

Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Student Senate
Minutes: 11th General Body Meeting Fall 2009 – October 29, 2009

5:00 Call to Order and First Roll Call

Senators Present: Natalie Morris (SCS), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, 1.5 absence), Eric Wu (SCS), William Zhang (SCS, 1 proxy, .5 absence), Rohan Agashe (CIT, 1 absence), Brandon Chock (CIT), Jake Flittner (CIT, 1.5 absence), Bryan Lewis (CIT, .5 absence), Matthew Hwang (CIT, 1 absence), Diane Lee (CIT, 1.5 absence, .5 proxy), Matthew Kuhn (CIT, 1 proxy, 1 absence), Robert Piston Jr. (CIT), Keshav Raghavan (CIT, 2 proxy), Jessica Santana (CIT, .5 absence), Jarrett Adams (HSS, .5 absence), Eduardo J. Benatuil (HSS, 2 proxy, 2 absence), Nikhil Iyer (HSS, 1.5 absence), Nicholas Ferrell (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1.5 absence), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 proxy, 1 absence), Starsha Kolodziej (MCS, .5 absence), Michael Yang (MCS, .5 absence), Stacey Lu (CFA, 1.5 absence), Jon Mark (CFA, 2 absence), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 3 absence), Toro Adeyemi (TSB, 1.5 absence), Stephanie Schneider (TSB, 2 proxy, 1.5 absence)

Senators Absent: Torfick Abdul (CIT, 1.5 absence), Yael Bushoy (HSS, .5 proxy, 1.5 absence), Meghan Nahass (HSS, 1 proxy, 3 absence), Sonali Shah (CIT, 3 absence),

Members-at-Large Present: Rutwik Parikh (CIT)

5:02 Approval of Agenda from 10/1/09

5:07 Audience Participation

5:06 Committee Reports

Academic Affairs (Bassem Mikhael)

- Have a template for departments.
- Workshops for advisors—standardize across campus.
- Online advising system—launches spring 2010.
- Gen Eds—difficult to change universally, must do it by individual colleges

Business Affairs (Jake Fittner)

- Need input on the Health Fee.
- Next weekend beginning “Food for Thought”. Campus wide research on campus services.
- Entropy is now open until 2AM on Sunday nights.

Campus Life (Jarrett Adams)

- Met with Ruth to make changes on Graffiti Policy.
- Will come back with a proposal on event and programming; movements we want to see happen on campus.
- Working with StuGov, SDC, and AB on initiative on way we think about finals week.

Communications (Toro Adeyemi)

- Proposal for bulletin board to post Senate events.

Internal Development (Eric Wu)

- Send pictures for the website.
- Bylaw of the week: how to impeach a senator.
- Updating handbook.
- Purpose of Senate Presentation
 - To pass legislation, fund extracurricular activities, rules and consequences, and ring student views to the administration.
 - Initiatives of senate: advising, BA saving YOU money, improving school spirit,

advertising senate, allocating funds.

Finance (Robert Piston)

- Fiscal workshop during next week's points of discussion—why we fund things, why we follow JFC policy and precedence, tips and tricks (will have candy!).

Chair (Aaron Gross)

- Senators think there's a lot of a repetitive discussion.
- Possible ideas:
 - Limit overall discussion time.
 - Limit individual discussion time.
 - Limit number of times a senator can speak.
- (Tuttle) Robert's Rules—if you speak twice you must wait for other senators who want to speak a chance to talk. Skipping in queue to those who want to speak.

5:21 Old Business from Committee

09-10 018: Resolution to Replace Current Graffiti and Poster Policies

- Change made since last meeting.
- Language and content.
- Consult with Office of Student Activities in their hiring of the person.
- Checks and balances.
- Added C,D, and E in Article 1—sentate, JFC, and CoSO bylaws.
- Give GSA power—proviso amendment.
- Privileges for poster advertising.
- Article 5—to record all violations of policy in writing (duty of poster policy administrator) so that organizations are actually contacted on fines.
- Article 6—clarified language on what a violation is. Violation is removing one poster; an offense is the culmination of violations.
- All incomes from fine go toward the salary of the poster policy administrator.
- Appendix shows locations of student government bulletin boards.

5:28 Move to Vote. Voice vote. Passed.

