

Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Student Senate

Minutes: 1st General Body Meeting of Fall 2009 – August 27, 2009

5:07 Call to Order

5:08 First Roll Call

Senators Present: Natalie Morris (SCS), Thomas Tuttle (SCS), Eric Wu (SCS), William Zhang (SCS), Brandon Chock (CIT), Jake Flittner (CIT), Matthew Hwang (CIT), Matthew Kuhn (CIT, 1 proxy), Diane Lee (CIT), Robert Piston Jr (CIT), Keshav Raghavan (CIT), Sonali Shah (CIT), Jarrett Adams (HSS), Eduardo J. Benatuil (HSS, 1 absence), Nikhil Iyer (HSS), Meghan Nahass (HSS), Stuti Pandey (HSS), Nicholas Ferrell (BHA/BSA/SHS), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS), Amy Adeyemi (TSB), Terry Michael Boyd (CFA), Stacey Lu (CFA), Nicholas Marcucci (CFA), Akshay Udiavar (CFA), Starsha Kolodziej (MCS), Kush Mangal (MCS), Dina Patel (MCS), Michael Yang (MCS)

Senators Absent: Jeffrey E Dahlen (MCS, 1 absence), Stephanie Schneider (TSB),

5:09 Approval of Agenda and Minutes

5:09 Robert's Rules Refresher

5:14 Business from the Floor

Approval of the President's Cabinet (Rotimi Abimbola and Adam Klein)

- Looked at applications over the summer for the President's cabinet and the advisory council. Deadline was May 15th but was extended to increase the pool—closed the process by mid June.
- Interviewed the applicants by Skype chat.
- Very diverse team.
- Chief of Staff: Ben Trump
- PR Secretary: Anthony Yudi Liu
- Constitutional Advisor: Ruth Poproski (also a graduate student)
- Outreach Secretary: Cassandra Abernathy
- Environmental Affairs Liaison: Anisha Vaswani
- AB/SDS: Adam Kriegal

5:20 Question

- (Jake Flittner) How will Senate and the advisory council communicate?
 - Will try to always have a cabinet member at Senate meetings.
 - Lots of open lines of communication.

5:22 Voice vote. Approved.

Overview of proposed bylaws, constitutional changes (Ruth Poproski)

- Want to bring Senate and GSA practices in line with the current bylaws.
- Putting together a committee, with preferably 2 Senate members to help with this process.
- The first amendment:
 - Add page numbers.
 - Want consistent formatting—make cross-referencing easier.
- Give clarity to what the procedure should be.
- Perhaps have a two-thirds vote to give ability to vote on it immediately.
- Records of the amendments should be kept.
- Change also proposed to the JFC bylaws

5:31 Questions

- (Natalie Morris) Records of the amendments apply to which bylaws?
 - Would also apply to Senate bylaws, JFC bylaws are the only ones not included. They are under purvey of GSA.
- Email with other questions to rpoprosk@andrew.cmu.edu
- CoSO is also looking for more Student Senate members—email Kaycee if you would like to join.

Approval of the 2009-2010 Senate Budget

- Total amount: \$104, 217.60
- Committee budgets are increased—make events more appealing.
- (Eric Wu) What does the webmaster do to get paid that much?
 - We budget for the maximum hours that he might work—doesn't necessarily make that much.

5:40 Motion to Amend

- (Kush Mangal) Motion to amend Campus Life budget to \$1,000.
- From prior experience, the committee typically needs more money invested into its large events/projects to make them better.
- (Toro Adeyemi) Where does campus life get the money for the campus gear sale?
 - From the Senate budget.
- (Diane Lee) I agree Campus Life should get more money but I don't think money should be taken away from budget amount given to special allocations.
- Are committees allowed to come for special allocations?
- (Natalie) Allocate money from reserves, not from special allocations.
- (Kush Mangal) The budget cuts relate more to other things, not things like Senate supported by a fixed amount from the Students Activities Fee.
- (Nick Ferrell) What is the issue? Could we just allocate an additional amount?
- (Natalie Morris) A lot of organizations required money from private corporations and departments that can no longer provide their support as a consequence of the economic climate.
- (Bassem Mikhael) Should deal with it when it happens.
- (Ruth Poproski) Nothing in the Senate bylaws prevents you from taking money.

5:52 Move to Vote on motion. Hand vote. Motion failed.

5:53 Move to Vote on Senate budget. Hand vote. Approved.

5:41 Points of Discussion

Dining Changes

- Kim Abel is coming next week to discuss the new changes.

