

# Minutes

General Body Meeting Spring 2012  
January 26, 2011

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## Senators Present:

**CIT:** Alyssa Danesh, Anshul Dhankher, Sohini Roy, William Elmore, Joshua Yee (0.5 absence)

**MCS:** Ashley Reeder (0.5 absence), Fermin Liang (1 absence), Neha Chaurasia (0.5 absence), Rafael Segal

**CFA:** Jonathan Mark, Nikhil Sambamurthy, Travis Rozich

**TSB:** Rishi Patel

**HSS:** William Weiner, Bryan Wade (0.5 absence), Seth Vargo, Mike Shin

**BHA/BSA/SHS:** Joseph Vukovich

**SCS:** Daniel Pomeroy (0.5 absence)

## Senators Absent:

Mala Shah (1 absence), Abigail Ondeck (2 absences), Ashley Dickson (2 absences), Bryan Spencer (1.5 absences), Dixon Liang (1 absence), Nancy Brown (1 absence), Aaron Chiu (2 absences), Andrew Biar (2 absences), Amy Quispe (2 absences), Peter Liang (2 absences)

## 5:04 – Approval of Agenda

- Motion to Approve Agenda and Minutes. Seconded by Rishi. Voice Vote. Motion Passed

## 5:06 – Audience Participation

- [Bryan] Who would you like to invite to Carnival as a comedian: Ron Swanson, Jon Oliver or Ryan from The Office?

## 5:07 – Committee Reports

### • Academic Affairs

- [Bianka] We are working with Academic Affairs to have every advisor in career development have very specific roles
- [Bianka] We are planning for Grad Student Week and will be sending updates
- [Bianka] Neha is working on Interp classes that are available for Freshmen
- [Bianka] Neha/Nikhil are working on having the Stuco and the Academic affairs committee be controlled by students instead of a lonely staff member
- [Bianka] Vivek is in charge of textbooks in the library, talk to him with ideas
- [Bianka] We are working on the Lecture Series and getting people pumped for the lineup.
- [Bianka] Let us know if you have any other ideas or initiatives in mind

### • Business affairs

- [Anshul] We only have 4 people on the committee and would love to have more
- [Anshul] The UC game room project has moved to Campus Life
- [Anshul] Vivek is in charge of the library textbook reserve system and we will be getting some data on the initiative
- [Anshul] We are working on the magazine stands around UC black chairs and updating the signs to make it more clear
- [Anshul] We would like to get the word out that the Campus Lighting Project was followed-up and completed with new lamps in Fairfax
- [Anshul] We will reevaluate the table sharing signs in Gingers where people can flip a sign on and off as to whether they would like to share the table with others
- [Anshul] Meetings are coming up regarding the Bike sharing system
- [Anshul] Surveys will be conducted regarding UC space issues – particularly 2<sup>nd</sup> floor UC being too crowded for lunch
- [Anshul] The Campus Readership Program distributes newspapers to campus
- [Anshul] We are working on meeting with the VP of campus affairs
- [Seth] HSAC is moving up deadlines for special interest housing. Applications are due by the end of the month, but this conflicts with Doherty housing which is not yet available, let's send an email to point out the conflict
- **Campus Life**
  - [Rishi] Poll on earplugs that will be available at the library circulation desk: Option A has logo \$250, Option B is cheaper \$150
  - [Will] Poll was relatively even
  - [Seth] Are these one-time use? Yes
- **Communications**
  - [Alyssa] We meet every Tuesday at 5pm
  - [Alyssa] We have a new logo and are looking to put it on merchandise
  - [Alyssa] We would like to find new ways of talking to the campus like postering, and merchandising. We'll be getting a banner and tablecloth. Let me know if we can put the logo on anything else
  - [John] bottle openers
    - [Alyssa] That may be sending the wrong message
  - [Alyssa] We will get pricing in the next two weeks regarding the gavel
  - [Alyssa] Website is up and running. The left sidebar has all the senators and pictures, email Seth if you want a different picture. We need writers for the blog so let me know if you want to write an entry
  - [Alyssa] Andrew is looking to get new gear with the new logo on it
  - [Andrew] We will get professional Senate T-shirts to wear and perhaps subsidized gear like hats
  - [Seth] Follow cmusenate.org on tumblr!

