

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of December 9, 2004

5:40 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (H&SS, came late), Andres Bermudez (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT, left early), Maureen Burns (CFA), Trevor Clark (CFA), Kathryn Cooper (MCS, left early), Laura Drogowski (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA, left early), Rachel Gougian (MCS, left early), Andrea Hamilton (BHA), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA, left early), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Nasheena Porter (HSS, came late), Margaret Richards (SCS), James Rogers (CIT, came late excused), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT, left early), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB, left early), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

Senators Absent: Abigail Barnes (CIT), Ananya Bubna (TSB), Aftyn Giles (CFA), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Kevin Lee (HSS), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS), Wei Tang (SHS), Courtney Thompson (TSB), Yew Choe Wong (CIT)

Members at Large Present: Hanish Dayal (CIT), James Hazelrig (CIT), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS, left early), Aaron Walker (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

Members at Large Absent: Justin Berka (SHS, excused), Jonathan Chin (HSS), Aaron Kao (CIT), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Corrine Pascale (CIT)

5:42 pm Approval of Minutes from 12/2

- Jonathan Mendelson's absence was excused
- Kirk Higgins came late, and was not absent

5:44 pm Minutes approved by acclamation

5:44 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:45 pm Ex-officio Reports

5:45 pm Campus Police

- Safety Alerts for the holiday season passed out.

- Officer has key-chains, whistles, if anyone would like.
- Have a happy and safe holiday season.

5:46 pm **Activities Board** (no report)

5:46 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** (no report)

5:46 pm **Greek Council** (no report)

5:46 pm **Student Affairs** (Jennifer Parry Bird)

- Tuesday the 14th is the Almost Midnight Breakfast in the UC.
- Winter Gala is scheduled for January 28th, sponsored by Student Affairs, Student Government and SDC. The theme is "Wild Wild West."

5:47 pm **Student Dormitory Council** (no report)

5:47 pm **Student Body President** (no report)

5:47 pm **Student Body Vice President** (Julie Beckenstein)

- The Port Authority Transit issue was a major part of what has been going on this semester. Right now the situation is in a state of flux, but over 1000 letters have been sent to Harrisburg. Senators and County Council members have been spoken to. The situation will remain the way it is until January. Unfortunately, all of the officials are playing politics, so nothing is being decided right now. Confident that the funding will happen.
- The academic advisors task force has been in effect. There will be something like FCE's for academic advisors coming in the next year. Other things to watch for are +/- grading, and students having too many majors.
- There are finally locks on the UC doors, mainly due to a lot of pestering.
- The dining contract with Parker expires in 2006. There will be a committee to help decide on whether or not their contract is renewed. Other projects for next semester include having a prayer space for Muslim students, crosswalks, and bathrooms. The multicultural council will hopefully be more successful. There have also been some serious problems with UDC. Having office hours that do not take place on the third floor will also be looked into.

5:52 pm Questions

- The reason why we think there are problems with UDC is that so many students have complaints. UDC stands for University Disciplinary Council.

5:52 pm **Student Body Vice President for Finance** (Steve Kling)

- Most everything done this semester has been with JFC. Overall the semester has gone well. Have been getting everything together (auditing, etc.) for next semester.

5:54 pm **Student Body Dining Chair** (no report)

5:54 pm **Joint Funding Committee Chair** (Nicolette Louissaint)

- The fall process was very different this year from the usual fall process. Had a lot of time to figure out just what is wrong with the JFC process. There is now a specific set of recommendations for how to expect representatives to behave, as well as the appeals process. Instituting a set of recommendations to Senate about reserve accounts and what should happen with the funds in various reserves and capital accounts.

5:56 pm New Business From Committee

5:56 pm **0405-057 – Special Allocation of \$300 to Tanah**

5:56 pm Motion to postpone until representative is present (Andres Bermudez)

5:56 pm Motion passed by acclamation.

5:57 pm **0405-058 – Special Allocation of \$1240 to Thomas Oliver**

- A group of people exploring the ideas behind the da Vinci effect by making a film. About 10 people are working on the project, but more will be joining. There will be a lot of CMU students acting in the film in addition to those working on it currently. Hopefully the film will be feature length, and the film will benefit everyone.

5:58 pm Questions

- The film is not quite about the da Vinci effect. The film is about a girl traveling to Pittsburgh in order to search for her mother. The key phrase of the film is “no place like home.” There will be different types of actors with different ethnicities, and will take place in various Pittsburgh locales. The film has a five-figure budget.
- The group has gotten money from other sources such as Dean Murphy, and a SURG grant. Some of the money will be from the greater Pittsburgh community and PITT. The students will film every weekend from February through the beginning of March, and show the film at the beginning of May. Thomas Oliver has seen Dave Ruvolo to set up an Oracle account.

