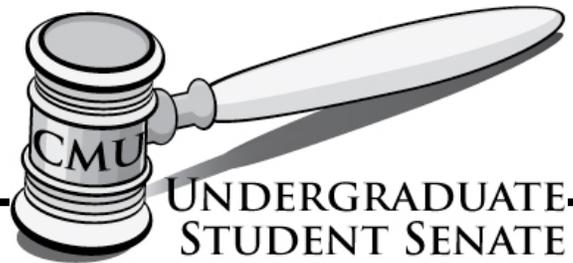


Minutes

General Body Meeting Fall 2011
October 13, 2011



Senators Present:

SCS: Peter Liang (1.5 absence), Daniel Pomeroy, Amy Quispe (0.5, 0.5p),

CIT: Alyssa Danesh (1 absence), Anshul Dhankher (.5 absence), Ashley Dickson (0.5, 0.5p absence), Willy Elmore, Jake Flitter, Kyra Gould (1 absence), Christopher Jarrett (0.5 absence), Abigail Ondeck (1 proxy), Sohini Roy (1 absence), Mala Shah (0.5 absence), Bryan Spencer (1 absence), Joshua Yee (2 absence)

HSS: Nancy Brown, Aaron Chiu (0.5 absence), Jennifer Li (0.5 absence), Mike Shin Andres Velez (0.5 absence), Seth Vargo, Bryan Wade (1.5 absence), Will Weiner,

BHA/BSA/SHS: Joseph Vukovich, Andrew Biar (0.5 absence)

TSB: Dixon Liang (1 absence), Rishi Patel (0.5 absence)

CFA: Jonathan Mark (2 absence), Travis Rozich, Nikhil Sambamurthy

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

Senators Absent: Fermin Liang (1 absence),

5:05 – Approval of Agenda

- Motion to Approve Agenda and Minutes. Seconded by Willy. Voice Vote. Motion passed.

5:05 – Audience Participation

- None

5:05 – Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs**
 - o Meeting with faculty members and seeing who gets control of different projects
 - o The Appointment+ Plan
 - o There's Meaningful Engagement Plan: "Project Craiglist"
 - o Career Services and Academics communications being analyzed
 - o Interpretation and Argument will be under discussion regarding the second mini
 - o New Meeting Time is at 9:30 on Mondays
- **Business Affairs**
 - o There's more research and planning going on with
 - o Lighting tests under way

- Reserve Textbooks under way; we hope to get this done by next week
- Magazine Stands also under way
- Bike Sharing Program is being explored further with other schools
- There's proactive dialogue going on with FMS, Housing/Dining meetings coming up
- Met with Dr. Murphy and got some good feedback
- Meetings on Monday at 4:30
- Questions:
 - [Andrew, Member-at-Large] Have we considered maintenance for bike sharing?
 - Yes. It's being considered
- **Campus life**
 - Lots of initiatives this semester
 - Going to try to get a website for Senate Gear
 - We are working on bike racks
 - We are looking at discussing with people in charge of Master Plan
 - Questions:
 - [Bryan] Let's keep conversation to a minimum
 - [Andrew, Member-at-Large] What happened to the bike racks at Doherty?
 - There's an issue with space
- **Communications**
 - You should have sunglasses by now
 - If you don't have them by now, talk to me
 - We're going to give out hot chocolate tomorrow, even though it's rainy; it'll have things that senate has done written on them
 - We're working on Gavel, and I've asked the chairs to give a Tweet-length update for the committee
 - We're thinking about doing a senator of the week, particularly to advertise senators that people can talk to
 - There's a new Senate logo coming out
 - Website updates being improved
 - We've been in touch with the Tartan, and they want to put out a weekly column on Senate
 - Questions:
 - [Andres] If the Tartan wants to write about us, shouldn't they come in?
 - They don't have the manpower necessary
- **Finance**
 - We have a heavy week of allocations
 - We also have the budget template on the website
- **Internal Development**
 - Any one who is a new member has been assigned a more senior member to learn more about Senate

- Also, thinking about mid-semester break, we might have a half-price event next week on Thursday
- **Chair Report**
 - Thank you for Senate Week
 - We advertised well and connected with the community
 - Update on wireless: Computing Services will present to the Exec. Board; I will update you further
 - If you want to do a college caucus, talk to me about it
 - The Tartan editorial stated that the Senate Week was possibly pointless and poorly organized, but I feel that we did a good job
 - **No Meeting Next Week**
 - Questions:
 - [Jon Mark] Tartan thought people weren't giving constructive feedback to Senate; I think maybe some people could have written more
 - [Anshul] I think our general goal last week was to get our name out there

