reference
- Are they on the senate web site?
- I'll put them up.
- We should have everything up on the website organized by meetings.
- Back to the motion on Qatar, why was it assumed all the money was going to travel?
- That's what they asked for.
- Does travel include travel in Qatar? What constitutes travel?
- Airfare usually. But any form of transportation counts.
- I think at some point Senate should talk about what defines travel

- We'll have a point of discussion on travel next week.
- I was wondering if people like the idea of having a collaborative learning center in the old Entropy space.
- What is a collaborative working area?
- It's a space where people can meet in groups. There would be kiosk computers on the walls, but it won't be a cluster.
- I don't know if there is enough space in there for a collaborative space
- Could people reserve the room?
- I wasn't thinking about that but I can bring it up.
- I don't think it's enough space for a collaborative learning area. There is a lot of underutilized space in the UC. I personally would like the bookstore expanded.
- Is there any way we can move this idea to another room in the UC that's hardly used?
- All the rooms are used.
- Can we see how often rooms like Dowd or 1987 are used?
- When Finance Committee comes to a decision, we look at every detail. What was frustrating last year is when we came to this meeting and we talk about what we already talked about in subcommittee. Keep in mind people have talked about these problems.
- I think on the whole, Senate is much more trustworthy of finance. I think the campus connections just had a big budget.
- If Finance Committee took notes and sent those out with the appendix, it would be possible for senators to look at what questions were already asked.
- It defeats the purpose of having a Finance Committee if Senate just undoes what Finance Committee already went over.
- We have gone with the Finance committee most of the times because they bring us thorough appendices. Checking it over is still good.
- I think we need to stop saying how we have a lot of money to spend at every meeting.
- I think we all understand why we have a Finance Committee but motions still have to come before Senate just in case there is something the committee missed.

6:41 pm Announcements

- Free No Parking Players' Improv Show, Tomorrow at 4:30pm in UC Danforth. It's a pajama party with cookies.
- Lauren and I are in Soundbytes. We're singing at Mudge's piano lounge Saturday at 8pm. People from University of Michigan called Amazing Blue are coming too.
- Masterclash tomorrow night at Weigand Gym
- Let's get coffee.
- Conversation on Student Life will be this Tuesday from 6:30. Email sbp@andrew.cmu.edu to RSVP. Free food.

6:44 pm Motion to Adjourn (Krishan Taylor)

6:44 pm Adjourn