6:02 pm Discussion

6:02 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

6:02 pm Vote on 0405-058 – Special Allocation of \$1240 to Thomas Oliver

Passes, voice vote

6:03 pm **0405-059 – Special Allocation of \$1028 to the Figure Skating Club**

- The figure skating club would like to participate in a competition at the end of February in Boston. This requires a 3/4 vote. The figure skating club has been in existence for about a year, and one of the main goals of the club is to be able to go to competitions and represent the school.

6:05 pm Questions

- Airline tickets have not yet been purchased to get to Boston. The club says they can get the tickets for less money than Funding and Recognition think they can. The amount of money they are asking for uses FNR's cost estimate. The club itself will be covering the cost of registration and costumes.

6:06 pm Discussion (none)

6:06 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

6:06 pm Vote of 0405-059 – Special Allocation of \$1028 to the Figure Skating Club

Passes, voice vote

6:06 pm Motion to consider 0405-057 now that a representative from Tanah is present (Tom Sabram)

6:06 pm Motion passed by acclamation

6:06 pm **0405-057 – Special Allocation of \$300 to Tanah**

- Tanah wants to attend a dance competition next semester. Funding and Recognition can also work with Tanah next semester. The club went to the competition last year, and it was a huge success.

6:08 pm Questions

- Tanah is involved with Dancer's Symposium.

6:08 pm Discussion (none)

6:08 pm Vote on 0405-057 – Special Allocation of \$300 to Tanah

Passes, voice vote

6:09 pm **Motion to make Fei Liu a member at large** (Tanvir Suri)

- Was here during the beginning of the school year to run for one of the senator positions. As can handle academic life, now ready to participate in other areas. Interested in being involved with the Campus Life committee.

6:10 pm Discussion

6:11 pm Call the Question (Tanvir Suri)

6:11 pm Motion passes, voice vote

6:12 pm **Motion to make Adam Greenberg a member at large** (Meg Richards)

- Has been coming to Senate meetings for about a month. Has a general interest in internal policy. Was chief editor of the Tartan up until recently. Thinks he can help, is generally useful, knows about half the people on senate already.

6:13 pm Questions

- Will continue going to ID meetings. Would be glad to help out with bus issues.

6:14 pm Discussion

6:15 pm Motion passes, voice vote

6:15 pm Motion to discuss 0405-060 now (Nasheena Porter)

6:16 pm Motion passed by acclamation

6:16 pm **0405-060 – Introduction of Constitutional Amendments Related to the Reserves**

- Found on the second page of the JFC handout. JFC was asked to look into reserve accounts. There are not a lot of records about reserve accounts, but what is in the handout are the first two pages of JFC's recommendations based on four accounts. The last page details what will need to happen to make these recommendations into constitutional amendments. It is important to note that we have come up with a mathematical function of what should happen with the reserve so that we keep within a certain percentage of our operating budget.
- A big problem is that there is too much money in the reserve accounts that is not being spent in good ways. Historically, there is not even a check on whether the UC capital account grows up to be half a million dollars. We presented these recommendations to GSA on December 1st to be approved next year.

6:21 pm Questions

- The amount that is required to be kept in the accounts is not going to change a lot. These amendments represent a better system of how to keep money around from year to year and how to spend it when it is needed.
- To maintain the required percentages, nothing needs to be done. Nowhere does it say that money needs to be spent. These just allow student senate to know what can be spent and what cannot. The amendments give lasting guidelines.
- The motion will be considered in January.

6:24 pm **Motion to make Shingai Samudzi a member at large** (Maureen Burns)

- Looking forward to helping with senate.

6:24 pm Questions

- Interested in participating in Funding and Recognition. Also interested in working with ID.

6:26 pm Call the Question (Josh Yearsley)

6:27 pm Motion passes, voice vote

6:27 pm **Motion to make Diana Purcell a member at large** (Akil Simon)

- Wants to make a change at Carnegie Mellon. Involved in political affairs at her high school.

6:28 pm Questions

- Interested in the campus life committee. Something that she is interested in changing about Carnegie Mellon is that there is no place to get food late at night. Would consider CFA vacancy.

6:29 pm Discussion

6:31 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

6:31 pm Motion passes, voice vote

6:32 pm Standing Committee Reports

6:32 pm **Academic Affairs** (Jonathan Mendelson)

- This has been a good semester for academic issues. One of the things we've been working on is academic advising. A problem is that there is no accountability for advisors. Will be implementing something like FCE's for academic advisors, with FCE's given first for professional advisors within the University.
- +/- grading also came up pretty early in the semester. Most students are against it, and we've done our best to make sure it won't come up again later this year. Final exams have also been an issue. We have tried to make it so that there are more afternoon and fewer morning exams. Courses have also not been held at appropriate times, and this was a problem for students (this issue was worked on with Indira). Worked with communications to advertise final exams policies using posters.
- Looked into the commencement speaker issue. Last year academic affairs made recommendations for speakers, and none were used because only one out of several choices was viable. A big project that should be worked on next semester is creating a centralized website to get advising information online.

