

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL minutes of October 25, 2007

5:07 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Sudeep Paul (TSB, 1 absence), Rohit Kabra (TSB, 1 absence, .5absence), Jared Itkowitz (TSB), Evan Osherooff (TSB), Rotimi Abimbola (HSS), Alan Eaton (HSS), Dorian Adeyemi (HSS), Amanda Reapsummer (HSS, 1 absence), Helen Lam (HSS, 1 absence), Brian Wade (HSS, .5absence), Daniel O'Toole (CIT), Lauren Walch (CIT, 1 absence), Sidharth Singh (CIT, 2 absences), Robert Bethea (CIT, 1 absence), Mauricio Garduno (CIT), Luis Balceda (CIT, 1 absence), Marcela Partida (CIT, .5absence), Ioannis Goutakis (CIT), Chansaly Ker (CIT), Edward Oh (MCS), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 1 absence), Guangzu Gao (MCS, 1.5 absences), Joonho Hwang (MCS, .5 absence), Jenny Han (SCS, 1 absence), Hao Su (SCS), Benjamin Johnston (SCS, 1 absence), Nara Kasbergen (CFA), Julia Li (CFA, .5absence), Ranjit Korah (CFA, 2 absences), Cyrus Larijani (BHA, .5 absence), Conor Flanagan (BHA)

Senators Absent: Abiola Fasehun (2 absences), Matthew Maurice (CIT, 1 absence), Steven Reilly (MCS), Kwasi Mensah (SCS, 1.5 absences)

5:09 pm Call to Order

5:09 pm Approval of Minutes from 10/11/2007

- Ioannis's name was misspelled in attendance.

5:09 pm Audience Participation

pm Committee Reports

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

- We had a complaint from an H&SS student also wanting to do a drama major. We want to see if we can help that.

5:10 pm **Business Affairs** (Rotimi Abimbola)

- I talked to USA Today.
- Senate will be involved in CEO forum. We will have a banner behind him while he speaks.
- There will be a forum after with student leaders.
- We want to raise awareness with campus leadership.

- Computer kiosks will be up this spring.

5:11 pm **Campus Life** (Amanda Reapsummer)

- We didn't have a meeting last week.
- Please sign up for the Campus Gear Sale this Friday.

5:12 pm **Communications** (Robert Bethea)

We didn't have a meeting this week.

I got a lot of good feedback on the BBQ.

Encourage people you know from CFA to run for vacancies.

5:13 pm **Finance** (Alan Eaton)

- A lot of groups will come in this and next week.
- Joel will talk about the JFC slate later.

5:13 pm **Internal Development** (Ranjit Korah)

- We're getting sweatshirts. If there are other things you guys want, like other types of clothing, let Julia know.
- The retreat is on the 17th.
- We'd like to hold a Senate dinner next Friday
- It'd be nice to wear our hoodies at our events.

5:15 pm **Chair** (Jared Itkowitz)

- Remember the no laptop policy during Ex-Officio Reports.

5:16 pm New Business from the Floor

5:17 pm **Approval of JFC Slate** (Joel Bergstein)

- The people on the slate are Joel, Alan, Timi, Evan, Lauren, Nara, and Sagar Mehta.
- We have a diverse slate this year; good college representation, some seniors, but there are also a couple of sophomores.
- I'm very confident in this slate.

5:19 pm Questions

- Have you spoken to Sagar?
- Yes. He actually contacted me. He is in umo, bhangra dance team, and is the vice president of mayor. He has lots of cultural connections.

5:20 pm Discussions

- I worked with Sagar last year and he is very reliable.

