

# CMU Student Senate

Minutes of November 13, 2008

## 5:06 Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Cassandra Abernathy (CIT, 2 proxies, 1.5 absences), Dorian Adeyemi (HSS, 1.5 absences), Mana Ameri (CIT, 1 proxy), Steve Burton (CFA, 2.5 absences), Miriam Cha (CIT, 1 absence), Zexi Chen (SCS, 1 proxy, 1 absence), Jake Flittner (CIT), Christopher Franzi (HSS, 2 proxy), Aaron Gross (HSS, 2 proxies), Michael He (CIT, 1.5 absences), Jayesh Kapoor (TSB, 2 proxies), Barbara Kasbergen (CFA), Chansaly Ker (CIT, 1 proxy), Eunjin Kim (CFA), Diane Lee (CIT, 1 proxy), Kush Mangal (MCS), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 proxy), Natalie Morris (SCS, 1 proxy), Daniel O'Toole (CIT, 2 proxies, 1.5 absences), Stuti Pandey (HSS, 1.5 proxies), Marcela Partida (CIT), Dina Patel (MCS, 1 absence), Robert Piston Jr. (MCS, 1 absence), Vivake Prasad (HSS, 2 proxies), Sonali Shah (MCS, .5 absence), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 1 proxy, 1.5 absences), Benjamin Trump (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 absence), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, 1.5 absences), Akshay Udiavar, Damian Valdes (TSB, 1 proxy, 2.5 absences), Carolina Velez, (HSS, 2 proxies), Brian Wade (TSB, 1.5 absences), Lingshui Wang (CFA, 1 absence), Nik White (CIT, 1.5 absences), Eric Wu (SCS, 1 absence)

**Members-at Large Present:** Jarett Adams, Mariluz Orbay Cerrato (1 absence), Gurmukh Chhabra (3+ absences), Katie Chong (2 absences), Amy Kao (3 absences), Zack Pierce, Keshav Raghavan (1 proxy, 2 absences), Stephanie Schneider (1 absence), Zachary Stockwell, Krishan Taylor (1 absence), Will Zhang

**Members-at-Large Absent:** Urna Biswas (3 absences), Marcel Christian (1 absence), Meghan Nahass (1 absence)

## 5:04 Call to Order

## 5:08 Agenda Approved

## 5:08 Minutes Approved

## 5:08 Audience Participation

Several students in attendance to discuss their opposition to the new smoking policy.

### Background Information on the Smoking Ban (Chair)

- Anita came to Student Senate in October of 2006 with the initial proposal.
- Senators wanted to inform the student body about the proposal:
  - A hearing was held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007. It was heavily advertised and well-attended—half of McConomy was filled.
  - Later a survey went out to all Undergraduates (1,848 responses).
- Through discussion, the task force on the smoking ban realized that students did not support the ban.
- On February 28, 2008, Anita reported back to Senate regarding designated smoking areas.
  - Senate wanted to inform students on the designated smoking areas so it held a Spotlight Series on March 20<sup>th</sup>. It was heavily advertised however attendance was low.
  - Anita talked about the new policy.
  - Senate voted. 17 voted for the new policy, 9 voted against it.
- On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Faculty Senate and GSA gave their feedback on the policy.
  - Stipulation that came about was that the committee deciding on the designated areas would be comprised only of undergraduate and graduate students.
  - Also ensure to give smokers a voice in the matter.

## 5:14 Ex-Officio Report (Anita Barkin)

- Besides Student Senate, new policy also went to Faculty Senate, Staff Council, GSA, and SDC (although not an official voting body).
- The ban includes residential areas.
- The smoking ban initially began as a smoke free campus initiative, but it didn't have support (only ~54%).
- The new policy is intended to satisfy the needs of smokers and non smokers.
- The new policy is part of Healthy Campus 2010.
- 2006-2007: rewrote proposal with the designated smoking areas.
- Major issue was who would determine the designated areas—whether they would be under shelters and the leniency in fines.
- Committee deciding on designated smoking areas contains members from voting bodies and general student body.
  - Committee is likely to expand.
  - Include individuals on committee who smoke—have smokers represented on committee.
- New policy was passed by president's council in October.
- The policy includes individuals working in buildings off-campus.
- Working with campus design to look at shelter options.
  - One is a winged canvas cover that is attached to the building (like an awning).
  - Complete through civil engineers.
- Met with Tom Ogden concerning enforcement and training officers about Nicotine addiction and appropriate approaches to take when someone is smoking.
  - No citations in first 90 days.
    - First day in April 1<sup>st</sup>, likely.
  - What's an appropriate way for enforcement?
    - 25\$ fines, educate public, have maps online and directional signs on campus.
    - Will also inform services and public.
- Need to provide resources along with policies:
  - New policy will also provide smoking resources to members of the community.
  - Those enrolled in such programs historically have high success rates.
  - Resource also has a weight management component for quitters afraid of gaining weight.
  - Have desire to help people stop smoking.
- Overall, it's an expensive proposition. Student Health covers costs for students who want to enroll.