5:24 – New Business From Committee

- Drama
 - Finance:
 - There are four drama students that want to travel to a lighting conference
 - This is sort of academic, but they can't get funding from their department
 - They will learn things that are beneficial to organizations on campus; they will give a presentation when they come back
 - We recommended the travel metric
 - Drama:
 - We tried to get members from AB Tech, but nobody could go
 - Scotch and Soda also can't go
 - We want to give something back after we go to the conference
 - This conference will give
 - Questions:
 - Andrew, Member-at-Large: How much are you putting in right now?
 - We are putting in \$5000, and we don't want to exceed \$500 per person
 - Bryan Wade: What's the Spring Break Metric again?
 - We give \$190 per person so that they can travel
 - We also subtract JFC budget
 - Discussion:
 - Anshul: I like the fact that they already have plans to bring something back to campus
 - Seth: It doesn't seem unreasonable

- Call to Question. Hand Vote. 24-1-3. Passed. \$760 to Drama.
- CMU UNICEF:
 - Finance:
 - First allocation:
 - They were recognized last year and don't have JFC funding yet
 - They want to do trick-or-treat for UNICEF
 - They are looking for funds to buy things and candy while
 - The operational cost is fairly low
 - Second allocation:
 - They have flags that they got from another University
 - They want to put them up around CFA Lawn
 - The funds they are requesting is for food and posters
 - UNICEF:
 - Believe in Zero is a program to prevent infant deaths around the world
 - We want to make it a big event to spread awareness about us and the program itself
 - We're getting the flags from Baylor University; CMU is paying for shipping
 - Questions:
 - Bryan Spencer. Motion to Slate. Objection by Andrew: How many members?
 - We are expanding
 - Discussion:
 - Ashley: I think it's a very low amount for both of these, and don't have any problem on funding both
 - Daniel: What is hot chocolate fundraising?
 - We're going to sell hot chocolate outside of Doherty
 - Follow-Up: If they're going to fundraise, why are funding?
 - Because we are funding operational costs
 - Andres: Motion to Slate. Seconded by Anshul.
 - Discussion:
 - Call to Question. Voice Vote. Passed. Two allocations slated.
 - Move to vote by Chair. Hand Vote. 24-0-4. Passed. \$170 to UNICEF.
- CMU Computer Club
 - Finance:
 - Their network switch broke; they received it via donation
 - They do a lot of services for campus organizations
 - They are running on a really slow and outdated one currently

- We believe this is worthy; they will receive a rebate if we fund now
 - Computer Club:
 - We give out many services to students, like expanding storage and websites
 - We had a retro gaming event last year
 - We also mirror a lot of nonprofit projects like Linux programs
 - Questions:
 - Andres: Who gets the rebate money?
 - We are requesting the post-rebate money
 - The money we are requesting is post-rebate
 - Vivek: How did the switch fail in the first place?
 - The board short-circuited
 - They are designed to last a while, but this was cheap and didn't have warranty
 - The one we're trying to get has a lifetime warranty
 - Follow-up: Which OEM are you looking for?
 - We're looking at a Cisco switch
 - Discussion
 - Jon Mark: Motion to approve by unanimous consent. Objected by Anshul: I think we should discuss it.
 - Anshul: This is a one time cost, and we should fund it
 - Alyssa: Call to question. Hand Vote. 24-1-2. Passed. \$966.98 to CMU Computer Club
- International Relations Organization
 - Finance:
 - They requested funds for registration for Model UN conferences
 - They wanted to travel last year, and they couldn't go because they couldn't come up with more funds after deposits
 - They have funds from JFC
 - We found it to appropriate to fund the event, but we recommended travel metric including the JFC subsidy
 - International Relations Organization
 - Our organization runs a lot of events
 - We try to compete representing CMU
 - We can't go to any competition, since we don't get invited unless you have "name-value," which we don't have currently
 - We are going to Yale and Harvard to compete
 - We host a conference of our own for high school students, but we got lots of positive feedback
 - More high schools want to come here
 - Each student is expected to contribute a little over \$100
 - We are going to partnered up with a university from an underdeveloped country, and we're going to talking with them

- We have a lot of people from different majors
- Questions:
 - Bianka: What are your plans for more financial viability?
 - We are hoping that after we gain some momentum, then we'll be able to get more funding
 - Bryan Wade: Did you budget for this already?
 - No, we split the cost of going to London to have two conferences domestically
 - Seth: It appears that you're renting a car?
 - Kyra: Point of Information: We're not funding the rental car
 - David: Are you considered charging admission for the CMU conference?
 - Yes, but it costs a lot of money
 - Ashley: Did you go to GSA for funding?
 - Yes, but since there's only 2 graduate members, we didn't get funding
 - Rishi: I don't understand why JFC won't fund their conference
 - Kyra: Point of Information: We're looking at an allocation for the conference they're going to; JFC required them to fundraise \$6500
 - Dan: How did you go from the original number to recommended number?
 - We used the travel metric, while subtracting the JFC subsidy
 - [Follow-up] Are we going to funding the graduate students?
 - No.
 - Bianka: How are you fundraising this year?
 - We're going to be fundraising a lot for different events
 - Stephan: Why are we using Spring Break metric for things that are not Spring Break Trips?
 - Travel usually benefits that person and so the Spring Break Trip is appropriate
 - Spring Break Trip is also a guideline
 - Seth: Is there a metric for hotel costs?
 - No. JFC model was used for last year.
 - Jon Mark: We needed a metric, and streamlines the process
- Discussion:
 - Willy: I'd like to point out we're funding registration
 - Will Weiner: We took out the JFC subsidy
 - Mala: I think it's a worthwhile allocation; we should get CMU's name out there
 - Ashley: Call to Question. Objection by Seth: I don't want to fund the late fee for their registration.

