

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of November 11, 2004

5:33 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (H&SS), Abigail Barnes (CIT), Andres Bermudez (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Maureen Burns (CFA), Trevor Clark (CFA, came late), Kathryn Cooper (MCS), Laura Drogowski (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Aftyn Giles (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Benjamin Hackett (HSS, came late), Andrea Hamilton (BHA), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Kevin Lee (HSS), Jean Lester (CFA), Nasheena Porter (HSS), James Rogers (CIT), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT, came late), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

Senators Absent: Ananya Bubna (TSB), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT, excused), Courtney Thompson (TSB), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT)

Members at Large Present: Jonathan Chen (CIT), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Aaron Kao (HSS), Aaron Walker (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

Members at Large Absent: Justin Berka (SHS), James Hazelrig (CIT), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Corrine Pascale (CIT), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS)

5:35 pm Call to Order

5:35 pm Approval of Minutes

- Will occur next week since minutes could not be available due to a printing error.

5:36 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:36 pm Ex-Officio Reports

5:36 pm Activities Board (Andrew Moore)

- AB's fall concert, Taking Back Sunday, is scheduled for tomorrow. Limited tickets may be available at the door, free for CMU students and \$10 general admission.

- AB Coffee house will be held in Rangos on November 22nd, \$5 for CMU students and \$10 general admission.
- AB Tech has been very busy, especially with the Taking Back Sunday concert, family weekend, Mr. Fraternity on Saturday, as well as the AB Underground event on Saturday (a band from Philly called Brothers Past).
- AB Films will be showing Kill Bill 2 on Friday. The turnout for films has been very good recently.
- Unsure as to whether an EMS standby has been requested for the Taking BackSunday concert, but will look into it.

5:38 pm **Campus Police** (no representative)

5:38 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** (no representative)

5:38 pm **Greek Council** (Laura Drogowski)

- There will be a Greek Council meeting tonight in DH 1212 at 8 pm. The UDC process, as well as current strife within the greek community will be discussed.
- Mr. Fraternity is on Saturday at 7:30. Tickets are \$7 in advance, and \$10 at the door.
- Anchor Slam is on Sunday. You can register for the event by 1 pm, and it takes place in Skibo Gym.
- The AEP wingathon is on Monday night, but you need to have signed up beforehand to participate.
- There is a risk management seminar at 9 pm in McConomy.

5:39 pm **Student Affairs** (Jennifer Parry Bird)

- Student Activities sponsors leadership workshops for those involved in student organizations. There will be a workshop on Budgeting and Finance at 5 pm in the Dowd Room on Thursday November 18th. A set of e-mail messages was sent to leaders of student organizations inform them of the event. The event isn't just for presidents, vice presidents or treasurers, but for every member wanting to attend.

5:41 pm **Student Dormitory Council** (Debbie Hugh)

- This past weekend SDC films showed The Animation Show. The turnout was about 700 people, which is the 2nd highest of any movie they've shown. This coming Saturday they'll be showing Spiderman 2.
- A dodgeball tournament will be held in the gym on November 20th from 1-6. E-mail sdc-prog-chair@andrew.cmu.edu if interested.

- Events for finals week are being planned, and so far include: karaoke, primal scream, a poker tournament, DDR and free donuts. A schedule will be coming out before Thanksgiving break.
- There will be an Underground event on Friday at 6, at which people will be doing and teaching how to make henna tattoos.
- There was no result to the SDC discussion of cmuTV, as the meeting lost quorum before the end. It will be discussed again this week in Margaret Morrison if you would like to attend.

5:43 pm **Student Body President** (no representative)

5:43 pm **Student Body Vice President** (no representative)

5:43 pm **Student Body Vice President for Finance** (Steven Kling)

- Apologies for not making it last week, and thanks for helping with cmuTV proposal.
- Busy with JFC, and it's going well. Much is being set up for what will happen next semester in terms of process and scheduling. Making a good start on the pledge tracker, which will put all budgets online and centrally located. Thank you to Dan Papasian for that.

5:44 pm Motion to remove Dan Papasian from the minutes (Ed Ryan)

Motion ruled out of order by Chair.

5:45 pm **Student Body Dining Chair** (Jay Pujara)

- The Highlander Survey went out, and over 1000 responses were obtained. Incentives to respond were gift certificates. Maureen put posters all over campus.
- Conclusion from Highlander Survey is that most students would prefer to see a whole foods market or a food court with commercial vendors. Presented the results to Dean Murphy to check out the feasibility of these options.
- Trying to get RA's and CA's more involved with dining committees as representatives of their residents.
- Trying to expand lactose-free options in Schatz.
- The whole foods market idea would not be the Whole Foods Market itself, but something approximating that idea.

