

Carnegie Mellon University Undergraduate Student Senate

Minutes: 12th General Body Meeting of Spring 2009 – April 23, 2009

6:42 Roll Call

Senators Present: Cassandra Abernathy (CIT, 1.5 absence, .5 proxy), Mana Ameri (CIT, 4 absence, .5 proxy), Eduardo Benatuil (HSS, 1 absence, 2 proxy), Jake Flittner (CIT), Aaron Gross (HSS, 1.5 absence), Jayesh Kapoor (TSB, 3 absence, 2.5 proxy), Barbara Kasbergen (CFA, 1.5 absence), Chansaly Ker (CIT, 2 absence, 1 proxy), Kush Mangal (MCS, 2.5 absence), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS 1 absence, 2 proxy), Natalie Morris (SCS, 2 absence, .5 proxy), Daniel O'Toole (CIT, 2.5 absence), Stuti Pandey (HSS, 1.5 absence), Marcela Partida (CIT, 2.5 absence), Dina Patel (MCS, 3.5 absence), Zack Pierce (HSS), Robert Piston Jr. (MCS, 2 absence), Vivake Prasad (HSS, .5 absence, 2 proxy), Keshav Raghavan (CIT, 3.5 absence), Sonali Shah (MCS, 3.5 absence, .5 proxy), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 2 absence), Benjamin Trump (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 absence), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, 1 absence), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 3 absence, 1 proxy), Brian Wade (TSB, 2 absence), Eric Wu (SCS, .5 absence, 1.5 proxy)

Senators Absence: Zexi Chen (SCS, 3 absence, .5 proxy), Stephanie Schneider (TSB, 2 absence, .5 proxy), Carolina Velez (HSS, 3.5 absence, 1.5 proxy),

Members-at-Large Present: Jarrett Adams (3 absence), Toro Adeyemi (2 absence), Marcel Christian (3.5), Zachary Stockwell (1 absence), Vidi (2 absence)

Members-at-Large Absent: My Le (3 absence), Krishan Taylor (2 absence), Will Zhang (4 absence)

6:42 Call to Order

6:46 Agenda Approved

6:46 Minutes Approved

5:11 Audience Participation.

6:45 New Business from Committee

0809-070: Special Allocation of \$250 to VSA for Lunar New Year

- Reimbursement for late night event for lunar new year
- Help finance portion from debt incurred.
- 200 people attend
- Committee reduced amount because they collaborated with two other organizations that did not make monetary contributions.

6:54 Questions

- (Stephanie Schneider) Why didn't the groups contribute?
- They
- (Brian Wade) Line item for fried rice? Where do you get them for this price?
- It was to feed over 150 people
- 6:56 Discussion
- (Jay Kapoor) Where did you get the food from?
- A restaurant from far away...they had the cheapest prices.

6:57 Move to Vote. Three-fourths super majority. 19-0-2. Passed. \$250 to VSA for Lunar New Year

0809-071: Special Allocation of \$100 to CMU Politics for Operational Costs

- Recently CoSo recognized, so haven't received JFC funding yet.
- Members originally paid out of pocket.
- Some sponsorship from the leadership institute.

6:59 Questions

- (Brian Wade) What do they do?
- Have political discussion where speakers are brought.

- Bring speakers, plan to bring John Stossel.
- Hope to do polling for CMU elections.

7:00 Discussion

- (Dan O'Toole) Really trying to provide non-affiliated politeness forum.

7:01 Mover to vote. Three-fourths super majority. 17-0-4. Passed. \$100 to CMU Politics for Operational Costs

0809-072: Special Allocation of \$500 to Donner House for Donner Ditch Day

- Huge barbeque and lots of game
- Money requested for tables and chairs
- Will have campus gear sale there

7:02 Questions

- (Chansaly Ker) Are you buying the tables and chairs?
- No, renting.
- (Jay Kapoor) Photo booth?
- Taking pictures.

7:03 Discussion

- (Toro Adeyemi) Not just exclusive to Donner house, because we can sell our goods there.

7:03 Move to vote. Simple-majority voice vote. Passes. 500 to Donner House for Donner Ditch Day

0809-073: Special Allocation of \$1500 to Solar Splash for Hull Design and Competition Expenses

- Have explored other sources of funding.
- For hull of solar boat and competition expensive.
- Students participating should also contribute to the cost/
- ECE offered \$1000 but it had to be used strictly

7:06 Questions

- (Jay Kapoor) How big is the competition?
- 20 universities, located in Arkansas. A week long competition.
- (Chansaly Ker) Are you paying any dues?
- The students will pay for whatever is not funded.
- (Vivake Prasad) How did you calculate the gas costs?
- Based on last year's cost.

7:07 Discussion

- Important to pass. Also were very cautious by coming early.

7:08 Move to vote. Three-fourths super majority. 20-0-2. Passes. \$1500 to Solar Splash for Hull Design and Competition Expenses

0809-074: Special Allocation of \$ 500 to Relay for Life for unforeseen FMS costs

- Moved DJ booth and resulted in \$1,500 fee from FMS.
- Renisk and West Wing would not give enough power. Nearly \$1,000 in labor charges.
- In the spirit of special allocate.