### **5:28 Questions**

- (Daniel O'Toole) Is goal still to go smoke-free?
  - Pennsylvania passed a smoke-free workplace law. 14 universities have gone smoke-free. Trend is that Universities are moving toward smoke-free environments.
  - However intent is not to slowly remove the designated areas.
  - It's a step in the right direction.
  - There is an increase in regular use of tobacco when students come to college. We wish to change the social norm.
    - Would use same process to change policy again if University is to go smoke-free.
    - Possibility if revisiting it in the future.
- (Nik White) Do you have a copy of the proposal?
  - [Proposal placed on overhead].
- (Nik White) Does the Fraternity Quad have exceptions?

- Engaged in conversation with a Greek leader presenting to IFC.
  - Leases are signed in Spring—language in leases is that Fraternities follow all University policies. Therefore, there should be designated areas on the Quad.
  - Move fraternities in that direction.
- Point of Information (Brian Wade): Fraternities have been notified.
  - Starting to enforce smoking inside the houses although smoking is not monitored in rooms. Also, especially since there are no ventilation systems in rooms, non smokers need to know how to be protected.
- (Concerned Graduate Student) Can you elaborate more on the designated smoking areas and fines for littering? Also, are you determined to make the campus smoke-free by 2010?
  - No hidden agenda—policy was passed as a community. Feedback from email is enforcement.
- (Danny Chao) You spoke of the Spotlight Series and advertising, and yet I didn't hear about it. I honestly didn't realize how much power Senate had. I feel that smokers are not as well represented; will the designated areas be in convenient locations?
  - They will not be around the Health Center, the Cut, any athletic center, and the Childcare Center.
    - So basically they are around the perimeter?
      - Otherwise, smokers are affecting nonsmokers with their smoke. It's out of respect to nonsmokers (the majority) on campus.
- (Thomas Tuttle) There was an incident last year with someone smoking in the lounge and we called campus police. Current smoking complaints are low unless they are actively bothering someone. How will CMUPD enforce this and have the time?
  - CMUPD is working on a more effective way to address it.
  - Will also have a conversation with resident life concerning how to tackle this.
    - But how will it be enforced? By the time CMUPD comes, smokers will be gone.
      - Tackle it by going at elevated smoker times in popular smoking locations.
- (Jake Arakal) What happens if an agreement cannot be reached on smoking sections? Would it mean that smokers would be vetoed?
  - I don't want to anticipate problems before they happen. I don't want to make smokers feel unwelcomed; we need to provide a place for smokers, but not in nonsmoker areas, so it needs to be negotiated. The intent is not to punish.
    - I came here from Dubai where smoking is a large part of the culture. I came to Carnegie Mellon believing it was friendly to smokers; it's why I live and I am an RA in Fairfax. I feel as if there is some representation missing.
    - Shows concern over international students, especially since coming from a culture where smoking is more acceptable
- (Eric Wu) Could people not graduate if they have a smoking fine in their student accounts?
  - Meeting with the Police chief and University Council to see what the process looks like.
- (Steve Burton) I've been contacted by many constituents and smokers have been concerned or irate about this. They don't know how to undo this policy.
  - They can express their unhappiness with the policy. The policy was changed to cater to those that expressed concern; hence the new proposal. To change it they would have to go through same process which would not be a good use of time. It would be unlikely