5:47 pm **New Business from Committee**

5:47 pm **0405-048 – Approval of Sale of Equipment for Scotch 'n' Soda**

5:47 pm Motion to Table Discussion until Representative is Present (Andres Bermudez)

5:48 pm Motion to Amend Tabling of Discussion to Postponing Discussion (Michelle Birchak)

Motion to Amend taken as a friendly amendment.

5:48 pm Motion to Postpone Discussion until Representative is Present

5:48 pm Vote on Motion to Postpone

Passed by Acclamation

5:49 pm **0405-049 – Non-funded recognition of Philosophical Self Inquiry**

Discussion Group

5:50 pm Questions

- The group wants to be recognized so that they can reserve rooms, and post officially on campus.

5:50 pm Discussion

5:50 pm Call the Question

5:50 pm Motion to Postpone until Representative Present

5:51 pm Vote on Motion to Postpone

Passed by Acclamation

5:51 pm Continuation of **0405-048**

5:51 pm Questions

- Scotch 'n' Soda will sell the welder for \$500 to \$750.
- Organization does not foresee ever needing another welder.
- Most likely, one of their own members would buy it from them.

5:54 pm Discussion

5:56 pm Vote

Passes, voice vote

5:56 pm Continuation of **0405-049**

5:56 pm Questions

- About three CMU students attend meetings consistently, and about five attend meetings inconsistently. One of the reasons the group wants recognition is so that they can use campus bulletin boards to post and thereby recruit new members.
- No plans to hold events on campus.

5:58 pm Discussion

5:58 pm Call the Question

5:58 pm Vote

Passes, voice vote

5:59 pm Special Business

5:59 pm **0405-047 Amendments to the Fiscal Policy (Bylaws Amendment – two-thirds vote)**

6:00 pm Questions

- There were not overwhelming requests for funding of professionally driven organizations.
- Funding of StuCo projects and 5th year projects are excluded because some of these projects are not seen as worthwhile. In the past, funding has been given for a student to display an art project. It is necessary to decide whether that is academic in nature.
- Academic projects in general are excluded because we have funding to give to people and groups that want to do and promote things on campus. In the academic world, a person would get credit, so it's not in our scope.
- There is a relevant policy to funded recognition, and this would be referenced in it.
- Groups are allowed to endorse candidates for internal elections (within the University), not external. As these organizations are funded by a non-profit group, they wouldn't be allowed to do endorse external candidates anyway.

6:08 pm Discussion

- Not being able to take a particular stance on politicians, declarations of war, etc., is a concern because there are many cultural organizations on campus, and they should be able to take a stance.
- Non-profit organizations are legally not allowed to make endorsements.
- Money cannot fall into the hands of candidates, but it's not inappropriate of the Tartan to endorse a candidate.
- A writer can endorse a particular candidate, but the Tartan itself cannot.
- The Tartan is distinct from a normal newspaper in that it's a student newspaper.

6:16 pm Questions

- Not sure as to why "primary purpose" does not carry over to other clauses.

6:17 pm Motion to Amend Article VII, Section A, Paragraph 3 part 3c. from *"A political organization or event shall be defined as any organization or event that does any of the following:"* to *"A political organization or event whose primary aim or goal is to:"* and then

strike “has the primary aim of” in (1) and change the form of the verbs in (2)-(4) to agree with the new clause preceding them (making them active). (Joe Arasin)

6:18 pm Questions

- A method of action is not needed to determine whether funds are going toward the primary aim of the organization, as this is for special allocations. When a special allocation is requested, it is known where the funds are going from the start.

6:20 pm Discussion (none)

6:20 pm Vote on Amendment to VII, Section A, Paragraph 3 part 3c.

Passes, voice vote

6:20 pm Motion to add *“Endorses and/or advocates the adoption or repeal of any statute.”*

Endorse and/or advocates the adoption or repeal of any court decision, or pending court decision, or the overturning of any course decision” to the definition of a political organization under Article VII, Section A, Paragraph 3, part 3c. (Andres Bermudez).

6:23 pm Questions

- Some court decisions have not been put into statute.

6:25 pm Discussion

6:27 pm Motion to Divide

6:27 pm Vote

Passes by acclamation

6:27 pm Discussion of first part of amendment *“Endorses and/or advocates the adoption or repeal of any statute.”*

6:29 pm Call the Question

6:29 pm Vote on amendment to Article VII, Section A, Paragraph 3, part 3c.