7:11 Questions

7:11 Discussion

- (Dan O'Toole) Seems very fair.

7:12 Move to vote. Three-fourths super majority. 20-0-2. Passed. 500 to Relay for Life for unforeseen FMS costs

0809-075 Special Allocation of \$1,000 Alternative Break for Reaming Costs

- Coming back again for funding.
- Went to Peru and New Orleans.
- Asked for \$6,000, committee recommended \$1,000.
- Feel that remaining deficit should come through fundraising.
- Have contacted 15 companies

7:14 Questions

- (Chansaly Ker) How much have you raised since the trip?
- Between 2 and 3 thousand.
- (Zach Pierce) What happened last time?
- From preliminary discussion, some said “no” some said “yeas.” Wanted to see us fundraise more.
- (Dan O’Toole) Did your JFC budget increase next year?
- Yes, and we will only have one trip. Will have to scale back a little bit or a whole lot.
- We had the allocation for two trips, however JFC only covers one trip.

7:17 Discussion

- (Jay Kapoor) JFC recommended they only did one trip, however they tok two. It was a poor decision on the part of their executive board.

7:18 Move to Vote. Three-fourths super majority. 13-4-2. Passes. \$1,000 Alternative Break for Reaming Costs**7:21 New Business from the Floor**

- Multicultural formal, charged \$5,500. Only got a \$250 special allocation from Senate.
- Would like some extra funding.
- Gone to every other source on campus.
- All the organization contributed more than the budgeted amount.

7:24 Questions

- (Jay Kapoor) Which organization has it in their budget?
- TSA.
- Did the organizations have more than they are pledging right now.
- (Dan O’Toole)
- (Marcela Partida) 10 organizations are holding the event together, so they should be able to contribute up to \$1,000.
- (Aaron Gross) How many people are you expecting?
- Based on last year, about 200-300.
- (Brian Wade) These organizations can easily cover it without our help.
- Wanted to make conservative estimates.
- (Jay Kapoor) How many listed this in their budgets for next year?
- Most put it in their JFC budgets, but many were denied.
- The increase in costs was the food. Initially wanted a dinner, but now just have appetizers.
- (Dan O’Toole) It’s \$20. The Carnegie Museum will cut costs because there will be no transportation costs.
- (Marcela Partida) Have you contacted GSA?
- I don’t anticipate they will support it because few graduate students attend.
- Will probably spit the debt equally.

7:33 Motion to introduce business to the floor. Passed.**7:35 Motion to table indefinitely. Fail.****7:36 Discussion**

- (Natalie Morris) On the fence about the issue because it doesn’t seems like

- (Jared) I think it's in the spirit of the Student Activities fee.
- (Brian Wade) I agree it's a great event and it's a special allocation but it concerns me that there are some groups that have only contributed \$100. Let Senate know ahead of time.
- The organization that contributed \$100 was not JFC recognized.

7:40 Move to vote. Three-fourths super majority. 9-7-4. Failed.

7:42 Special Business

cmuTV Proposal and Request of funds from SGOR

- Asking for \$37,500 from SGOR to support HD transition proposal.
- \$30,000 from this year and \$7,500 from next year.
- Made sure this would sustain cmuTV.
- Proposal will save money in the long run.
- Regarding Emergency funding: "Money from this reserve from this..."

7:45 Questions

- (Brian Wade) Should be funded in the future however want to maintain a precedence for the SGOR. Student government doesn't feel that cmuTV has a wide enough viewership. Need to increase visibility in campus and because part of the big three: radio, newspaper, television.
- (Thomas Tuttle) Plan sounds like "get cooler stuff so we can make programs." It should be reaching a point where programming in general should be improved. Once that happens, can gradually fund a small fraction of what is necessary.
- (Dan O'Toole) Especially in these economic times, it's important we have these reserves.
- (Jake Flittner) Let's ask ourselves is it an emergency for the organization, or an emergency for the campus?
- (Aaron Gross) Problem is that it was coming out of the operating reserves. It does set a poor precedence. Do it through the regular JFC process.
- (Zach Pierce) If we don't find you, what happens?
- Not going to grow. Will not be able to provide enough cameras for live events.
- (Chansaly Ker) The money passed for one camera is not that much.
- JFC is giving us \$10,000 for a new camera.
- (Thomas Tuttle) What will you need to operate properly?
- Will total \$22,000 about.
- (Natalie Morris) JFC has already given you this money for one camera. You can come back in the fall for a special allocation for another camera.
- (Dan O'Toole) Would the \$7,000 for next year be binding?
- We're voting on the \$30,000 this year.
- (Zach Stockwell) Do you receive any money from the University?
- No.
- Have you approached the University for help?
- No, they have their own service.
- Obviously we are on the University level. Eventually, the station will be an integral part of the campus. This proposal is how much you believe in Student Activities.

