

Minutes

General Body Meeting Fall 2011
October 27, 2011



Senators Present:

SCS: Daniel Pomeroy, Amy Quispe (0.5p),

CIT: Alyssa Danesh (1 absence), Anshul Dhankher (.5 absence), Ashley Dickson, Willy Elmore, Jake Flitter, Kyra Gould (1 absence), Christopher Jarrett, Abigail Ondeck, Sohini Roy (0.5 absence), Mala Shah (0.5 absence), Joshua Yee (2 absence)

HSS: Nancy Brown, Aaron Chiu (0.5 absence), Jennifer Li (0.5 absence), Seth Vargo, Bryan Wade (1.5 absence), Will Weiner,

BHA/BSA/SHS: Joseph Vukovich, Andrew Biar (0.5 absence)

TSB: Dixon Liang (1 absence), Rishi Patel (0.5 absence)

CFA: Travis Rozich, Nikhil Sambamurthy

MCS: Neha Chaurasia (1 absence), Fermin Liang (1 absence), Ashley Reeder (1 absence), Rafael Segal, Stephen Tjader

Senators Absent: Jonathan Mark (2.5 absence), Peter Liang (2.5 absence), Mike Shin (1 absence), Bryan Spencer (1 absence), Andres Velez (1.5 absence),

5:02- Approval of Agenda

- **Motion to Approve. Seconded by Bryan. Voice Vote. Passed.**

5:05 - Audience Participation

- Jake Flittner:
 - o Coming not in Presidential capacities
 - o Here to talk to you about Student Senate Special Allocations
 - o Instead of shifting all money to JFC when Student Senate-GSA split in 1997, it was decided that there would be some power remaining in the individual bodies to have their own funds; this is the birth of special allocations
 - There has been a shift away from funding
 - Senate hasn't been spending a lot of its money
 - There has been a change in bylaws since the Special Allocation was first introduced
 - The Special Allocations have been restricted by three conditionals in the last two years
 - Senate used to fund lots of expenses if an event was beneficial and had a big turnout, but now it is asking why a group is coming back
 - Spring Break Metric being applied to things that are not Spring Break Trips.

- I would urge you to reconsider what your strategy in funding groups; think of the benefits to campus, without strict restrictions in funding based in fiscal responsibility
- Questions:
 - [Bianka] I understand that conferences and spring break trips are different in nature, but how should we differentiate between the two on paper in terms of benefits to campus?
 - Conferences in large part help groups benefit and learn from them, which makes the organization better. Ergo, the better organization makes a benefit to campus; this is not an exclusive individual benefit
 - [Bianka] I think we need something more to gauge the benefit, which was the purpose of the Spring Break Metric
 - But it doesn't have to be so clear-cut, and that's the reason we have a voting body. People can have varying opinions.
 - I've just seen a rise in tightening of spending
 - [Seth] I think the Spring Break Metric is foolish, but I think metrics are important. The metrics help Senate stay unbiased, especially in the eyes of the campus. To have a clear outline of what we do helps us stay impartial.
 - I would challenge you and remind you that you are representing a student body; their interests may vary depending on a case-by-case basis. You are able to still have judgment and ask yourselves questions. You can be unbiased and have different outcomes; the reasons can have continuity.

5:22 – Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs**
 - Everything is staying about the same
 - We are combining our academic advising and career services initiatives to fortify both of them simultaneously
- **Business Affairs**
 - We didn't meet this week because the committee members didn't have a lot of time to work on things last week
 - Magazine stands and bike sharing updates will hopefully come next week
- **Campus life**
 - Everything is staying about the same
- **Communications**
 - We're going to try to do the hot chocolate thing again since we couldn't to it today

- Thank you Nikhil for the new Senate Logo
- The Gavel will hopefully go out in the next two weeks
- We have quotes for a banner, and hopefully we'll have a tumbler up soon
- **Finance**
 - We have five special allocations this week
- **Internal Development**
 - We did half-price last Thursday, and it went well
 - We will all have access to the Senate sheet to write down initiatives and update it accordingly
- **Chair Report**
 - We talked about activities fee earlier, and we are trying to get projections to see how things are going to look this year
 - The club sports idea will be discussed with administration by Jason soon
 - You guys can start caucuses individually if you wish
 - [Dan] We talked to the assistant dean of SCS, and the free things he helped us to hand out helped us with the caucus.
 - There isn't a lot of school left, so really try to set some goals by the end of the semester; give yourselves a timeline

5:23 – Special Allocations

- **Special Allocation to Delta-Delta-Delta Sorority**
 - **Finance:**
 - They would like to receive funding for a speaker that they had yesterday
 - This was a required event, but the cost was double what was expected
 - We set a precedent when another sorority was required to hold a speaker two years ago
 - **Delta-Delta-Delta:**
 - The reason why I brought this to Senate since this is an unexpected cost
 - We were put on probation, and we had to bring a speaker as a consequence
 - We didn't have any say in who the speaker was, or in the selection process of the speaker
 - The event did not go well, either
 - We are pretty upset since the speaker was terrible and we didn't have a choice in picking him
 - Questions:
 - [Rishi] How much did the speaker cost the last time?
 - The request has not been digitized
 - [Bianka] Did you know how much the speaker would have cost?