5:21 pm Call the Question (Alan Eaton)

5:21 pm Hand Vote, 26:0:2, Passed

5:22 pm Ex-Officio Reports

5:22 pm President of the University (Jared Cohon)

- I welcome the opportunity to come to Student Senate.
- The major activity on the collective administration this year is our strategic plan.
- I became president ten years ago, and in my first year we engaged in an intense planning effort then broke it down into things we can implement. Ten years is a long time so now is a good time to reevaluate that plan.
- I was reappointed to a third five year term. We're looking at what we can do in the next five years that we didn't do in the past ten.
- Middle States will come this year. It comes every ten years and our preparations for it started last year. It culminates with a site visit team in late February. A key element of Middle States is the strategic plan.
- The University has had a quiet phase for a fundraising campaign for three years. We plan to go into the public phase in about a year's time. The goal for the quiet phase was \$500 million, and we raised over \$400 million this past June. This was a good week because we got new endowments. A reason for strategic planning is that we need priorities when we go public.
- We did the planning already. The plan, though dated, is still mostly relevant so it is most likely to be refined. We have questions we want to look at, such as are there areas lacking in this university? Nanotechnology in research is an example.
- The plan has six academic priorities; undergraduate experience, research, internationalization of Carnegie Mellon, diversity, University involvement in Pittsburgh and its development, and finance.
- There is a small committee for each of those priorities. They go over what we have done and what else needs to be done. The committees are primarily faculty, but they will be reaching out to rest of the Carnegie Mellon community.
- We want to have a good first draft by next fall. That's the major organizing task for this year.
- We also have new buildings. The two major projects going on are the Doherty Hall renovations, which is on schedule to be finished next summer. It is primarily to improve ChemE research labs. The second project is the SCS complex. That's moving along more or less on schedule and it should be finished by summer 2009.

- I went to entropy plus and it looks great. There is a tremendous improvement.
- The Tartan pavilion is on schedule and should be opening soon. We're looking to create more places on campus attractive for eating and hanging out.
- We've had a busy week. Carnegie Mellon was the major host for the Carnegie Medals for Philanthropy. It was a great thing for the campus and the city.

5:37 pm Questions

- How do you feel about Carnegie Mellon's new mascot?
- I think it's great. I've not seen designs yet. Bill Cosby brought a Scotty dog when he came to speak at graduation. He said he would give us a Scotty dog.
- Do you think the clubs at CMU are not as active as they could be? Do you feel need for club rooms?
- I think we have phenomenal number of student organizations. I'm sure they vary greatly in terms of involvement year to year. Space is a problem in general for clubs to meet, eat, and have ballroom dancing, practice, or playing. Playing fields is a big issue. We'd love to give you more club space, but it is not a high priority right now. The first student life building we will build is a field house, if we can raise enough money, but we won't yet.
- Do you think Spring Carnival should be modified? I think students don't think it is a big enough deal.
- There are ways to enhance it, but there are a lot of students involved in it presently.
- What do you think about CMU's image, especially locally? We got a lot of bad press for TBA movies, tuition hikes, and the military protest last year.
- I think our image is phenomenal. You can't judge it by the Pittsburgh media. The media coverage is very hostile. Pittsburgh is proud of Carnegie Mellon. Nationally and internationally, the amount of coverage Carnegie Mellon gets has gone up dramatically in the past several years. I get clips of major mentions of CMU around the world and it's amazing how much positive coverage we get.
- I hear a lot of terms like collaborative learning and collaborative learning environments. Is that a University initiative?
- We thought of ourselves as a collaborative learning university for a long time. We try to encourage interdisciplinary collaborations, but we know a lot of that happens mainly in the graduate level. Formally, we have things like the BHA program, informally, students minor in another school. Our goal is to educate

and train you in great depth in your particular major. How to also allow students to roam freely in other schools or to let other students in is a challenge. I see more and more students finding a way to get outside of their major. We have a lot of courses where students work in teams and we try to bring in collaboration that way.