7:57 Move to vote. Simple-majority hand vote. 1-19-2. Failed.

8:00 ExOfficio Report

Jared Itkowitz (Student Body President)

- Cabinet
- Two motions:
- Attorney General and Constitutional Advisor—wording in bylaws need to change

because it's illegal.

- Have mandatory office hours—unrealistic for them

8:02 Motion to suspend bylaws. Passed.

8:03 Move to vote. Vote by acclimation. Passed.

- Updates:
- StuGov is sponsoring a Mayoral debate, town hall style.
- Earlier in Warner, can talk to the councilman about local Pittsburgh issues.
- In middle of search for the dean of Karen Boyd and Raj Balani.
- Come to represent student voice.
- Loop bus will go until May 9th. Had 760 riders the bus over 5 weekends. Roughly 90 students a night. Pooja is working on a report for Michael Murphy to make this a sustainable initiative.

8:08 Final Committee Reports

Academic Affairs (Brian Wade)

- Financial crisis hindered many initiatives.
- Sent course/ unit hours to Administration.
- Bookstore issue.
- Printer in Tepper.
- BME major.
- Modern Chem Lab was not approved for financial reasons.

Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump)

- Finance transparency with Deb Moon.
- Student dining contract.
- UC web stations.
- Campus readership—can't reduce prices or get weekend issues yet.

Campus Life (Chansaly Ker)

- Focused on hosting a lot of events—all very successful.

Communications (Akshay Udaviar)

- Work on marketing and visibility—created a banner to show at events sponsored by Senate.

Finance (Marcela Partida)

- Updated bylaws; now funding according to Senate bylaws.
- Had 42 special allocations in the Spring semesters
- Goal to open lines of communication between finance committee and student organizations.

Internal Development (Cassandra Abernathy)

- Made handbook and updated the bylaws.
- Enjoyed the dinners—bonding!

Chair (Timi Abimbola)

- Engaged the campus community and were productive in the committees.

8:32 Adjourn

Minutes: 1st General Body Meeting of Fall 2009 – April 23, 2009

8:40 Call to Order

8:42 First Roll Call

8:45 Audience Participation

8:45 Runoff Elections

8:46 Speech by Fermen
8:47 Questions for Ferman
8:50 Speech by Stephen
8:50 Questions by Stephen
8:52 Speech by Michael
8:53 Questions for Michael
8:55 Discussion
8:57 Move to Vote
9:01 Michael elected MCS senator

9:01 Special Business—Chair Elections

Chair

9:05 Speech by Jake Flittner
9:09 Questions for Jake Flittner
9:12 Speech by Aaron Gross
9:16 Questions for Aaron Gross
9:20 Speech by Bassem
9:22 Questions for Bassem
9:26 Speech by Kush Mangal
9:29 Questions for Kush Mangal
9:33 Discussion
9:39 Move to vote

Academic Affairs

9:45 Speech by Jake Flittner
9:46 Questions for Jake Flittner
9:48 Speech by Bassem
9:50 Questions for Bassem
9:52 Speech by Stuti
9:55 Questions for Stuti
9:58 Discussion
10:06 Bassem elected new Academic Affairs Chair

Business Affairs

10:08 Speech by Jake Flittner
10:10 Questions for Jake Flittner
10:11 Speech by Kush Mangal
10:13 Questions for Kush Mangal
10:16 Speech by Natalie Morris
10:18 Questions for Natalie Morris
10:20 Speech by Will Zhang
10:22 Questions for Will
10:24 Discussion
10:28 Move to Vote. Jake Flittner elected new Business Affairs Chair.

Campus Life

10:32 Speech by Jarrett Adams
10:34 Questions for Jarrett Adams
10:35 Speech by Kush Mangal

10:37 Questions for Kush Mangal
10:39 Speech by Eric Wu
10:41 Questions for Eric Wu
10:42 Discussion
10:47 Move to Vote. Jarrett Adams elected new Campus Life Chair

Communications

10:48 Speech by Toro Adeyemi
10:50 Questions for Toro Adeyemi
10:54 Speech by Natalie Morris
10:56 Questions for Natalie Morris
10:59 Speech by Akshay
11:01 Questions for Akshay
11:03 Discussion
11:10 Move to Vote. Toro Adeyemi elected new Communications Chair

Finance

11:13 Speech by Nicolas Ferrell
11:15 Questions for Nicolas Ferrell
11:18 Speech by Jay Kapoor
11:19 Questions for Jay Kapoor
11:22 Speech by Robert Piston
11:25 Discussion
11:29 Move to Vote. Jay Kapoor elected new Finance Chair

Internal Development

11:32 Speech by Eric Wu
11:33 Questions for Eric Wu
11:37 Discussion
11:41 Move to Vote. Eric Wu elected new Internal Development Chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms

11:46 Speech by Kush Mangal
11:47 Questions for Kush Mangal
11:48 Speech by Nikhil
11:48 Questions for Nikhil
11:48 Discussion
11:50 Move to vote. Nikhil elected new Sergeant-at-Arms

11:52 Adjourn