- [Alyssa] There will be no hot chocolate this Friday but we will next Friday
- **Finance**
  - [John] I would like to clarify a procedure. An allocation is first brought to the Finance Committee. We will submit a recommendation to the general body and the motion will be voted on, even if the recommendation is \$0
- **Internal Development**
  - [Ashley] We cleaned the Senate Office and it is beautiful. Please respect the office! Don't litter
  - [Ashley] Office keys will be dead as of Friday because office was too messy and we want to limit access to the office for safety reasons. If you feel you should have access, email Campus Life committee
  - [Ashley] I'll be sending out an email with a link to the task sheet so that everyone can edit/access it. Log all initiatives to the sheet
  - [Alyssa] try to be clean in the office!
  - [John] email me with a good reason to get your key back
- **Chair Report**
  - [Will] Campuslink is a super orgtracker. Student Activities is moving it forward. We'll have a pilot and talk about money in a month
  - [Will] University healthcare has reached a 1-year agreement with Highmark but is looking for new health insurance vendors, talk to me if you have ideas. PSAC will have a presentation regarding the issue
  - [Will] Gina is looking for interview rooms for interviews taking place after 5pm
  - [Will] Port authority is facing some serious cuts, we could lobby against this
  - [Will] Next week is elections for vacancies. You will need petition forms with 25 signatures from your college. Get the word out
  - [Andrew] Jake Flitner is making a committee to evaluate the Port Authority cuts. Let me know if you're interested or know of gaps in our transportation system
  - [Anshul] petitions can be found at [cmusenate.org](http://cmusenate.org)
  - [Travis] 4 CFA vacancies? correct

## 5:28 – Special Allocations

- **Global Medical Brigade**
  - **Finance**
    - [John] The finance committee believes strongly that the travel metric should be followed. With the JFC subsidy, the travel metric yields a negative allocation so we recommend funding \$0. We feel that going forward, GMB should conduct fundraising activities and Senate is willing to fund those activities
  - **GMB**

- [GMB] We go to Honduras over spring break, setup a mobile medical clinic for people who don't have access to healthcare. These people may usually need to walk a whole day to see a doctor. We usually setup in a school. Students first triage patients, information is sent to the data informatics system and patients are then sent to doctors/dentists for a 1:1 consult. A dental clinic is available for patients. Students are involved throughout the whole clinic with cleaning, medical supplies, shadowing doctors, and helping to fill prescriptions,
- [GMB] We would like to request an allocation of \$1000 for medication. We usually bring \$50,000 worth of medicine over. The trip really can't exist without the medicine.
- [John] JFC reports that all medicine is donated?
  - [GMB] We usually have two organizations that sponsor us for medication, but this year they can only provide 8 out of the 50 needed medications.
- [John] I'd like to clarify that according to our bylaws, we can't use money for philanthropic purposes
- [Ashley] each member does personal fundraising
- **Questions:**
  - [Rishi] how many years have you been asking for medication
    - Our program started in 2008 so since the beginning
  - [Amy] how did you fundraise in the past?
    - [GMB] We've applied for many grants such as Tartans Abroad. We have individual fundraising as well as group fundraising bake sales, art auctions over carnival. We've stepped up fundraising efforts a lot this year. We've already raised \$900 as a group
  - [Alyssa] You normally have medication donated, but this year the organizations did not have enough of the medication? Yes
- **Discussion**
  - [Rishi] This is an unexpected cost, let's fund them
  - [Willie] Unexpected cost is a recommendation but what about our bylaws. We can suspend the bylaws if we feel so strongly about this cause
  - [Joe] We should be mindful of the philanthropy bylaws. I don't see how this is different from a philanthropic group not raising enough money and senate making up the difference. I am less enthusiastic about this allocation
  - [Bianka] We're setting a precedent for future spring break trips. We can fund materials for fundraising efforts. We normally fund travel but you got it from JFC
  - [Anshul] If it's clear-cut in the bylaws, we shouldn't mess with it
  - [John] I agree with Joe, we could suspend our bylaws but I recommend against that. It's in student government fiscal policy