- What is going on with our endowment and our return aside from campaigning and fundraising?
- Our returns were 21% last year; while Yale had a 28% return and Harvard had 24%. However our endowment is \$1.1 billion. Harvard's is \$36 billion and Yale's is \$25 billion. Typically, every university takes out 5% a year out of the endowment to run the university. Our endowment is a disadvantage for us. Financial aid packages aren't as competitive as Princeton or MIT, faculty salaries are less, and our gym. To build an endowment, we have to add to fundraising, take out less, or increase it with investments. The investment committee of the Board of Trustees manages the endowment. We're moving in a good direction right now.
- I'm looking to go abroad. What's going on in international efforts?
- We want to create programs in campuses in other countries. We have done so in Qatar, Australia, Portugal, Greece, and Taiwan. We want to create more international content in your curriculum and within your majors. We see more and more students studying abroad, during semesters and summers, but our students don't do that as much as other schools. It might have to do with the depth and rigor of our program. We try to help them by looking for similar courses they can take abroad. We have pretty good connections, but beyond that we've been growing very slowly.
- What do you think of Greek life on campus?
- I think it's very important to the university. I'm proud of our fraternities and sororities. The University is committed to having a healthy Greek community. The populations are healthy. I think Greek organizations are a positive force on campus and am pleased to see the robust nature of it.
- You talked about the strategic plan. Could you comment on some aspects on that plan and some student involvement in that?
- I will expand on undergraduate studies and student life. It's about broadening educational experience; wanting to provide more opportunities to more students

to venture outside of their majors. It drives me crazy when students don't do that. On a fairly small campus, a student not being able to do that is a fault in the administration. On student life, up until 6 years ago, our admissions criteria were exclusively quantitative; we looked at GPAs and SAT scores. We changed that, made it 50-50 quantitative and qualitative and dramatically changed the student body. Students are much more interested in things outside of your majors and the world outside of Carnegie Mellon. I don't think there were as many senators 10 years ago, and I would not get as many petitions as I do now. You push on us to create more opportunities for yourselves and that improves things overall. We now have a strong student life staff; House fellows and counseling are a result of our commitment to improving student life.

- There was an article on the front of the Tartan about the RAA with illegal downloading and Carnegie Mellon's involvement. It said we gave the names of the students that were caught downloading. Other schools don't give out any names. What are your views on that?
- In the past we investigate allegations ourselves and decide if improper actions were taken in peer to peer file sharing.
- The situation was that we gave the names of 13 students under subpoena.
- Within the court system, we always respond to subpoenas, but we never give names without subpoenas. I'll find out under what terms we provided information and what other schools did.
- Are there any plans in increasing the prevalence of on campus housing? I've seen more residences being turned into all freshmen housing. Is there a worry upperclassmen may not have guaranteed housing?
- We can house 60% of the undergraduate students. We have no plans to expand that now. We're pushing to have available housing for all freshmen. In the long run, we are looking at the Fraternity Quad and the Morewood parking lot to see if we can make more housing, but that is for the future.

6:11 pm **Chair of Activities Board**

- We've been planning events over the next two weeks. We filled the entire slate.
- We showed Kite Runner, had an advance screening for Into the Wild, and we might be able to have one of stars of the film speak on behalf of that.
- There will be a two night showing of the Neo Futurists.

- Coming up, we have two DJs coming for Mastercraft. They don't usually come to Pittsburgh. We're expecting people from other states to come to see this show.
- We will have Broken Social Scene for our fall concert on November 10th.

6:15 pm Questions

- How are these events publicized?
- Publicity for larger events is hard because of the convoluted contracting process. It can take up to a month so sometimes we don't get things verified until 2-3 weeks before the show. We started posterizing for MSTRKRFT last week.
- How have numbers been looking this year on Friday and Saturday nights compared to last year?
- Pixar films do well on campus. You have to pay for shipping and license costs, so we don't really make a profit. Ratatouille made a profit. Friday attendance is still consistent, Thursdays went up, and Sunday is consistent.
- Great job on MSTRKRFT. How did you get them?
- I thought an electronic dance show was something missing from campus. Trying to bring them was something me and many of the people on the board wanted to do. We contacted them in the summer and they got back to us in August and we've been working on it since then.
- Do you have any ideas for Carnival yet?
- Concerts is the primary organizers for Carnival. They start looking in December.
- What about Smart People?
- We were going to have an advance screening on homecoming, but it is postponed to spring semester.