- Kyra: They wanted to delay their registration since they didn't want to end up like last year and pay deposits and lose their money
- Seth: I think this is an exorbitant amount of money, especially with the hotel
- Andres: Call to Question. Objection by Jon Mark: They can abuse money.
 - Kyra: No. We get receipts back. If we find that they have a bad record, we don't fund them in the future.
- Mala: Call to Question. Hand Vote. 23-2-4. Passed. \$2470 to International Relations Organization

6:08 –Points of Discussion

- Senate Week Feedback
 - Will Weiner will email out list of feedback. Please review your email.
 - Examples:
 - TartanDining Website not updated due to updater being on maternity leave
 - Covering Bike Racks
 - Power in Studio
 - Group Gym Exercises should be more accessible
 - Better Washing Machines
 - Faster Internet
 - Sidewalk near Greek Quad is damaged
 - Andres: Do we have paint for the Fence?
 - Yes. We'll take it sometime.
 - Rafael: Bike stuff came up a lot in discussion for me
- Raising the Activities Fee
 - We've been talking about this in Exec.
 - A lot of groups are feeling underfunded; more groups are coming
 - We have the ability to raise it by 5%
 - Second semester, we may raise it more 5%.
 - Feedback:
 - Andres: We have a surplus currently. Could we cut the percentage we get?
 - We didn't spend a lot of money last year, and we're spending a lot money this year
 - We will be spending \$10,000 for ArtPass
 - And our reduction won't have a big impact on other people
 - Bryan: Does the Student Activities Fee increase naturally?
 - It raises by inflation
 - Seth: I'm all for this. Our sister schools have fees that are almost double ours.

- Anshul: I think it'll be good for someone from Exec. give us a more detailed presentation.
 - Stephan: We made it easier for new organizations to request funding, and we didn't increase the fees; this is why we're running out of money. We should raise the fee
 - Nancy: I'm all for raising the fee, but people may be angry since they usually don't know where the money goes
 - Neha: A lot of my friends at other schools pay a lot more; they get everything paid for.
 - Bryan Wade: Is it 5% for next year?
 - Yes.
 - Andrew, Member-at-Large: We're at a point where people don't know where money goes; maybe we should tell people explicitly and clearly about where the money is going
 - Stephan: There's a huge list of things that the fee funds, and we can't tell that succinctly.
 - Kyra: Can we stick a pie-chart slide in authorized signer training?
 - Rafael: I think things are obvious, but we shouldn't shy away from explaining
 - Seth: I agree with Stephan in that this is too complex to be more transparent; if we raise the fee and people get lots of money, they won't complain as more
 - Kyra: We have to come up with some numbers to satisfy everyone; we can determine what increase we should pursue
 - Carlos: Most people won't be interested in everything, but we need to do better PR
 - Ashley Dickson: If we give organizations more money, there's no guarantee that people won't complain
- Senate Office Improvement
- We want to have a cleaning day on some day (preferably some weekend), and perhaps three weeks from now
 - Should we get a microwave for the Senate Office?
 - Kyra: I don't think that a microwave will be good, since we don't have ventilation in there
 - Seth: The reason the Senate Office is dirty because people don't respect the space; I think we can improve that with bonding events, e.g. cleaning
 - Andres: I'm also worried about the smell. There's two microwaves in the UC already
 - Amy: Can we get a kettle instead? We can use that to boil water.
 - Kyra: Nothing will be alleviate the smell in that room without ventilation
 - Seth: Alyssa and I went to Target, and water kettles are more expensive than a microwave (for large water kettles)

- Stephan: To clarify: You can get a key for the Senate Office from the UC Desk.
- Dan: I feel like we can get help from CulinArt with hot water; maybe that's a possibility
- Straw Poll: Microwave: 1 Water Kettle: ~9 Nothing: ~9
- We want to get a slipcover for the sofa

6:41 – Announcements

- Senate feedback Meeting at 3:30 at 318G tomorrow
- Relay for Life Tomorrow after the meeting
- Anshul: There are mice in the Senate office (Leonard)

6:42 – Second Roll Call and Adjourn

- Motion to End Meeting. Voice Vote. Passed. Meeting adjourned