

CMU Student Senate

Minutes of December 4, 2008

5:10 Roll Call

Senators Present: Cassandra Abernathy (CIT, 2 proxies, 2 absences), Dorian Adeyemi (HSS, 1.5 absences), Mana Ameri (CIT, 1 proxy), Steve Burton (CFA, 2.5 absences), Miriam Cha (CIT, 1.5 absences), 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, .5 absences), Barbara Kasbergen (CFA), Chansaly Ker (CIT, 1 proxy), Eunjin Kim (CFA, .5 absences), 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), Eric Wu (SCS, 1 absence)

Senators Absent: Akshay Udiviar (CFA, 1 absence), Lingshui Wang (CFA, 1 absence), Nik White (CIT, 2.5 absences)

Members-at Large Present: Jarett Adams, Urna Biswas (3 absences), Mariluz Orbay Cerrato (1 absence), Gurmukh Chabra (3+ absences), Katie Chong (2 absences), Marcel Christian (1 absence), Amy Kao (3 absences), Meghan Nahass (1 absence), Zack Pierce, Stephanie Schneider (1 absence), Zachary Stockwell, Will Zhang

Members-at-Large Absent: Krishan Taylor (2 absences), Keshav Raghavan (1 proxy, 3 absences)

5:08 Call to Order

5:11 Agenda Approved

5:11 Minutes Approved

5:12 Ex-Officio Report (Chief Ogden)

- First month trying to assess the police department's needs and the services being supplied.
- Inviting all members of the CMU community to come and give input, not really sensitive and will listen to everything.
- Honored to be at Carnegie Mellon.
- It has been a while since the department has assessed what is done.
 - Senate is the most important group that he can deal with, and he is asking for our help. He really wants our feedback.
 - Lack of awareness of safety precautions. Many entities in Pittsburgh are having some theft problems (Shady Side Hospital, University of Pittsburgh).
 - Crime alerts exists, which is great but need to prevent them before they happen.
 - Traffic is number one complaint of student, staff, and faculty. Not much traffic control from the department. Since he has been here there have been two pedestrian accidents.
 - Website is embarrassing, and needs to be updated.
- Three step process: guards, armed officers, dispatchers
- No resources for expansion.
- Welcome input regarding transportation. Interest in expanding the service.
- Impressive Emergency Plan.
- Joint training with University of Pitt (it's 4 times as large).

- Focus on being prepared for major events.
- Focus on active listening skills.
- 99 percent is service oriented (i.e. unlocking a dorm, ride to hospital, etc.)
- Working on anonymous reporting. Report embarrassing things without identifying yourself. Lots of student interest.

5: 29 Questions

- (Eric Wu) Enforcement of the new smoking policy?
 - Educate the campus but not put Police in predicaments where there is potential conflict in the matter.
 - Remain hopeful by getting students to smoke in the appropriate places. Will not have additional police officers to enforce it. Have police in problem areas. Have compliance as part of the community.
- (Rob Piston) How do you see roles of an officer different in a University setting?
 - Enforcement is primary job. More a community member than an official. More important to prevent before something happens. Focus isn't on arresting, it's on service. Goal is to have students graduate successfully. Focus is on support.
- (Diane Lee) There were recent security problems on the Quad and houses were robbed. If students were aware, students would've been more aware. Fraternities were alerted, but Panhletic was not made aware. What will you do to improve communication?
 - Over the long-term not make ourselves vulnerable? Be proactive. Concern is the overuse of crime alerts. Eventually students might not respond; students will ignore. Safety is number one, solvability is number two.
 - Make sure crime alerts to the parties involved.
- (Ellen Parkhurst) Regarding transportation expansions, would it be possible to consider working with the University of Pittsburgh.
 - Are currently exploring the possibilities with Michael Murphy.
- (Brian Wade) Fan of the new suburban trucks. Why so much money spent on cars? What is being done about improving response time?
 - I don't know why the new vehicle was purchased. It will be retrofitted as a command post—have a whiteboard, recharge batteries, etc.
 - Regarding response times. Fire alarms necessitates the fastest response time. Will get a monthly report on average response times and desired improvement times.
- (Zach Stockwell) What is the most pressing advice to give to the campus.
 - Don't leave possessions sitting out. Things are stolen every day. Don't be paranoid, just be careful.
- (Vivake Prasad) What are your thoughts on dorm safety? Do you feel it needs to be increased?
 - We will provide security assessments for dorms—ways to make your living space safer. We are talking about security guards, key fobs.
 - Biggest complaint is people leaving dorms open. Lots of minor things can be done to make the University safer.
- (Thomas Tuttle) Have you ever thought about a system where RAs could be trusted with a master key to free cops from it tying up their lines?
 - I'm not convinced that we're using our resources to the fullest.
 - It's about efficiency; spend less money and utilize what we have.