- [Steven] The bylaws state that for philanthropic causes, we can only fund operational cost
  - [Amy] I feel like medicine is operational cost, but I'm not impressed with the \$900 raised so far. We want to support your fundraising efforts
    - [Ashley] Individuals have also fundraised individually, some of them accruing up to \$900. The previous \$900 was just the money they have raised as a group
  - [GMB] Medicine is operational cost since we cannot do this trip without medicine. Also, I'd like to emphasize that we do local brigades which acts as a hook to get people interested in the program
  - [Mike] From our talks at Finance Committee, we believe it is more appropriate to fund such events that tell the community about the Honduras trip experiences which would affect the campus at large such as a black chair event
  - [Willie] I'd like to point out that in their JFC budget, they have received \$48,500 for medicine so \$1000 is a small fraction of that amount
  - [John] The question now is this: Is medicine an operational cost?
  - [Alyssa] It's important to note that this is first spring break allocation which sets the precedent for future spring break trips – suspending bylaws is a huge thing to do
  - [Seth] I believe we are confusing operational cost with a cost that prevents the event from happening. This medicine isn't an operational cost. It is more like an indirect donation.
  - [Bianka] it's not an operational cost because it's donated medicine
  - [Neha] Can you find any other sources for medicine?
    - [GMD] We've tried contacted pharmacies and also asking people to donate medicines from pharmacies but this is limited to only the medicine that are available in pharmacies
  - [Willie] Move to vote. Hand vote. 15-2-3. Passed
  - Motion to allocate \$0 to GMB. Hand Vote. 15-2-3. Passed
- **Spring Carnival**
    - **Finance**
      - [John] Carnival Fireworks
    - **Carnival**
      - [Carnival] We are hoping to have fireworks as a grand finale to Carnival. This year, it should be more impressive and safer than last year. GSA gave us \$1850 and we are asking Senate for \$2500
  - **Discussion**
    - [Seth] Why more money from us than GSA?

- [Carnival] Spring Carnival has a much higher impact for undergrads than grads
  - [Dan] I think it's appropriate for us to fund more than GSA. Grad students are busier – we should fund this allocation
  - [Seth] Call to question. Motion to allocate \$2500 to Spring Carnival. Hand Vote. 18-0-2. Passed.
- **1000+**
  - **Finance**
    - [John] This event gets over 1000 people to perform service events. They are requesting \$6000 for transportation. We suggested they stagger the bus times to cut the transportation costs in half to \$3000
  - **1000+**
    - [1000+] We do already stagger the buses somewhat. About 10-20% are morning activities while the rest are in the afternoon. We would like to have everyone together for the event. If we stagger the buses, it won't be unified and defeats the purpose of bringing everyone together for service which is why we would like to request an increase in the allocation to \$4000 which is what we got from Senate last year. This year, we do not have JFC funding and are running into funding issues with our transition to an independent organization.
  - **Questions:**
    - [Bianka] Why did you get \$4000 last year?
      - [1000+] We used that money for Pittsburgh Cares which was a service that planned all the events for us, but we are not using the service this year, instead we're asking for transportation funding
    - [Dan] Last year, were you partially funded by student activities?
      - Yes, the Student Life Office gave \$3000
  - **Discussion:**
    - [Ashley] You should stagger the event, we're a fairly large campus and you should minimize transportation costs
      - [1000] we need to accommodate scheduling with the service sites as well.
    - [Anshul] There are good reasons for not staggering the bus schedules as much. I think it's fair to match \$4000 since it gives them more flexibility and unity of the event is important
    - [Bianka] Tell me about the kick-off event
      - [1000+] Attendees may not get as much out of the day if they don't go to the kick-off event since its purpose is to inspire service in the future
    - [Rafael] Do you do any other fundraisers?