6:38 pm Questions (none)

6:38 pm **Business Affairs** (Ed Ryan)

- Not included in the report is the Cashless Vending project. Students seem to like it a lot – basically you use campus express to make purchases directly from vending machines just by swiping your ID card. Big things done this year: Campus express survey (see Appendix A), will use a system created by Papasian when he was bored. Feedback boxes were crushed earlier this semester, early next semester will contact Patty Stacer to figure out how to collect cards.
- The administration is planning on a moderate tuition increase next semester. Committee wants more feedback from students about increases. Went to speak with Dean Murphy so that a representative from Business Affairs can come to meetings during the process.
- Looking into technology fee to see whether it is being used properly. Little progress was made, so it should be continued next semester. Found this semester that the parking amnesty project never did happen, and Dean Murphy was very apologetic. Dean Murphy will pressure parking services to see that it does take place.
- Project Lucky Charms information can be found in Appendix B. Project Lucky Charms is about how Lucky Charms cereal is more expensive at Entropy. Entropy has to operate under tight storage space conditions in comparison to say, Right Aid. Entropy cannot purchase in bulk. Thanks to Josh Yearsley for graphs and figures. Thank you to committee members.

6:47 pm Questions

- If students do find the fact that Entropy's Lucky Charms are more expensive to be of great concern, the committee can work with Entropy to change the focus of what they offer.

6:49 pm **Campus Life** (Nasheena Porter)

- Thanks to committee members. There will be item of the week sales next semester in Kirr Commons. Escort vans and booths cannot be had because of the small sidewalk space, but there are now lights on the buses so that people can know when vans are approaching. Also, van drivers will be wearing their headsets. The PAT issue was a big issue for Campus Life, especially as the Escort services would be unable to make up for the loss of service after 9 pm that would occur if PAT had to go through with the proposed cuts.

- There will be two-ply toilet paper in the University Center next semester. Working with Housing to put a plan into action that would enable Housing to clean rooms when students first arrive if the rooms are not satisfactory.
- Would like to put general meetings on cmuTV, and to have 2-3 town hall meetings per semester. Also should be an online forum like misc.market about issues so that senators can see what's going on. Also working on a Spirit Week for the student body.

6:54 pm Questions (none)

6:55 pm **Communications** (Maureen Burns)

- Most everything we did this semester is in the report. Some things that we forgot to mention: The exam posters done jointly with Academic Affairs, also trying to get different colors of paper in the building. Thanks to the committee. Any questions please ask.

6:57 pm Questions (none)

6:57 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Tom Sabram)

- Ended up spending 41,000 dollars minus the 6,000 for cmuTV's special allocation. In order to make the committee better, suggest working with all the other committees more, especially ID.
- Urge people to come to Funding and Recognition if they don't like how something is going, or if they have ideas for how to make something better. It would be good if people could come to committee meetings so that they can better understand how Funding and Recognition works. Thank you to the committee.

7:00 pm Questions

- It would be good if Funding and Recognition could come up with some kind of documentation as to what happens with decisions for funding and why certain decisions get made (this is especially with regard to the Tartan editorial accusing Senate of chronism).

7:02 pm **Internal Development** (Michelle Birchak)

- Most of everything is in the report. Committee was not as effective as it could have been, especially as there were only 2 members attending on a regular basis.

7:03 pm **Diversity** (Josh Yearsley)

- Most everything is in the report. Rough time starting this semester, especially with having people come to meetings and get along. One recommendation for this semester is Issue 8 in the report.

7:04 pm **Senate Chair** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

- Apologies for the lateness of the papers. Thanks to Dan for the website improvements. We have gotten two letters back from Doug Shields and another thanking us for sending the resolution. A lot has gotten done this semester, would like to show appreciation and thank everyone. Also, thank you to Jen and student activities.
- Focus for next semester is to work on communication with student activities, the administration and each other. Senate Chair and possibly the other committee chairs will have office hours in Kirr Commons.

7:09 pm **Special Business**

7:09 pm **0405-061 – Approval of the Spring 2005 Senate Budget (\$5925)**

- Please read over the proposed budget. See the second page of the Agenda handout.

7:11 pm Questions

- Clerk is a paid position. A senator cannot be clerk.