5:29 New Business from Committee

09-10 028: Special Allocation of \$1488 to Engineers Without Borders

- Had more growth in their organization.
- Want to send more people to the convention.
- Work on sustainable development projects.
- Pittsburgh Parks, Ecuador
- Just got recognized as a chapter.
- Can only send 10 people. Only had \$1000 budget

5:31 Questions

- (Zhang) How will this benefit the campus community?
 - Learning experience.
 - Teaches them skill sets they can bring back to campus.
- (Raghavan) How many people can go on the \$1,000 budget?
 - 4. Want to send 10 this year.
- (Adeyemi) Where is the conference?
 - Boston, Nov. 6-8.
- (Lu) Are the people going to be providing funds for themselves?
 - Each person pays \$90.

- (Adeyemi) Have you done any fundraising?
 - Contacted CIT (just received \$1,000), president's office.
- (Adams) How much would be beneficial for your organization?
- (Wu) Was your entire JFC budget 1,000, or is it just for this trip?
 - Just for this trip.
- (Adams) Motion to amend amount to \$988.
- (Ferrell) They only need \$888. The trip is more for education and leadership training, not a fun weekend. They should not have to pay so much to attend.
- (Adams) It is \$988.
- (Lu) You should do more fundraising.
 - We have done a lot of fundraising. A lot of our money goes toward membership dues.
- (Flittner) Do you have money in JFC allocated for the trip?
 - Yes.
 - This is the Northeast Regional Conference, not the national conference—fulfills same requirements.
- (Adeyemi) Motion to amend to \$600.
- (Schneider) They said they already did a lot of fundraising. They have been doing a good job going to organization to get money.
 - Conference doesn't even provide food.
- (Ferrell) I think \$90 isn't reasonable; want to encourage members to go. \$40 would be more reasonable.
- (Flittner) Amount that people pay out of pocket has precedence—people always pay out of pocket.
- (Yang) Pay \$45 for a fraternity conference for similar reasons.
- Financially unreasonable to send 15 people; ct down to a more reasonable number.
- (Zhang) 600 is a good amount—would pay \$50 out-of-pocket.

5:47 Amend \$988 to \$600. Hand vote. Passed.

5:48 Vote on amend to original request of \$1488 to reduce to \$600. Hand vote. 18-6-1. Passed.

5:51 Back into Discussion

- (Agashe) Can come back to help fund future projects.
- (Ferrell) It's a special allocation.
- (Kuhn) We funded a HD camera, can't fund a leadership symposium?
- (Flittner) I think \$50 is reasonable
- (Adeyemi) How are you going to share information you gain from your trip?

5:55 Motion to amend amount to \$888.

- JFC budget says only for national convention.
- Leadership of organization is graduating.
- (Zhang) If it's important enough, members can sacrifice money.

5:57 Move to vote to change \$600 to \$888. Hand vote. 16-7-1. Passed.

5:59 Amend \$1488 to \$888.

5:59 Move to vote. Hand vote. 18-5-2. Passed. \$888 to Engineers Without Borders

6:00 09-10 029: Special Allocation of \$155 to Scobell House

- How many people know a resident of Scobell?
- Main purpose is to promote Scobell.
- Plan on taking fence, flyers, and posters—to promote.

- Friday 11/6—big s'mores event.
- New experience for first-year students.

6:03 Questions

- (Adeyemi) What is your affiliation?
 - Resident.
- Ask for money for paint and brushes (to hold fence).
- Friday is the s'mores event.
- (Iyer) Where will the event be held?
 - In front of Scobell.

6:05 Move to vote. Hand vote. Passed. \$155 to Scobell House.

09-10 030: Special Allocation of \$600 to Pi Delta Psi

- For annual Iron Chef Event.
- Provide a secret ingredient.
- Allows people to taste various ethnic and cultural foods
- Will be in Rangos 1, 2, 3 from 4-8.
- Will help cover cost of cooking materials.

6:06 Questions

- (Piston) Asking for less money this year.
 - Decided to pare down costs to get needed funding.
- (Flittner) Who can attend this event?
 - Anyone can sample.
- (Rohan) How many people are you expecting?
 - 20 teams of 3 people. Maybe 80-100 spectators.

6:09 Move to vote. Hand vote. Passed. \$600 to Pi Delta Psi.

6:09 Motion to Amend Agenda.

09-10 031: Special Allocation of Panama

- Trying to support eco tourism.
- Promote sustainable projects.
- Collaborating with WashU and UChicago.
- Need a policy for spring break organization traveling.
- Cover cost for transportation for air.