- this would be undone. Have them put forth ideas that will help it go smoothly.
  - They can contact me or Meghan Miller.
- (Carline Velez) I've received emails of constituents that express segregation. They are uncomfortable with the lines drawing smoking designated areas.
  - Public sidewalks cannot be under smoke-free jurisdiction.
  - Problem of old policy is that people move the smoking butlers. Designated areas that are clearly marked would be easier for people to comply with.
  - We will look to put shelters in as many possible areas.
  - A sample map provides at least 30 places out of the main path. We need to be considerate of other people who don't smoke.
- (Danny Chao) There was a proposition 2 years ago that had student input—why not have it again this time about the new policy?
  - It was broadly publicized.
  - Point of Information: (Dorian Adeyemi) The new policy was already voted on.
- (Vivake Prasad) People voted for its because they don't want smoke in their face and a compromise was made to cater to both groups that were discussed in town meeting regarding that (which had lots of publicity).
  - Contribute by getting involved by volunteering to be on the committee. Email ideas about addressing needs. Not productive now because it has already been passed.
- (Vivale Prasad) The new policy is intended to protect students and to make sure people have a place to smoke.
- (Chris) Believes in minority rights for everyone, considers him only an occasional smoker.
  - Distinct difference between eating unhealthy verses smoking because you affect other people.
- (Nik White) Does the policy affect the Qatar Campus? Also, when will the fines be decided since they are not present in the policy?
  - No, it will not. You don't put procedures in policy.
- What is the definition of smoking? Does it include shisha?
  - Yes.
- (Benjamin Trump) A lot of concern has been expressed, but ignorantly. Why was the email sent to the student body sent before designated areas defined?
  - To inform students so they are involved.
- (Dorian Adeyemi) People have the right to smoke but even more people have the right to breathe fresh air.
- (Jay Kapoor) What are the fines going towards?
  - I don't know his fore sure, but it should support the smoking education policies.
- (Eric Wu) I personally don't smoke and I'm an international student. I don't think international students should be stereotyped in this manner.
- (Jake Arakal) In Dubai, about 80% smoke shisha and 60% smoke cigarettes. I even smoke with my father; smoking is part of the culture. The intentions are noble, but it would be segregating smokers.
- Is the charge only to professors or just students?
  - It's a community standard. The issue with visitors is a bit difficult. But it does affect everyone.
- Chair: possibility of another spotlight series on the topic

## **6:25 New Business from the Floor**

### **6:25 Funding Motion 0809-022 Special Allocation of \$110 to Kappa Phi Lambda for 3D: Deliberate, Discuss, Debate**

- Annual event.
- Attracts campus body.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year doing the event.

#### **6:27 Questions**

- (Brian Wade) How was attendance in the past?
  - Pretty good.
- (Mana Ameri) What type of advertising?
  - Posters.
- (Jerry Wang) What is the \$100 for gifts?
  - We're not funding their gifts.
- When and where is the event?
- This coming Monday in Rangos 3.

**6:29 Move to Vote (Roll call  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote). Passed. \$110.00 to Kappa Phi Lambda.**

### **6:30 Funding Motion 0809-023 Special Allocation of \$500.00 to ASA Student Leadership Conference**

- Will go towards the cost of the speaker. Covers travel costs of the speaker.
- Benefit students on campus.,
- Get students to participate in
- Becky Lee is a celebrity. Has a philanthropic fund, was on Survivor.
- (Diane Lee) How many sponsors confirmed?
- All
- (Evan Osheroff) Has she been contracted yet?
- I don't know, the cost only covers her travel.

#### **6:35 Discussion**

- Brian Wade) Anticipated attendance?
- About 250 students.
- (Diane lee) I don't think we should worry about their contract because they were funded by other people.
- (Eric) I think it is an important topic in the Asian community.

**6:39 Move to Vote. (Hand vote). Passed. \$500.00 to ASA**

### **6:38 Funding Motion 0809-024 Special Allocation of \$2250.00 for Impact Movement for National Conference**

- Worthy thing to vote on.
- Background: Christian organization. It's a national organization that uses Christian values to directly impact African communities, such as rising AIDS epidemic.

#### **6:40 Questions**

- (Steve Burton) Is this a religious organization?
  - Yes.
- (Zach Pierce) Can non-Christians join?
  - Yes.
- (Jerry Wang) How will you bring back info from event?
  - Bring back questions discussed at convention and discuss them on campus;

reproduce things we learn at the conference.