6:24 pm New Business from Committee

6:25 pm **Special Allocation of \$1000 to Madrigal Dinner**

- This is a medieval dinner that we used to have. My goal is to reinstate it.
- It is on December 1st in Rangos. The reception is at 6:30pm.
- It can be as authentic as you want it or not. A dinner script will be written.
- You can buy tickets at the info desk for \$12 for students and \$20 for off campus guests. It is \$10 for children 10 and under. This is for a full course meal.
- AB has given \$4000. My goal is to do this and hopefully have it continue.
- I would like Senate to be involved. It's a partnership between bunches of us.
- The waiters will be in medieval garb and tables will be set up for 270 people.

6:30 pm Questions

- Why did you stop doing it?
- We had transitions and I changed positions. But now I want to do something even faculty can come to.
- How many people can attend? And where are you getting the money?
- Selling 270 tickets is the goal. I don't want to scrimp and save on it, but I don't want my office, Orientation, to pick up the rest.
- Is there room for audience participation? Like a dance in the end?
- I haven't done it in a while. In the past we've had belly dancers and snake charmers. What do you have in mind?
- Maybe line dancing? Something the audience can do.
- We can think about that. There is entertainment during the meal built into the dinner script.

6:34 pm Discussion

6:34 pm Call the Question (Timi Abimbola)

6:35 pm Hand Vote, Passed

6:41 pm **0708-011 Special Allocation of \$1000 to Panhellenic Council**

- This is to fund a lecture by David Spellman about apathy in groups.
- It's in McConomy on November 13th. It is open to CMU and people are encouraged to come with their groups.

6:42 pm Questions

- Could we get a summary of the event?
- David Spellman spoke at Greek leadership conference. We approached him to speak towards whole campus; since he is a big speaker he wouldn't be appropriate for just Panhel.
- What was the original request?
- \$1500
- How would groups sign up to attend?
- Anyone can come.
- Will you be contacting student organizations?
- We plan to contact them around November 1st. We're waiting to finalize funding.
- 6:44 pm Discussion
- This is a good event. It is combating something we all see in campus.
- 20% of the student population is Greek. Potentially 20% of the students will come to this event.

6:45 pm Call the Question (Ed Oh)

6:45 pm Voice Vote, Passed

6:45 pm **0708-012 Special Allocation of \$400 to HAPAs**

- HAPAs is a multicultural organization. The numbers dwindled this year since many seniors graduated.
- We will have fundraisers selling 50 cent buttons.
- They need \$400 for a button maker and supplies.
- The button makers available on campus are too big.

6:47 pm Questions

- Can other organizations use the button maker?
- Yes.
- Why is it necessary to get the smaller buttons?
- People don't usually use the bigger buttons for more than a day.

6:48 pm Discussion

6:48 pm Call the Question (Ed Oh)

6:49 pm Voice Vote, Passed

6:49 pm **0708-013 Special Allocation of \$1000 to SUMMIT**

- SUMMIT happens three days before spring semester.
- Students can take many different types of classes. You take four classes over three days.
- The fee is \$48.
- This year will be 4th year SUMMIT is happening.
- Committee decided on \$1000 because it is 2/3 of their budget and since it is a recurring event.
- We want to offer a 2nd tier of classes; more advanced levels for students who have done a class the previous year.
- Student Activities wants us to make an independent event. They want us to go to student organizations for funding.

6:51 pm Questions

- How much was the fee last year?
- \$45.
- Is there a cap on people?
- 300, since Rangos 2-3 can only fit 300. We don't want to split up participants.