- [John] The American Eagle Corporate Sponsorship is a new thing this year. DoSA funding occurs every year
- [1000+] It's a little late to seek additional funding sources but next year we're looking to get more from the American Eagle sponsorship
- [Rishi] motion to raise allocation to \$4000. Seconded by Anshul
  - [Dan] I think it's a good idea to increase the allocation. It's a really big event, a lot of people go, and the community aspect is important since it gives back to the Pittsburgh area. Staggering will detract from the community aspect
  - [Willie] what percentage of your participants is Greek?
    - [1000+] Probably about half
  - [Vivek] This event is not JFC funded, it seems to benefit undergrads a lot and we did fund \$4000 last year
  - [Joe] I don't feel great about the \$4000 since it seems like just a ballpark number thrown out there. Looking at the budget, it seems like money is not being used efficiently. I understand the sense of camaraderie with doing the event together but we also need to consider efficiency
  - [Anshul] Willie what's your motivation for your question?
  - [Willie] It feels like we're funding Greek service hours
  - [Alyssa] Is there a percentage Greek participants at an event that make it a Greek event?
    - [Will] no
  - [Willie] I disagree with Joe, we should focus on talking about transportation
  - [John] Last year, we funded \$4000 but Senate has less money than last year. The reasoning that we should give the same amount as last year shouldn't apply
  - [1000+] To clarify about the T-shirts, 1000+ leaders wear them so that people can approach them with questions and help. There is a purpose to the shirts.
  - [Mike] \$3000 would support transportation if you cut down on marketing costs
  - [Seth] has transportation costs increased?
    - [1000+] We're trying to avoid the staggering and we did experience transportation problems last year
  - [Seth] Where's the money going that used to be in Pittsburgh cares?
    - [1000+] transportation is a priority this year. That's where the money's going now
  - [Ashley] It's a very worthwhile event but I'm leaning towards keeping cost down to \$3000 to keep costs more efficient

- [Dan] We shouldn't talk about T-shirts, we're talking about transportation. There will be receipts so if transportation is less, we won't be over-paying, I think this is a good event and there were problems last year due to transportation
- [Bryan] Costs seem to have gone down this year but you are requesting the same amount of money?
- [1000+] Pittsburgh cares is no longer a cost, but transportation cost has increase and the student life office is funding less
- [Rishi] Some Greeks had to walk home last year. I don't want to see that happen again
- [Seth] Everyone's complaining about marketing but cutting marketing will ensure that only Greeks will come to this event
- [John] We shouldn't hold anything against the event because Greeks go
- [Neha] This event targets over 1000 people. Not many events on-campus bring 1000 CMU students together. CMU is not a crazy spirit school but this event contributes to some spirit
- [Fermin] Move to vote. Seconded by Anshul. Hand Vote. 17-1-1. Passed
- Motion to raise allocation to \$4000. Hand Vote. 10-7-1. Passed
- [Rishi] Move to vote. Hand Vote. 10-3-2
- Motion to allocate \$4000 to 1000+
- [Mike] Call to Higher Vote. Roll Call Vote. 14-1-2. Passed