- Yes, but we are paying half because he was so bad (the other half is being paid by Panhel)
 - [Seth] When would you know if you have to pay at all?
 - Since we're not on Panhel, so we don't know
 - [Bryan] How many people attended?
 - All the chapters and 17 floors of residents in dorms came
 - [Jake] There was another incident of this last year, and they got almost full, and they had a big turnout as well
 - We brought it to Senate because we included everyone
 - [Vivek] You didn't know how much you would have had to pay, or who they would choose?
 - That's correct
 - [Anshul] Where would the money come from if we don't fund?
 - We have budgets for booth, Greek Sing, etc., so our social budget is going to be cut completely; we will have to take money out of things that we take part in Greek Life Events (like Greek Sing)
 - [Seth] There were more than 500 people there, why should Senate fund it when it primarily benefits Greek Life?
 - I think what you're implying that Greek Life doesn't affect the student body, and that's not the case
- Discussion:
 - [Ashley Reeder] I think the speaker conveyed some information that's valuable, and I think it affected a lot of people, so we should maybe raise the allocation a bit
 - [Rishi] I think we should allocate more, since a lot of non-Greek Life people went
 - [Kyra] The Sig-Ep allocation last year in September was \$500.
 - [Bryan] I think that the speaker that they got is a popular speaker in the States, but he usually targets larger Southern schools
 - [Seth] Last year, we funded 47% last year of Sig-Ep's request, and we should do the same here. This was also an unexpected expense
 - [Kyra] I'm sorry for missing the precedent from last year, but the concept that this is unexpected is different from other clubs, since they were doing this as a punishment
 - [Andy] Motion to amend to \$800. Seconded by Rishi.
 - Discussion:
 - [Seth] Call to Question. Objection by Kyra. There should be more discussion on that
 - [Tri-Delta] \$800 is ideal for us, and the circumstances of us getting in trouble was very vague

- [Alyssa] We don't know the details of the situation, and I think it's very valid to fund \$800 since they didn't have a choice in the speaker
 - [Jake] I think that the alcohol awareness part of the speech was actually good and beneficial to campus
 - [Andy] Move to Vote. Hand Vote. 25-1-2.
 - Vote. Hand Vote. 25-1-2. Allocation amended to \$800.
 - [Alyssa] Call to Question. Vote. Hand Vote. 25-1-2. Passed. \$800 to Delta-Delta-Delta.
- Special Allocation to Quidditch
 - Finance:
 - They are not JFC funded yet
 - They want to compete in the Quidditch World Cup in NYC, and they want to send 16 people
 - Their capital costs were bought out of pocket by their members
 - They are looking for reimbursement, travel, lodging, meals, and tickets to the Championship Game
 - We weren't comfortable funding flying since they can take a bus
 - We recommended half the hotel costs
 - We feel comfortable funding all of their capital costs
 - Quidditch:
 - We need a tent to be secure and warm since it's cold in November in NYC
 - It is a huge event, and they're taking over the entire Randall's Park in Manhattan
 - There will be multiple thousands of spectators
 - Questions:
 - [Bianka] How would you be representing CMU, and what's your name?
 - Our name is CMU Marauders, and there will be lots of national and local news outlets; we are hoping to get CMU's name out there
 - And this is a competitive sport
 - Getting to the World Cup is a big defining moment for a Quidditch team
 - In a few years, I hope to hold tournaments here at CMU
 - [Bryan Wade] What is the per-person cost?
 - It really depends on how we go, but it would come out to be roughly \$400~500 per person
 - [Bryan Wade] I mean what would be funded minus the capital

- [Seth] What's the precedent for something that they could get money back for? Would they give us the money back?
 - Yes.
- [Alyssa] Why are you bringing 16 people there? How are things split up?
 - We won't be bringing the maximum required, which is 21, but we would like to take more than the minimum of 7.
 - We have Quidditch Team and Club, and the Club is about 25-30 people, and the Team is about 13 people give or take
- [Stephan] What is the correct number for what we are funding? And is this a sport?
 - It's the \$3277.91
 - Yes. It is a very large sport, and it's very physical and athletic
 - It's a very aggressive and competitive game
- [Ashley Reeder] Are you sure you're going to have 16 people when you go?
 - Yes. We have more than enough people, and there is enough interest
- [Amy] How good are you guys?
 - We have been practicing, but it's the first Quidditch World Cup, so we are not exactly sure
 - This is a great platform this year
 - UPitt was the best team in the world, and we're playing them this Saturday, so we'll see
- [Rishi] How much is each member paying out pocket?
 - They are going to be paying \$436 per person
 - We have been fundraising as well
- [Jake] I think we should totally fund this. I've watched them practice, and it's pretty intense.
- [Joe] We are assuming that they will take cheaper transportation
- [Seth] I would like to ask if we can separate the capital cost and travel costs.
- [Bryan Wade] We would be funding \$200 per person
- [Anshul] Do you guys have any other types of funding other than Senate and GSA?
 - We're looking at DoSA as well
 - If we don't get funding, we'll have to rearrange things
- [Nancy] They're doing well fundraising, and we should fundraise it.
- [Alyssa] I support this

