

# CMU Student Senate

Minutes of November 20, 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 Chabha (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: 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 will listen to everything. Honored to be at Carnegie Mellon. Its 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. Threat assessment no need to panic. Its an open campus. 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 preventing them before they happen. Traffic 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
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## 5:11 Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs (Brian Wade):** No report.
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):** Tuition meeting happened on Tuesday regarding what the tuition looks like and how endowment is affected by the economic crisis—eventually present to student body. Ultimate goal is to have information online and have information sessions in near future.
- **Campus Life (Dorian Adeyemi):** This Saturday is the UC Late Night event. Please sign-up! 1<sup>st</sup> place is an iPod Shuffle, second place is \$50 to Bookstore, and third place is \$25 to Entropy. For funding, we get \$400 from UC late night; costs are minimal. Campaign for great ideas: have a competition amongst

the dorms to see who can be the most efficient. Also promote the use of bikes, get more bikes, and have a rent/ lease for bikes. Lastly get detergent dispensers for all campus washrooms.

- (Stephanie Schneider) Talk to an Eco Rep.
- **Communications (Nara Kasbergen):** Were supposed to table this week, but it wasn't weather permitting so looking to see next Monday, maybe get table inside the UC. *The Gavel* will have last issue December 1. Last chance to get your issue published. Mana is working on Warner Hall Meet-n-Greet.
- **Finance (Marcela Partida):** Having last funding meeting December 1.
  - (Diane Lee) If we funded SIFE Nicaragua, we can fund SIFE Panama, right?
  - Yes.
- **Internal Development (Vivale Prasad):** Tonight at 7 is the social event. Currently working on a blog to get the feelings of Senators out to constituents that we don't necessarily legislate.
- **Member-at-Large Caucus (Stephanie Schneider):** Wtf event at Donner was very successful.
- **Chair:** Have only one more meeting. Will be longer because we are reelecting chair positions. Each chair will be giving a semester committee report. Get feedback from organizations. Website will probably be going live tomorrow. Will have *The Gavel* on PDF. Late Night is a great way to get in touch with constituents. Think of it as an informal constituency meeting. There is a facebook invitation for the UC late night. Also make sure that you keep the Senate office clean and locked. GSA is having their elections December 3<sup>rd</sup>. New business from the floor this week—taking nominations this week and next week.

#### 5:29 Ex-Officio Report (University Registrar)

- Office located in Enrollment Services.
- Responsibilities
  - Keep student records.
  - Manage University classrooms (75-80 rooms).
  - Online applications, SIO, CIO.
  - Work with Business Affairs Committee for waitlist practices.
  - Course assessment process and feedback on UCAs.
  - Produce transcripts
  - Degree verifications
  - Run summer school
  - Online learning initiative
  - Work closely with the HUB
- **5:32 Questions**
  - (Daniel O'Toole) Why do transcripts take a long time?
    - It prints at Penn Ave. We have to get it delivered. Working to establish local printer in office and put on demand printing in the HUB. Official comes on official paper, envelope, and has the Registrar's signature. Initially the unofficial was unavailable to students but changed that for convenience.
  - (Thomas Tuttle) PDFs of transcripts would be helpful.
    - Can order transcripts online and deliver it electronically. Can also send companies a secure PDF.
    - Goal is to provide free PDFs.
  - (Chansalay Ker) What about for study abroad students?
    - It doesn't show up on SIO. Have to look at printed transcript. Academic Deans assign transfer credits. Send transcripts to CMU Enrollment Services.