## 6:20 – Points of Discussion

### • Port Authority Cuts

- [Will] Port Authority is facing a 64 million dollar deficit. There are about 100 routes in Pittsburgh area and 40 of them will be gone. 28x will only go as far as Robinson
- [Will] 61 and 71 will be reduced, 64 and 74 will be completely gone
- [Will] Student government is committed to fight this and is working with PSGC. How does senate want to get involved? Campus petitions? Rally campus? Contacting reps? What do you think?
- [Seth] This isn't the city of Pittsburgh's fault, it's the state of Pennsylvania so reach out to Senate/House of Representatives
- [Will] Cuts are from Harrisburg, there are protests in Harrisburg
- [Rishi] I propose a Senate field trip to Harrisburg
- [Will] There is a town hall on 29<sup>th</sup> February in downtown Pittsburgh. We went during the tuition tax and it was fun
- [Seth] To protest against SOPA and PIPA, a faxing company faxed protest letters to senators for free and it was effective. A basic application could be created for this as well

- [Carlos] We should also create pre-written letters similar to those used in SOPA and PIPA
- [Will] Maybe I'll bring Seth and Carlos to the PSGC meeting
- [Anshul] It's best for us to get the word out there, tabling, get people to sign the petitions. I'm sure many people don't know about this
- [Will] Maybe during hot chocolate next Friday
- [Anshul] Probably more than that, maybe the entire week
- [Ashley] If we're going to petition/flier, we're going to need everyone in full force and it will be worthwhile
- [Alyssa] I am willing to do hot chocolate every day except Thursday when New Life does it
- [Will] I wrote a letter to the Tartan saying we're going to fight it
- [Anshul] Who else would be on board to join us?
- [Will] Will Zhang and I will need to talk about bringing various organizations together. GSA is behind it and SIFE perhaps
- [Anshul] We can get student orgs
- [Will] Even working with IFC and Panhel
- [Ashley] We could simply take some time to visit all fraternity and sorority meetings
- [Seth] What is the university's stance on this issue?
- [will] They are against it. Dr. Cohen is strongly against it
- [Seth] Maybe we can get a banner up on cmu.edu advertising the issue
- [Sangitha] We're currently talking to Gina about this
- [Will] Cohen is behind us but the most influential thing will be a bunch of angry students which will scare politicians
- [Alyssa] We should lead this. It will also be good for publicity for us
- [Neha] What about UPitt or Chatham
- [Will] That's my role in PSGC. Student leaders will meet in a week but it looks good for us if I can go into that meeting with some direction
- [Willie] A lot of staff/faculty ride the buses as well
- [Will] It lies with us to bring together all the forces
- [Seth] Obviously everyone's on board. Senate has the opportunity to do the push. We can quickly get a ton of people on board. Pictures, videos, text, templates. These cuts have a high impact to so many people. It significantly affects people's ability to come here. Personal testimonies on video work well
- [Anshul] environmental groups will support this as well
- [Ashley] We need to sort through all these ideas
- [Will] Let's hold an emergency ExComm meeting this Saturday, 4pm. Senate Office. Let's point the energy in a nice direction. I'll try to get Jake and Jason there so we can be coordinated

- [Rafael] Most haircuts are only bus-accessible
- **Other Points**
  - [Seth] Is there a better room to have senate where we can videotape meetings? This can increase accessibility. Send Seth or Will the room number if you know of any rooms
  - [Brian] why does roll call vote exists?
    - [Anshul] roll call vote makes sure every vote is counted in a careful manner
    - [Willie] I think it's having each vote be personally identifiable
    - [Mike] Is there a way to change it since the decision was already made when it got to my name during roll call vote
    - [Will] Sorry that's just the way it is
    - [Dan] The votes are supposed to be recorded in the minutes
    - [John] According to Roberts Rules, the minority vote needs to have each individual member listed in the Minutes
  - [John] Let's get non-diet sodas
  - [Dan] a lot of SAC meetings are same time as Senate

#### **6:38 – Announcements**

- [Will] Meeting this Saturday at 4pm
- [John] Watch me dance in the School of Drama Dance. This Friday 4pm and this Saturday at 3pm and 5pm

#### **6:40 – Adjourn**