Passes, voice vote

6:29 pm Discussion of second part of amendment *“Endorse and/or advocates the adoption or repeal of any court decision, or pending court decision, or the overturning of any course decision.”*

6:30 pm Vote on amendment to Article VII, Section A, Paragraph 3, part 3c.

Fails, voice vote

6:30 pm Motion to add *“Organizations are not allowed to do anything to jeopardize the non-profit status of the University”* to the end of Article VII, Subarticle 2, Paragraph C, Subparagraph 5 (Joe Arasin)

6:31 pm Discussion

- Deemed unnecessary because Robert's Rules declare any illegal organization to be out of order.

6:32 pm Move to withdraw previous motion (Joe Arasin)

No objection

6:34 Motion to strike "5th year projects" from Article VII, Section A, Paragraph 3, 3a.
(Maureen Burns)

6:34 Discussion

- Academic projects can still be funded by a 2/3 vote, so it doesn't make sense to eliminate 5th year projects. If it's deemed a worthwhile cause, the funding will be granted.
- 5th year projects often benefit the community, and in years to come, this might well discourage those with 5th year projects from seeking funding from Student Government. It shouldn't be written into the fiscal policy in this manner.
- In the past, there has been great opposition to some of the funding we've given out to academic projects. With 5th year projects in this clause, we keep this as an extra caution.
- In general, money is coming from the student *activities* fee, so it shouldn't fund academic projects. Academic projects should be funded by departments.
- Often, 5th year projects and StuCo projects are not academic in nature, and their main objective is to improve campus in some way.
- It may not be wise to have these specific types of academic projects in this document. A couple of years from now, 5th year projects may disappear.
- If it is a requirement for 5th year projects to benefit the campus, then it would be a good idea for them to be included here. If it's not a requirement that they benefit the campus as a whole, then the term 5th year project should definitely be in here.
- Bylaws are used to correct problems. We saw that funding academic projects was a problem, so now we're making a bylaw to correct the problem. A two-thirds vote is not all that hard to manage. If it is, and the reason for this is that senate doesn't look at issues hard enough, then that's something that needs to change internally.
- It isn't efficient to write something into our bylaws that is an application of a principal, instead of the principal itself. It would be reasonable to insert "5th year projects that don't benefit the campus community."

6:50 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

6:51 pm Vote on whether to strike “5th year projects” from Article VII, Section A, Paragraph 3, 3A.

Fails, Roll Call (10:15:1), see Appendix

6:56 pm Motion to amend Article VII, Section A, Paragraph 3, 3A to say “5th year projects that do not have the primary aim of benefiting the community.” (Maureen Burns)

6:56 pm Discussion

- An essential part of the 5th year program is that their project proposal benefits the campus community.
- The amendment makes the rule too specific. Part of the point of a constitution is that it should be partially vague.
- Funding and Recognition looks at each request and determines its benefit to the campus community.

7:02 pm Call the Question

7:02 pm Objection

7:02 pm Motion to amend the amendment to say “*benefiting the campus community*” instead of “*benefiting the community.*”

7:03 pm The change is determined to be friendly, and the amendment is now “5th year projects that do not have the primary aim of benefiting the campus community.”

7:03 pm Discussion

- Regardless of whether we amend this or not, people who need funding for 5th year projects are going to come to senate.

7:06 pm Move the Question (Ed Ryan)

7:06 pm Vote on Moving the Question

Passed, voice vote

7:06 pm Vote on the Amendment “5th year projects that do not have the primary aim of benefiting the campus community” to Article VII, Section A, Paragraph 3, 3A.

Fails, hand vote (9:13:1)

7:07 pm Call the Question (Ed Ryan)

7:07 pm Objection

7:07 pm Discussion

- Senate is looking for a set of guidelines for what is fundable, and what is not. Senate should strive to have examples and guidelines, but to leave actual

decisions to Senate itself, and not allow bylaws to make those decisions for them.

- What is happening right now is that these issues are being defined more than they should be.
- Bylaws of this type are a crutch to not have to think or consider the individual cases. Every limitation that is written in yields less consideration of the actual issue. The details burden more than help.