5:50 Final Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs (Brian Wade):** Clean slate. UCA's—how many hours you work.

- Working on waitlist policy—departments are looking at waitlist policies more closely.
- BME—committee is the catalysis to get it started as a major.
- Worked on Chem Lab.
- Working on an honor code. It will be the biggest project in the spring.
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):**
 - Many issues from last semester that were carried over, like Campus Readership.
 - Also worked with new ideas
 - Transparency in parking and housing and dining.
 - Have positive and progressive relationship with Deb Moon.
- **Campus Life (Dorian Adeyemi):**
 - Expanded recycling to the Greek Quad. They are being used.
 - Campus gear sale—3 this semester (over 1,000 in revenue).
 - UC late night event—was extremely successful. Was a great way to connect with constituents?
 - Display screens in University center.
 - Olympic game competition next semester.
 - Parker contract—let administration know what our views are.
 - Dining and safety taskforces.
- **Communications (Nara Kasbergen):**
 - Came out with the 5th issue of *The Gavel*.
 - Focused in visibility last year, primarily with postering.
 - This year focused more on transparency.
 - Brought back *The Gavel*.
 - Updating *The Gavel*.
- **Finance (Marcela Partida):**
 - \$23,800.00 left in the budget.
 - 25 allocations to date this semester.
 - Amend the fiscal policy—now actually funding according to bylaws and not precedence.
 - Handing out funding resource guides—project for next semester.
 - Increase communication between committee and organizations.
- **Internal Development (Vivale Prasad):**
 - Orientation in the beginning.
 - More engaged and active Senate. (activist)
 - Set a future agenda.
 - Developing a blog to communicate with the campus community.
 - Looking at resolutions from the last few years.
 - Do more legislative actions.
 - Resolution writing workshop.
- **Member-at-Large Caucus (Jarett Adams)**
 - Went over Robert's Rules.
 - Learned about the Constitution.
 - Hosted facts event for the freshman.
 - Engaged the community.
 - (Diane Lee) What was the main issue from the Wtf event?
 - Students still in temp housing.
 - C@CM.
- **Chair:**

- 37 Senators.
- Thank you for being active and passionate.
- SACs have been really active.
- Important leaders on campus.
- Another focal point of GB meetings—ex-officio reports.
- Very beneficial for us and the administrators.
- Historically the caucus wasn't that strong. More students that want to get involved. 16 members-at-large.
- Bi-weekly publication of *The Gavel*. Lots of effort put into it.
- Website soft launched two weeks ago.
- Increase visibility.
- It's not just about doing things but about getting the word out there.

6:19 New Business from Committee

Special Allocation 0809-026 of \$500.00 to Budaya for Grove City Trip

- Help cover cost of transportation.

6:20 Questions

- (Chansaly Ker) How many people were on the bus?
 - 35, 24 non-members.
- (Thomas Tuttle) Motion to increase allocation to \$800.
- (Toro Adeyemi) Did you have a head count before you asked for the money?
 - We had a rough estimate.
- (Marcela Partida) While the typo was out fault, that is what the committee recommended. I don't believe that the amount should be increased.
- (Dan) Was there any charge for people going on the trip?
 - No.
- (Thomas Tittle) Do you have another funding source if you don't get the additional \$300.00?
 - More effort than we expected.
- (Vivake Prasad) How many people?
 - Initially 100, went down to 50.
- It was a matter of not being able to anticipate the costs.
- (Chansaly Ker) Was it a Charter bus or School bus?
 - School bus.
- How much did it cost?
 - \$650.00
- (Dan O'Toole) If we didn't fund, would you have had canceled the event?
 - No. Perhaps get a smaller bus.

6:30 Move to Question for \$300.00 increase.

6:30 Discussion

6:32 Motion to raise amount to \$650.00.

6:32 Discussion

- (Brian Wade) Great event.
- (Diane Lee) Not vote on how much money we have. Vote on whether event is worthy.
- (Nara) Check back with the organization.
- (Mana Ameri) They saw the additional money as a way to expand their event. It was out fault, we should fund it.