- [Rishi] We should fund them for Quidditch, but not for watching Quidditch
 - [Stephan] I support this
 - Move to Vote. Voice Vote. Motion for a higher vote. Hand Vote. 17-5-2. Passed.
 - Vote. Hand Vote. 18-4-2.\$3277.91 to Quidditch.
- Special Allocation to OM
 - Finance:
 - They had a Doherty poster that was stolen, and they had stakes about Gandhi in the Cut were stolen
 - They didn't have a budget to replace the stolen goods
 - We'd like to reimburse the full cost
 - Questions:
 - [Bryan] Have you filed a police report?
 - No. We haven't
 - [Amy] What was the event for?
 - We were advertising Diwali and Gandhi's Birthday
 - Discussion:
 - [Ashley Reeder] We should support this.
 - [Alyssa] Call to Question. Hand Vote. 23-0-2. Passed. \$242 to OM.
- Special Allocation to International Student Union
 - Finance:
 - ISU is putting together an event to put together international cultures and foods together
 - They wanted to move it to Rangos since Late Night was so successful last year, but they didn't get any funding as a result
 - They got \$250 from the Modern Languages Department, and they are pulling money from other events as well
 - ISU:
 - It was a really big success last year, and we always invite other organizations as well
 - We didn't have great funding
 - Questions:
 - [Anshul] Why aren't we fully funding?
 - They are also go to STC and DoSA
 - Other organizations are coming, and it may be possible for them contribute.
 - [Jake] You said you're pulling money from your other events, will that affect your group significantly?
 - The \$200 was for fundraising for new small events, and we won't be able to do those any more
 - Discussion:
 - Motion to amend to amount of \$655. Seconded by Anshul.
 - Discussion:

- [Bryan] I think it's more valid for them to explore other fundraising as well
 - [Anshul] I would like to see that they don't have to pull \$200 from their own budget for this
 - [Bianka] Did you consider that you will get other funding when you requested this amount?
 - DoSA is funding \$250
 - It would be nice to fund the whole thing, since they are significantly under-represented
 - [Alyssa] Did you factor in the \$250 in this?
 - Yes. We did
 - [Willy] I am definitely comfortable funding this completely
 - [Alyssa] Motion to amend amount to \$605. Friendly
 - [Bryan] Call to Question. Vote. Hand Vote. 20-0-2
 - [Seth] Call to Question. Vote. Voice Vote. Passed. \$605 to ISU.
- Special Allocation for CMU EMS
 - Finance:
 - They get most of their funding from Campus Affair and a little of JFC, and they want funding for new computers
 - One of the computers is actually a personal computer
 - They are also requesting funds for jackets that meets requirements
 - CMU EMS:
 - The jackets are reversible and waterproof, and that's why they're expensive
 - Questions:
 - [Seth] How many students do you service every year?
 - About ~500 people, and this has increased 10% in the recent years
 - [Rafael] How many computers?
 - We are requesting 2 computers
 - [Anshul] What do you use the computers for?
 - To write down information that'd mandated by the state
 - Discussion:
 - [Fermin] Call to Question. Hand Vote. 18-0-2. Passed. \$3500
 - **6:33 – Points of Discussion**
 - Ceilidh: Pay attention to what students are saying, regarding on how the event is modeled this year.

- [Seth] One of the reasons people like this is, because parent weekend is tied in with this; And people don't know how to pronounce it
 - [Bryan] I think this is good during parents weekend, and to showcase CMU to them; I agree with Seth about the pronunciation
 - [Anshul] It should be better communicated to the faculty that this is a big event for the campus
 - [Alyssa] I like the fact that this coincides with parent weekend, but it's a problem doing it on Halloween
 - [Nancy] I don't think this should be during Halloween, but it's good that it coincides with everything
 - [Will Weiner] I think we should talk about spending money better, but we will get food every other week now. I also think that fiscal responsibility is important, and we are spending at a lot faster rate.
 - [Seth] Do people want to have food that's directly proportional to the number of special allocations?
 - [Jake] Senate voted not to have funding for food a couple years ago so that people have a better image
 - [Will Weiner] I'm comfortable feeding people
- 6:43 Adjourn