H1N1 (Swine) Flu

- (Diane Lee) Really difficult situation for Oakland residents, especially freshmen, because when someone is sick they must go into isolation, thus their roommate must find a place to stay. The whole process is burdensome and intimidating.
- (Stuti Pandey) Isolation housing—many students are afraid to report feverish symptoms because they don't want to sacrifice their time waiting or going to isolation housing.
- 26 confirmed cases of Swine Flu.
- (Meghan Nahass) Temporary flu clinic releases the burden on EMS
- (Eric Wu) Point of Information: Health experts are afraid that a second wave of the flu could be more deadly.
- (Nick Ferrell) Some individuals are at greater risks (like those with asthma). Should inform constituents and take it seriously.
- (Keshav Raghavan) Some students are afraid of missing class—need to make sure those students in isolation housing have someone contact their Housefellows and thus their

college liaisons and academic deans so that students are not punished for lack of attendance.

- Why are we having the Activities Fair if many other large gatherings have been canceled/delayed due to H1N1?

Orientation Greek Quad Controversy

- Regarding the misconception that freshmen were not allowed on the Greek Quad.
- (Keshav Raghavan) The message that was sent to the Fraternities was that freshmen were allowed on the Quad only during sanctioned Greek events. The Tartan article was misleading.
- (Jake Flittner) Under the impression that the new rule was because of all the amnesty calls last year. Moving parties off campus just makes the problem more dangerous.
- Wasn't hard to find parties.
- If it was on the quad I would feel more comfortable. Received rides from people I did not know.
- (Nick Ferrell) Many of the RAs feel it was more harmful to the freshman. The intentions were to prevent things that were still a problem. Need to solidify better ways for next year rather than just attacking the administration.
- (Jake Flittner) Perhaps get access to statistics that compare amnesty calls and the like from this year in relation to last year.
- Goal is to work with the administration.
- (Meghan) It was good in theory but when things did happen, the severity of the situation was increased.
- (Akshay Udiavar) Ridiculous that the University thought this would improve the situation.
- (Nick Ferrell) Not only was it strongly communicated that freshmen weren't allowed on the Quad, it was also communicated that they could not throw parties off campus for freshmen.
- (Natalie Morris) Parents probably called worried about their kids regarding situations that happened last year.
- (Keshav Raghavan) They threw parties off campus because even things like a BBQ were not allowed—so they had to move it off campus.

Crime Alerts

- (Keshav Raghavan) For the freshman, they might be intimidating. I think posterage might be helpful, like SafeWalk and the phones.
- (Nick Ferrell) I think that they don't serve that great of a purpose.
- (Stuti Pandey) I think it makes people more aware. People that live in Oakland are more careful. Perhaps we need to expand the services.
- (Jarrett Adams) We encourage resident to use SafeWalk but people really don't use it.
- (Eddie Benatuil) Residents are worried about the recent crime alerts, especially the nature of them. Reemphasize that safety is a primary concern.
- (Stuti Pandey) Less safe to walk to Oakland. Perhaps have more police presence in these areas.
- "Plant swine flu to keep down crime."

Senate College Involvement

- Will discuss later.

5:50 New Business from the Floor (continued)

Presentation of proposed Joint Funding Committees changes (Nara Kasbergen)

- Want to get the JFC together by October—want to get feedback before it goes to GSA.
- Email comments to: sbt@andrew.cmu.edu

- Make sure JFC bylaws are in line with the constitution.
- SBVVPF is only the chair protemporarily—causes lots of issues with people stepping on each other's toes. Thus, the SBVVPF should also be the chair.
- 90 student organizations were funded last year.
- Goal is that JFC representatives have better relationships with their groups. Want each rep to oversee 8-10 groups, ideally.
- Also added guidelines for expectations and removal procedures for JFC members.
- Gives Senate and GSA power to reinstate members if they feel removal was unjust.
- Added clause that 51% quorum needed to run a meeting.
- These are not radical changes, just making them more in line with how things are currently done.
- Fiscal probation is a way for the SBVVPF to step in and provide oversight to prevent organization going into deficit. It's beneficial for them to have an extra person held accountable for their finances.

6:40 Questions

- (Nick Ferrell) Why are you capping the maximum members at 17?
 - We have never had that many members so we want to work with an amount more predictable.
- Policy on attendance requirements?
 - Attendance requirements are only applicable to JFC meetings, not outside meetings.

6:47 Announcements

Finance Chair Election – next week

Attendance/proxies, vacancies

Activities Fair – Tabling!

Committee meetings begin next week

6:46 Adjourn