- (Dorian Adeyemi) We shouldn't punish them for a mistake we've made.

6:35 Call to Question

6:35 Move to Vote. Passed. Move to discussion about \$650.00.

6:37 Call to Question

6:37 Move to Vote (simple majority). Passed. \$650.00 to Budaya.

Special Allocation 0809-027 of \$2000.00 Summit for SUMMIT 2009

- Opportunity for students to learn things not normally learned in the classroom

6:39 Questions

- (Thomas Tuttle) Attendance?
 - 280-300.
- (Daniel O'Toole) How long?
 - 5 years

6:40 Call to Question

6:41 Move to Vote (simple majority voice vote). Passed. \$2,000 to SUMMIT 2009.

6: 42 Special Allocation 0809-028 of \$396.25 to CMU Pool Club for Equipment

- Not JFC funded yet.
- Need money to start up

6:43 Questions

- (Daniel O'Toole) Publicity?
 - Posters and website.
- (Jake Flittner) How many people have expressed interest?
 - 10-20.
- (Jerrr Wang) Where?
 - UC.
- (Daniel O'Toole) Food every meeting?
 - No, just the first.

6:44 Move to Vote. Passed. \$396.25 to CMU Pool Club for Equipment

6:45 Special Allocation 0809-029 of \$200.00 to ZBT for Grilled Cheese

- Everyone loves free food.

6:45 Questions

- (Damian Valdez) Everyday?
 - On finals days, except reading day.
- (Jerry Wang) All Day?
 - No, just an hour, beginning at \$450.00.

6:47 Discussion

6:49 Move to Vote. Passed. \$200.00 to ZBT for Grilled Cheese

6:49 Special Allocation 0809-030 of \$960.00 to HFH-Greek Council for Winter Break Trip

- For Habitat for Humanity Event

6:51 Questions

- (Diane Lee) Can only Greek people go?
 - 4 Greek, 7 Non-Greek

6:53 Discussion

- (Eric Wu) I am on HFH Board, as well. Not many people want to usually go on the winter trip so I commend them for volunteering.

6:54 Move to Vote. (Hand vote). Passed. \$960.00 to HFH-Greek Council for Winter Break Trip

7:30 Special Business – Midterm Elections

7:30 Elections for Chair

7:30 Speech by Timi

7:34 Questions for Timi

7:39 Discussion

7:39 Call to Question. Voice vote. Timi elected.

7:41 Elections for Finance Chair

7:41 Speech by Marcela Partida

7:43 Questions for Marcela Partida

7:45 Discussion

7:46 Call to Question. Hand vote. Marcella Partida elected.

7:47 Elections for Academic Affairs Chair

7:47 Speech by Bassem Mikhael

7:50 Questions for Bassem Mikhael

7:56 Speech by Brian Wade

7:59 Questions for Brian Wade

8:04 Discussion

8:10 Call to Question. Roll call vote.

8:14 Brian elected.

8:26 Thursday Adjourn

12:26 Saturday reconvene.

12:26 Roll call.

12:27 Special Business – Midterm Elections

12:27 Elections for Business Affairs Chair

12:27 Speech by Benjamin Trump

12:28 Questions for Benjamin Trump

12:35 Discussion

12:47 Call to Question. Roll call vote. Benjamin Trump elected.

12:52 Elections for Campus Life Chair

12:52 Speech by Dorian Adeyemi

12:55 Questions for Dorian Adeyemi

12:57 Speech by Chansaly Ker

1:01 Questions for Chansaly Ker
1:06 Discussion
1:14 Move to vote. Roll call vote. Chansaly Ker elected.

1:18 Elections for Internal Development Chair

1:18 Speech by Cassandra
1:22 Questions for Cassandra
1:28 Speech by Kush
1:33 Questions for Kush
1:36 Discussion
1:44 Move to Vote. Roll call vote. Cassandra elected.

1:47 Elections for Communications Chair

1:47 Speech by Mana Ameri
1:51 Questions for Mana Ameri
1:54 Discussion
1:56 Call to Question. Roll call vote. Mana Ameri elected.

1:58 Elections for Sergeant-at-Arms

1:58 Speech by Jake Flittner
1:59 Questions for Jake Flittner
2:02 Discussion
2:04 Call to Question. Voice vote. Jake Flittner elected.

2:06 Adjourn