6:14 Motion to refer to committee.

6:14 Discussion

6:15 Motion to refer back to committee passed.

09-10 031: Special Allocation of Panama

- Referred to committee.

6:16 New Business from the Floor

Points of Discussion

Health Fee – Specific Brainstorming

- Any questions you want answered about the health fee?
- (Ferrell) What health service is spending on—why it's running out of money.
- (Adams) Programming with PHA.
- (Morris) Look at other schools—how much is their health fees and compare.
- (Flittner) Change you want to see in health services.

- (Iyer) There's a deliberate poll 11/10 in UC Conan.
- (Ferrell) Want to know about their programming in general.
- Clarification on CMU health insurance—who does and doesn't pay copays.
- (Adams) Plans for facilities improvements.
- (Raghaven) Times of services—have better hours.
- (Iyer) Actually talk to constituents to get feedback.
- Coming next week or the week after.

Transportation Fee – Long-term funding of W/Southside Loop

- Funded by reserve from collecting transportation fee—support bus cards and escort shuttles.
- Raise transportation fee so that the loops are sustainable.
- 67% or higher of students in support of raise.
- Bonding referendum to actually raise the fee.
- (Agashe) Is there any other option?
 - The loop would die.
- Talk about goals we want the escort to achieve if the fee is raised.
- Loop only ran last year.
- (Lu) Get some feedback about the loop bus—tried to go on bus but the bus never came.
 - See what needs improvement.
- (Ferrell) Pretty popular; at near full capacity.
- (Yael) Loop bus has been packed.
- (Adams) 64% support one time increase in transportation fee (of about \$4).
- (Piston) Loop bus more packed than waterfront bus.
- (Ferrell) May look into optimization of service.

Vice President for Organizations / Elections Discussion

- Similar to VPF, but for student organizations.
- Managing organizations.
- Chair CoSO.
- (Wu) Should be in charge of the events calendar.
- Dealing with room reservation problems.
- General support of idea.
- Will have to approve changes in bylaws to support this.

Students locked out of the Gate Center

- 6,7,8,9 floors are locked—only open to faculty/employees
- “Connecting on whole new levels”...
- 6th floor has lots of collaborative spaces
- CS caucus will take initiative
- Draft a resolution?
- Come back with more information.

Money, money, money—Senate Funding

- (Wu) Want to see data from previous years.
- (Flittner) Decide on precedence/ make a bylaw, to be consistent on funding.
- (Yang) Want to see numbers of who benefits from initiatives.
- Bring receipts for audits.

- (Schneider) Organizations would think more about the money they are receiving because they know they have to turn on a receipt.
- (Adams) Know the type of event to see precedence.
- (Ferrell) Groups that get funded too much money—most groups don't know that there's a process to give money back.
- JFC and Oracle organizations are allowed to go into the "red."
- SDC will only allocate \$14/ student.
- (Morris) Get reasons on why precedence becomes precedence (like repeat events).
- (Schneider) With receipts, what is the point? Why do we vote?
- Would change allocations to "up to X amount."
- (Raghaven) We fix bad precedence—can't fund uniforms for personal use.
- (Palko) Senate need consistency and overarching philosophy—think about bigger picture.
- (Piston) Want to allocate on same level as SDC and JFC.
- (Ferrell) Precedence can be set by one person; a bylaw has more input and is easier to stick too. It would be too difficult to figure out per capita expect for very small events.
- (Morris) If something is set in the bylaws, it doesn't allow for much change.
- (Piston) Organizations are expected to go to as many finding sources as possible.
- (Ruth) Can write something into fiscal policy to allow for an override.
- (Adams) Need to fund on precedence and know what the precedence is.
- (Palko) It's okay to go against precedence but need to think of how decisions will affect future decisions.
- (Flittner) Must consider funding for spring break trips—need a precedence that we can support.
- (Piston) Organizations feel like they are entitled to this money.
- (Adams) In the future, definitely need to look at the way we're financing organizations.
- How is what they're doing affecting the lives of students on this campus? They need to bring something to the campus community.
- (Schneider) Decrease of repeat events. Come for need if they need a special allocation.

6:47 Second Roll Call/Announcements

- a. Mayoral Forum Today
- b. UC Media Screen Feedback
- c. Homecoming Events

6:49 PM: Adjourn