6:51 pm Discussion

- Summit last year was a great way to get students involved.
- Have you tried to get corporate sponsorships?
- We're trying to get cheaper prices from restaurants and teachers. Beyond that, we have not. It's probable in the future.
- You could go to SDC.

6:53 pm Passed by Acclimation

6:53 pm **0708-014 Special Allocation of \$200 to Carnegie Clan**

- Homecoming chili cook off is this weekend. Different groups come and compete to see who will have the best chili.
- They came before for \$900 and had unexpected costs.

6:54 pm Questions

- What were the extra costs?
- Most of the cost went to FMS.
- How many teams will be there?
- We also have alumni coming and entering their own chili.
- Isn't there a senator as a judge?
- Brian Wade

6:55 pm Discussion

6:55 pm Passed by Acclimation

6:35 pm **0708-015 Special Allocation of \$240 to Mayur/SASA**

- They're coming back for reimbursement for the president's visit.
- A lot of people went and there was thought provoking discussion.

6:36 pm Questions

6:36 pm Discussion

6:36 pm Call for Acclimation (Dan O'Toole), Passed

6:36 pm **0708-016 Special Allocation of \$835 to Bhangra in the Burgh**

- There is a big nationwide Bhangra competition held in Pittsburgh at Soldiers and Sailors. There are 70 CMU students involved in the organization of this event.
- It is supposed to be very large event.
- Look over the budget in the income on the last page of the agenda.
- This will be a culminating event for the international and family weekend.
- There will be six other universities coming. We want to showcase CMU to the other people coming.

6:38 Questions

- Is this the original request?
- Yes.
What is the competition fee?
- \$200
- Is there a cost for students to attend?
It is \$10 for CMU and Pitt students and \$20 for everyone else.
- Are we hosting the competing teams?
- They're staying in Holiday Inn. There will be a dinner on campus for them.
- Is this a charitable event?
- We are hoping to give profits to the Children's fund, but now we're just looking to break even.

6:40 pm Discussion

- You could also get JFC funding.
- Part of our budget comes from the \$425 they gave to Mayur/SASA.

6:41 pm Voice Vote, Passed

6:56 pm Points of Discussion

- We can make Carnival more interesting and publicize more. I think more people could come to Carnival.
- Are you talking about Midway or Carnival as a whole?
- Mainly Midway.
- I partially agree. People look forward to it because they get 4 days off of school, not so much the booths, unless they're involved in building it.
- You can't please everybody, but the people who work on it do a great job. Our Carnival is unique to CMU.
- Campus Gear Sale used to be during Carnival.
- Are the prices higher in Entropy Plus?
- Yes.
- Student Affairs are convening a quick committee because they were astonished at the prices.
- Who sets prices?
- It would be a subset of Housing and Dining.
- Is it possible for the school to subsidize costs?
- Each year, Dining loses a lot of money. I don't see them subsidizing. This could be a way for them to make more money.

- Who funded the construction of Entropy?
- Housing and Dining probably.
- What's happening to the old Entropy?
- It will be part of the Bookstore.
- I can bring Kim back to talk about it.
- Does anyone know the status of Healthy campus 2010?
- The next meeting will be in the beginning of November. They still plan on moving forward on their agenda from last year.
- Case Western University will visit our campus. Would we interested in copying what they're doing and visiting other schools?
- Last year all the student governments in Pittsburgh met up. People have radically different ways of running a student government. I think it was a good idea.
- Maybe we could get back in contact with Pitt and host it on our campus this year.
- Executive payment needs to be discussed sometime.
- Member at Large caucus was formed and met for the first time last week. They are looking at Senate bylaws and making revisions.

7:07 pm Announcements

- The Campus Gear Sale will be Fri. Oct 26th from 10-3pm.
- 3 CFA vacancies will be filled on Nov 1st.

7:07 pm Motion to Adjourn (Chansaly Ker)

7:07 pm Adjourn