

# Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Student Senate

Minutes: 1<sup>th</sup> General Body Meeting Spring 2010 – January 14, 2010

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## 5:08 Call to Order and First Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Thomas Tuttle (SCS), Natalie Morris (SCS), Eric Wu (SCS), William Zhang (SCS, .5 absence), Brandon Chock (CIT, .5 absence), Jake Flittner (CIT), Matthew Hwang (CIT), Robert Piston Jr. (CIT), Jessica Santan (CIT, .5 absence), Sonali Shah (CIT), Jarrett Adams (HSS), Ben Gutermen (HSS), Nikhil Iyer (HSS), Meghan Nahass (HSS), Jessica Gardocki (CFA), Stacey Lu (CFA), Stephanie Schneider (TSB), Varun Deshpande (MCS), Michael Yang (MCS)

**Senators Absent:** Rohan Agashe (CIT, 1 absence), Abhi Jain (CIT, 1 absence), Abdul Torffick (CIT, 1 absence)

**Members-at-large Present:** Will Weiner (HSS)

## 5:09 Approval of Agenda and minutes from 12/3/09 (will be approved next week)

### 5:09 Audience Participation

### 5:15 Ex Officio Report

#### Lisa Krieg, Director of Enrollment Services—Update on SIO

- Enrollment services encompasses the Hub, ID Office, University register, etc.
- Update on FCEs and E-Bills.
- Completely rehabbing the enrollment services websites.
- Changing the Faculty Course Evaluations (FCEs) with additional questions
  - Going back to a 10 question format.
  - Current UCAs—only 35% participation among students.
  - Period for FCE completion is being extended through exams.
  - In place by end of spring term.
- Working on rehabbing entire student services suites.
- Tackling projects one-by-one to slowly improve services.
- E bills launched in October.
  - About 2,600 undergrads authorized their parents to receive their e-bills. Most authorizations came from freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.
  - Send out paper notices and emails to families not yet authorized.
  - Possible that people are missed or that people who are authorized are.

### 5:23 Questions

- (Flittner) What about making the process more gradual?
  - Will see Friday if it is effective.
- (Adams) Could not see specific line items; did not see the detail expected. Had to go into SIO account to see more specific charges.
- (Tuttle) Any leniency for people who mess up?
  - At end of each month there are late fees 1.25% of owed money. And don't put late charges until the end of the month. Students can also come to the HUB individually if there are extenuating circumstances.
- Have both the parents and the students respond. Focus on the families/students who don't respond.
- Don't always have parent emails which limit outreach.
  - FERPA—students grant parents the right to see bills, meant to protect privacy.
- SIO improvements:

- Have targeted alerts and announcements to make it more interactive.
- Incorporated schedules and planning with student information.
- Advantage is that it's real time opposed to scheduleman.
- E-check improvements.
- Housing assignment and roommate display.
- New SIO will have a logout button.
- Student's name will be displayed on all pages.
- Will be able to electronically move schedules.
- Will be able to print out unofficial transcripts, financial awards, and bills. And have tips on all pages.
- Can print pdfs of schedules in calendar or list form.
- Easier to browse by keywords, departments, etc.
- Be able to store multiple versions of a schedule.
- Graphically display GPAs...
- (Pandey) Have certain functions on how to display GPA.
- Would graphically displaying GPAs put undue pressure on students?
- (Flittner) Some people don't want to see their GPAs compared to the rest of the University.
- (Schneider) No particular benefit; just more stressful.
- (Tuttle) More people are aware of how they are doing. Would only be a constant reminder of not excelling.
- Maybe have options where it only includes major GPA, but the current system does not have that capability.
- Also have an option that distinguishes between GPA and QPA.
- (Flittner) Doesn't really enrich your experience if you're excelling and hurts students who aren't doing as well.
- (Adams) See the positives that if it's a straight line and then dips, then a student can graphically see how their grades have fallen.
- (Lu) Graph is hard to read at first—needs an explanation.
- (Schneider) Lots of students will be upset but it seems like a good tool for advisors.
- Print out grades by selecting options. It is a separate process from official verifications.
- Give history of payments and account activity.
- Will have pdfs of financial aid award letters.
- Advisors can contact house fellows and college liaisons.
- (Flittner) Are you centralizing FCEs?
  - Will not happen in this release.
- Registration, scheduling, and link to catalog/course descriptions and FCEs.
- Had to limit in terms of resources and time frame—only the short list.
- Make course names fit so that employers can see what classes students have taken.
- (Adams) Will the schedules be able to be shared?
  - Could email pdfs but don't have a mechanism for people to save it on a separate URL.
- (Pandey) No immediate code for building abbreviations.
- (Zhang) Will OLR be accessible after 10 PM?
  - No, has to do with the age of the system. Are slowly modernizing the entire system but the underlying system remains unchanged.
- It's a new layer on the old system.
- This is a phase but it's modular enough that it can be changed.
- Voting on name and background.
  - SI, MySI, PlaidNet, and Maggie

## **5:52 Will have a joint meeting with GSA on Wednesday, February 3 at 5 PM**

### **5:54 Sergeant-at-arms Election**

- 5:58 Speech by Will Weiner
- 5:59 Questions for Will Weiner
- 6:00 Speech by Varun Deshpande
- 6:01 Questions for Varun Deshpande
- 6:03 Speech by Stephanie Schneider
- 6:04 Questions for Stephanie Schneider
- 6:06 Discussion
- 6:10 Move to vote.
- 6:12 Stephanie Schneider elected new sergeant-at-arms

### **6:13 Points of Discussion**

- “getting things done more important than “internal issues”.”
- Allocated more efficiently in latter part of the fall semester.
- Maybe need to spend more time on allocations, but also had large allocations and more of them.
- Less repetitive discussion was a large complaint from the survey.
- Lots of vacancies.
- Work on PR push at the activities fair—elections are two weeks away.
- Will have an info session for interested students.
- Senate is the gateway to make a change.
- Ideas for PR...
- (Schneider) Get a list of the major changes that Senate did.
- (Deshpande) *The Gavel* as a medium for visibility.
- (Pandey) RAs are encouraged to talk to students that they think would be appropriate for the senator positions.
- Send emails to deans of schools to get more publicity.
- (Morris) I don’t think that people think Senate is stuffy; they just don’t know what we do. Maybe have advisors send out emails.
- (Kashbergen) Have a spotlight series—need a controversial topic.
- (Flittner) More people show up to more controversial discussions.
- Have a big push at the activities fair.
- (Pandey) Need to have an awesome table!
- (Adams) Raffling off gear at the Senate info session. Wear senate shirts. Get newly designed t-shirts.
- (Schneider) Give a gift to incoming freshmen.
- (Pandey) Give leaflet with clothes in the campus gear sale.
- (Schneider) Go to school’s info session during orientation.
- (Flittner) Have free times where interested students can speak 1:1 with a senator.
- Promote better internal connections.

### **6:34 Announcements**

- Committee meetings begin next week

### **6:34 Adjourn**