- (Kush Mangal) The Sony HD cameras, what are they for?
  - Some are for recording, some stream to Qatar or the U Pitt campus. Hoping to expand that. Couple classrooms in Gates Center will have the same capabilities.
- (Vivake Prasad) What is the University policy on lectures being filmed?
  - We don't really have a policy; it's more up to individual faculty members. It can be done if requested. Although it takes away the personal aspect of classrooms.
- Academic departments control the other 30% of classrooms. Getting 8 classrooms in the Gates Center. Will help alleviate the need for classrooms. Higher retention rates and more admitted students necessitate the need for more classrooms.
- (Brian Wade) Who's moving into Wean?
  - Discussion of BME. Consolidation of some of the smaller units in CS and research groups. Expanding space for MatSci, Math and Physics. Maybe even ECE. Space does not stay vacant long.
- (Chair) Regarding paying tuition, why can't you pay with Debit/ Credit cards?
  - University was spending ¾ of million dollars paying credit card fees. Either raise tuition or stop taking cards.
- (Aaron Gross) Status of OLR facelift?
  - Looking at creating a new one over the past several years. Design work with IBM partnership. Writing a student accounts module for a more student oriented architecture. Registration is so central so it's hard to renovate. Get to an e-curriculum in the future. In all, we do not want to replicate what we already have.
- (Jarett Adams) What about charging a convenience for using credit cards?
  - Too much aggravation and not service friendly. Had focus groups in each college.
- (Krishan Taylor) Do you have student feedback on functionality?
  - We did with IBM and have the documents.
- (Amy Kao) What about the outside scholarships policy where they get cut in half by CMU when it's over \$6,000?
  - Looking into that policy and may eliminate it. We want to reward scholarship students but also help the University because there is only a finite amount of financial aid dollars. Maybe raise minimal number or eliminate it all together.
- (Chair) Regarding the IBM focus groups, students never received follow-up.
  - I'll be happy to share some of the responses with Senate.
- (Thomas Tuttle) Am I likely to see something different by the time I'm a senior?
  - 3-5 year time change to develop and replace the system.

## **5:56 New Business from the Floor**

## **5:57 Nominations for Chair Positions or Member-at Large Positions**

- Academic Affairs: Brian Wade
- Business Affairs: Ben Trump
- Campus Life: Dorian Adeyemi, Chansaly Ker, Mana Ameri
- Communications: Mana Ameri, Stuti Pandey, Sonali Shah
- Finance: Marcela Partida, Brian Wade
- Internal Development- Kush Mangal, Cassandra Abernathy, Zexi Chen, Mana Ameri, Chansaly Ker
- Chair-Timi
- Sergeant of Arms: Eric Wu, Zexi Chen, Jake Flittner

- Members-at-Large: Toro, Mai

### **6:11 Member-at-Large Election**

6:11 Speech by Mai

6:13 Questions for Mai

6:16 Speech by Toro

6:18 Questions for Toro

6:20 Discussion

6:26 Call to Question

**6:26 Move to Vote. Hand Vote. Mai elected. Toro elected.**

### **6:30 Points of Discussion**

- Senate will be in charge of informing students. Dec. 1 is the critical day. Call it a “disruption” not a strike. Provide students will alternatives.
- Set up a ride sharing website.
- Encourage students to use SafeWalk.
- Partner with Pitt for Shuttles.
- (Zach Pierce) There is help. Make a concerted effort.
- (Mana Ameri) Shuttles to the Waterfront. Yellow Cab voucher that charge fees to student account.
- (Dorian Adeyemi) Informal agreement with Pitt. Conversations are in the process.
- Put up banner in front of Doherty.
- (Aaron Gross) Possibility?
  - Not high chance it’ll happen.
- Get the word out. Cmu.edu/parking
- Grad student population more affected.
- Parking fees—have stacked parking in the Morewood parking Lot.

### **6:41 SAC Reports**

- (Stuti Pandey) Looking into a University Honor Code.
- (Krishan Taylor) Redesigning the Web Portal and events calendar.
- (Thomas Tuttle) Working on pulling in people to rooms and make the process fairer. Also let freshman and upperclassmen know what choices are available.
- (Stephanie) There are still a few students in temp housing.
- (Vivake Prasad) Remember that you’re representing the people’s opinion. It shouldn’t be your immediate opinion. Must gather information from constituents.
- (Daniel O’Toole) Take straw polls amongst senators and have small discussions.
- (Jake Flittner) More baby diaper changing things in the UC.
- (Chansaly Ker) Dining taskforce. Comparing with peer institutions. Considering guest blocks.
- (Dorian Adeyemi) Safety taskforce, survey results, and dorm safety, particularly.

### **5:50 Announcements**

- UC Late Night!

### **6:53 Second Roll-Call**

### **6:55 Adjourn**