7:12 pm Discussion (none)

7:12 pm Call the Question (Tom Sabram)

7:12 pm Vote on 0405-061 – Approval of the Spring 2005 Senate Budget (\$5925)

Passes, voice vote

7:13 pm **Election of the Senate Chair**

- Nominations for Senate Chair: Nicholas Scocozzo

7:14 pm Speech (Nicholas Scocozzo)

7:14 pm Questions (none)

7:15 pm Discussion

7:15 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

7:15 pm Nicholas Scocozzo is Senate Chair by voice vote

7:16 pm **Election of the Academic Affairs Committee Chair**

- Nominations for Academic Affairs Committee Chair: Samantha Rosenthal, Jonathan Mendelson, Josh Yearsley

7:17 pm Speech (Samantha Rosenthal)

7:21 pm Speech (Jonathan Mendelson)

7:32 pm Speech (Josh Yearsley)

7:35 pm Discussion

7:45 pm Motion to Give Dan Papasian Speaking Rights for Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Election (Nicolette Loussaint)

7:45 pm Motion to Give Dan Papasian Speaking Rights passed by acclamation

7:50 pm Call the Question (Maureen Burns)

7:54 pm Josh Yearsley is elected Academic Affairs Committee Chair by Roll Call Vote

7:54 pm **Election of the Business Affairs Committee Chair**

- Nominations: Edward Ryan

7:54 pm Speech (Edward Ryan)

7:55 pm Discussion

7:55 pm Call the Question

7:55 pm Edward Ryan is Business Affairs Committee Chair, by voice vote

7:56 pm **Election of Campus Life Committee Chair**

- Nominations: Nasheena Porter, Andres Bermudez, Adam Atkinson

7:57 pm Speech (Nasheena Porter)

8:04 pm Speech (Andres Bermudez)

8:12 pm Speech (Adam Atkinson)

8:21 pm Discussion

8:29 pm Call the Question

8:32 pm Adam Atkinson is Campus Life Committee Chair by Roll Call Vote

8:32 pm Motion to move Internal Development Election to now (Margaret Richards)

8:32 pm Motion Passed by Acclamation

8:32 pm **Election of the Internal Development Committee Chair**

- Nominations: Michelle Birchak, Joe Arasin

8:33 pm Speech (Michele Birchak)

8:39 pm Speech (Joe Arasin)

8:51 pm Discussion

9:14 pm Motion to limit discussion to the next ten minutes (James Rogers)

9:14 pm Motion passes by hand vote (16:2:2)

9:15 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

Objection

9:19 pm Move the Question (Margaret Richards)

9:19 pm Moving the Question passes by hand vote (16:1:3)

9:24 pm Michelle Birchak is elected Internal Development committee chair by Roll Call Vote

9:24 pm **Election of the Communications Committee Chair**

- Nominations: Maureen Burns

9:24 pm Speech (Maureen Burns)

9:29 pm Discussion

9:29 pm Call the Question (Laura Drogowski)

9:29 pm Maureen Burns is elected Communications Committee chair by voice vote

9:30 pm **Election of Funding and Recognition Chair**

- Nominations: Tom Sabram

9:30 pm Speech (Tom Sabram)

9:33 pm Discussion

9:33 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

9:33 pm Tom Sabram elected Funding and Recognition chair by Voice Vote

9:34 pm **Election of Sergeant at Arms**

- Nominations: Margaret Richards

9:35 pm Speech (Margaret Richards)

9:36 pm Discussion

9:36 pm Call the Question (Trevor Clark)

9:36 pm Margaret Richards is elected Sergeant at Arms by voice vote

9:36 pm **New Business From the Floor** (none)

9:36 pm **Points of Discussion**

- It would be best if Senators could stay away from personal issues that do not affect the election during discussion
- Saw a trend of ideas that could have been brought up earlier in the semester – Senators should bring ideas to the committee chairs so that ideas can be implemented sooner
- Anyone who wants to help Dan out with a forum on inter-committee issues should do so
- Some people are confused about the difference between FNR and JFC. Should we change the name of JFC? If they can't figure out the difference between FNR and JFC, do we really want to give them money?

9:40 pm Motion to end points of discussion (Maureen Burns)

9:40 pm Motion passes, voice vote

9:40 pm Announcements

- Thank you all for a great semester! All of this would not be possible without all of you.
- If past and current committee chairs could stay a little after the meeting, this would allow us to plan the transition to next semester.
- The first Senate meeting of the Spring semester will be on Thursday, January 13th at 5:30 pm in the Posner Center Board Room. For now until that date, Senate is in recess. Good luck on finals and see you back here after a well-deserved break!
- The Senate webpage (www.stusen.org) is updated.
- Every year we don't have a lot of turnout for athletic events. The boys basketball team is really good, and people should go see them. The girls game is at 1 pm on Saturday, and the boys games are at 3 pm on Saturday and 3 pm on Sunday at Skibo gym.
- Remember to recycle the ream of paper you got today!

9:42 pm Adjourn