7:12 pm Move the Question

7:12 pm Vote on Moving the Question

Passes, hand vote (13:6:2)

7:13 pm Vote on the Amendments to the Fiscal Policy, as amended

Fails, hand vote (1:17:5)

7:15 pm New Business From the Floor (none)

7:16 pm Points of Discussion

7:16 pm Discussion of Appropriate Use of Moving the Question

- Moving the question in the middle of discussion is very inconsiderate. It's senate's job to discuss issues, and that can't be done if the question is moved in the midst of discussion. It's not fair to hear from just two people who have the same view on the issue before voting. If we do that, we are not looking at the issue completely. If you're here you have the responsibility to your constituents to consider all sides of an issue, committing the proper time.
- It makes sense to move the question when one has the sense that the body has made up its mind on a particular issue. If everyone were still undecided on an issue, the motion would not succeed.
- There is a time and place for moving the question, but it's not when only two people have spoken on a particular issue.

7:20 pm Discussion of the Projects and Doings of Erik and Julie

- Eric and Julie are working on opposing cuts to transit service. Julie went to Harrisburg yesterday to talk to the legislators about the two bills that would allocate funding to PAT. Spoke to Dan Frankel, who seemed pessimistic about the bills passing in senate, but optimistic about PAT getting funding one way or another. Starting a letter writing campaign to the desks of legislators, letting them know how important public transit is to us as students. To facilitate this there's a website up, <http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/~gsa/pat.html>. The address is

also in Eric's column in the Tartan this week. When you hit submit on the website, an e-mail is sent to legislators. The e-mails are also sent to student government so that they can be printed out and mailed to representatives in Allegheny county. In addition, going to organize a bash of some kind with live music, etc., to write letters.

- Everyone should write letters, especially senators.
- Tell all the student organizations you're a part of, and get them to write letters too. The proposed cuts go very deep, eliminating all weekend service and service after 9 pm. If a bill doesn't pass by November 30th, it's not likely to be in effect by the time the proposed cuts take place.
- Undergrads have complained to a senator about how the bus schedules on the bus shelters are misleading. Correct schedules can be found at <http://www.ridegold.com>.

7:25 Discussion of the Cross in the Cut Area

- There is a cross in the cut area.
- If it is an art project, then it is academic, and not in our domain of concern.
- The religious views of others should be considered when art projects are displayed.

7:26 pm Announcements

- Due to not receiving any petitions, Senate still has a vacancy in CFA. Please spread the word that we are still looking for someone to fill the spot. Senate will consider the vacancy at the General Body meeting after receiving a valid CFA petition.
- Senate's next meeting is November 18th at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. See you there!
- KGB's Capture the Flag with Stuff is one week from tomorrow.
- Anyone who wants to get involved with PAT letter writing should e-mail nporter@andrew.cmu.edu
- CMU EMS is sponsoring a state certification for EMT Basic class for 6 units this coming semester.
- Come to the Greek forum tonight at 8 pm in DH 1212.
- ASA's semiformal is tomorrow night.

7:28 Motion to Adjourn (Nick Scocozzo)

7:28 Passed by Acclamation

7:28 Adjourned

November 11, 2004 – Appendix

Joe Arasin	SCS	opposed
Adam Atkinson	HSS	affirmative
Abigail Barnes	CIT	affirmative
Andres Bermudez	HSS	opposed
Michelle Birchak	CIT	opposed
Ananya Bubna	TSB	absent
Maureen Burns	CFA	affirmative
Trevor Clark	CFA	opposed
Kathryn Cooper	MCS	opposed
Laura Drogowski	MCS	affirmative
Andrew Gehling	CFA	opposed
Aftyn Giles	CFA	absent
Rachel Gougian	MCS	absent
Benjamin Hackett	HSS	opposed
Andrea Hamilton	BHA	affirmative
Kirk Higgins	CIT	affirmative
Jonathan Lee	CIT	affirmative
Kevin Lee	HSS	opposed
Jean Lester	CFA	absent
Nicolette Louissaint	CIT	absent
Jonathan Mendelson	SCS	absent
Sophia Nagornaya	HSS	absent
Nasheena Porter	HSS	opposed
Margaret Richards	SCS	absent
James Rogers	CIT	opposed
Samantha Rosenthal	CIT	opposed
Stephanie Rosenthal	SCS	opposed
Edward Ryan	MCS	opposed
Thomas Sabram	CIT	affirmative
Nicholas Scocozzo	CIT	abstain
Akil Simon	CFA	opposed
Tanvir Suri	TSB	affirmative
Wei Tang	SHS	opposed

Courtney Thompson	TSB	absent
Yew Choex Wong	CIT	absent
Josh Yearsley	HSS	affirmative