- (Mana Ameri) Is it for negative cultural issues around African communities, or in general?
  - Mostly communities of African descent.
- (Natalie Morris) Have you been to the conference before and how has it affected the campus?
  - This is Impact's first year on the Carnegie Mellon campus. It will be inspirational for our campus chapter.
- (Mana Ameri) Who goes?
  - Leadership team and 10 other people, hopefully freshman, to get leadership experience.
- (Diane Lee) When do you need the money by?
  - Need \$75.00 deposit by December.
- (Nik White) Who will be the additional people?
  - We have prospective people that showed up to our interest meeting.
- (Tuttle) Can anyone go?
  - It's based on interest and personal incentive.

#### **6:46 Discussion**

- Precedence for us finding this.
- (Nik White) I don't know if the 15 number is realistic.
  - Based on the deposit we will be able to determine how committed people are.

**6:37 Move to Vote. Passed. \$2250.00 to the Impact Movement for National Conference.**

#### **Funding Motion 0809-025 Special Allocation of \$3467.50 to SIFE for Project Nicaragua**

- Building houses for the underprivileged.
- Have expansive budget.
- Looked at many different funding sources.
- Money to cover travel costs.
- More than reasonable to cover more than 50% of the costs.
- Budget is increased because there are more new members.
- Also bringing medical supplies.
- Get coffee co-ops and bring them back to campus.

#### **6:51 Questions**

- (Diane Lee) how much did we fund last year?
  - \$2000.00.
- (Jared Itkowitz) What is current confirmed funding?
  - On projected chart.

#### **6:53 Discussion**

- (Diane Lee) Great, it's outreaching to the international community
- (Mana Ameri) Looks great on Carnegie Mellon
- (Vivake Prasad) How much did members pay out-of-pocket last year?
  - \$200.00.

**6:54 Move to Vote. (3/4 super majority). Passed. \$3467.50 to SIFE.**

## 6:56 Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs (Brian Wade):** UCA questions are put into the mini ones. Honor code committee has been formed. Waiting to hear from Modern Chem Lab and BME major. Changed the woodshop hours. The overload/waitlist policy has not been passed yet.
  - (Kush Mangal) In the BME townhall meeting, talked about single major v. double major. The department is not accredited yet and first year of single majors will not have accreditation. Looking into what impact it has on students. Many don't feel that the program will not be as strong compared to other engineering disciplines.
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):** Working on campus readership, computing, and printing. Meeting regarding setting the tuition. Working on bringing printing services to Doherty
- (Thomas Tuttle) Why is it invite only?
  - It is only informative.
- Pushing transparency at the meeting.
- **Campus Life (Damian Valdez):** Sign-up for UC Late night for the Casino Night on November 22. 9-1am. Great way to hear from constituents. 4 poker tables, 4 blackjack tables, concession stands, and a roulette table. Spread by word of mouth. Sign-up to man tables. Pooja has a survey about the transportation and escort system. Compile report to present to Chief Ogden. Tomorrow is the campus gear sale.
- **Communications (Nara Kasbergen):** Issue 4 of *The Gavel* is out. Needs two corrections. Issue 5 will be pushed for the last week of classes. Guest can write articles or be interviewed by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Tabling next Thursday outside of Doherty. Doing research to see how effective *The Gavel* has been. Have sign up for tabling by email. Will have posters for that. Will probably leave them with committee chairs by Monday. Will leave reminders with committee chairs regarding posterings.
- **Finance (Marcela Partida):** \$51, 881.70 for the rest of the Semester. Expect more groups to come at the end of the semester. Remember that you can motion to reduce—that is what discussion is for.
- **Internal Development (Vivale Prasad):** Next Thursday is the Thanksgiving dinner. Also still working on t-shirts.
- **Member-at-Large Caucus (Krishan Taylor):** Having event/ info session in Donner lounge...“Wtf? Where are the facts?” concerning C@CM for SCS majors, room selection, dining, housing, tuition, Healthy Campus, and campus involvement. Mostly for freshmen. Tuesday from 7-9.

## 7:18 Announcements

- Chief Ogden will attend last meeting.
- Will have internal elections for Chairs at the end of the semester.
- Thanksgiving basket. Must be in by the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Point people for schools for “Cookies for Comments” –let students know that we’re on campus.
- Promote transparency with the new website.
  - Planning to have a launching event around website.

## 7:22 Points of Discussion

- Port Authority—word is that they are moving closer to striking.

## 7:24 Adjourn