

Minutes

General Body Meeting Spring 2010
January 27, 2011



Senators Present:

SCS: Christopher Hsu (1.5 absence), Elizabeth Kemp (3 absence), Will Zhang (1 absence)

CIT: Alyssa Danesh (.5 absence), Anshul Dhankher, Willy Elmore, Jake Flitter, Kyra Gould (1.5 absence), Briana Larkin (1.5 absence), Bianka Roy (1 absence), Mala Shah (1 absence), Rutwik Parikh (3 absence)

HSS: Devin Beahm (2 absence), Seijeon Ghang (1.5 absence), Benjamin Guterman (1.5 absence), Zachary Stockwell (.5 absence), Will Weiner, Hannah Yang (1 absence)

BHA/BSA/SHS: Kendra Albert (1 absence), Alexander Blair

TSB: Joon Yeop Kim (1.5 absence), Rishi Patel (1.5 absence), Reema Thawrani (2 absence),

CFA: Elyse Carr (2 absence), Margaret DesCombes (1.5 absence), Joseph Dziekan (.5 absence), Adriel Deller (.5 absence), Anika Yeji Jung (1.5 absence), Jonathan Mark (1.5 absence)

MCS: Varun Deshpande (1.5 absence), Jesse Lawrence, Cher Lu (.5 absence), Fermin Liang, Stephen Tjader

Senators Absent: Joseph Dziekan (2.5 absence), Adriel Deller (1 absence), Seijeon Ghang (5 absence, 1.5 proxy), Anika Yeji Jung (4.5 absence), Joon Yeop Kim (2 absence), Rutwik Parikh (2 absence, .5 proxy), Hannah Yang (5.5 absence, .5 proxy) Will Zhang (1.5 absence, 2 proxy)

Members-at-large Present: Leon Kim (1 absence)

Members-at-large Absent: Riddhima Agarwal (1 absence), Ashley Reeder, Andres Velez

5:09 – Approval of Agenda

5:09 – Audience participation

Aaron Gross, Student Body Vice President for Organizations

- There were 2 vacancies for CoSo committee
- There is one vacancy now which needs to be filled
- Recommends Tim Higgins, a senior who sat on the committee last year
- Motion to appoint Tim to Committee
- No Questions
- Move to Vote. Voice Vote. Passed. Tim Higgins appointed to CoSo committee

5:15 – Committee Reports

- **Academic affairs:**
 - Is engaged well this term
- **Business affairs:**
 - All of the initiatives first week are done
 - There will be WiFi on the Cut before Carnival at the fence
- **Campus life:**
 - 3-fold approach this semester
 - Each person is liason to certain initiatives
 - Sharon will work on equipment in the gym
 - Willy will work on getting a printer in the Residence on Fifth, as well as green practices; resolved newspaper rack issue in Resnik
 - Leon resolved the doors remaining unlocked
 - Will will work on Skibo gym and Dining
 - Cher will work on security issues and parking
 - Rishi will work on bike rack expansion
 - Question (Alex): What are the Skibo gym issues?
 - There is an hours discrepancy
 - There needs to be a link between GSA and committee since GSA bought equipment
 - Cher will be working on the issues in Morewood
- **Communications:**
 - First Gavel is published
 - There are currently three different designs to put Gavel around campus
 - Plans for lecture hall visits and dinners where ~200 people attend to increase electoral voting
- **Finance:**
 - Special allocations will come up in the next few meetings
 - Prices of the special allocations will be on website for reference and review
- **Internal Development:**
 - Taking note of who is retaining or not
 - Caucuses directions developed
 - Individual meetings between senators for caucuses are planned

5:20 – Ex Officio Report

Bob Reppe, Director of Design

- We are working on University's Master Plan as mandated by Pittsburgh's zoning code to be submitted every decade.
- Question (Jon): What is the Office of Campus Design?

- The Office of Campus Design is responsible for capital development on campus, as well as real estate and strategic development. This is all reported to the Trustees for review
- Question (Jon): Is the Office of Campus Design in charge of aesthetics?
 - Yes. Staff the design review committee and make recommendations
- The Master Plan is completed to secure development rights to build over the next 10 years
- This is very crucial to the maintaining and growth over the next 10 years
 - Past examples of strategic investments in property include the purchase and repurposing of:
 - The gas station and graphic arts building
 - The South Forbes buildings around bank and around the bank
 - Residence on Fifth which was half renovated, and will be completed this summer
 - The Wallace House
- The Office of Campus Design wants these investments to be included Master Plan for the following purposes:
 - Continued growth of University
 - Growth of undergraduates was 10% in the last 10 yrs
 - Growth of PhDs and research was 50% in the last 10 yrs
 - Pittsburgh a hub of growth which is based in the educational institutions, which has driven land prices up
 - Continue to connect the campus
 - Currently very well integrated
 - Difficult to get to Craig, where many offices are located
 - Maintain capacity and flexibility
 - Hyper dynamic activity such as Google
 - Better connections are necessary
 - We do not have facilities isolated athletic facilities
 - Clusters of housing are separated
 - Use two deposits of land to develop over the next 10 years to link the campus together, namely the Morewood Parking Lot and Craig Street properties
 - Lots of individual needs that we need to embed in master plan
 - Two major pieces of property south of Forbes link campus together
 - Morewood parking lot will perhaps be converted into collegiate buildings surrounding a green
 - Physical surplus of parking on Campus
 - Question (Jon): Will the new buildings academic?
 - Yes
 - Question: Where will Carnival be?
 - Morewood Parking development will happen over 20~30 years. Not an immediate issue
 - Craig street will be developed to be more urban
 - May be developed by third party

- Bridges across railroad ravine, which excludes having to go over Forbes bridges
- Individual buildings in planning
 - Nano bio-medical engineering building
 - Future energy research
 - New Tepper
 - Current site not adequately suited to allow all Tepper affiliated departments to be in the same building
 - Question (Will Zhang): What will happen to the Posner center?
 - Reallocation of space
 - Question (Jon): What are ISIS, IPP, CIC?
 - Acronyms defined
 - Athletics and Recreation (UC addition)
 - Skibo: Currently there is no air-conditioning, and a host of other problems like unnatural locations for certain rooms
 - Plans to upgrade facility
 - Perhaps level Skibo gym and build new performance gym
 - Extension of Margret Morrison
 - Music, Design, Art Departments needs more space
 - The challenge will be dividing up the 100,000 sq. feet space
 - New residences
 - Individual rooms in a suite
 - Natural gateways to campus
 - Filling in space between Hamburg and Smith Halls
 - Auditorium/break room
 - Tennis Court study
 - Perhaps put shops under tennis courts by lifting the courts
 - Question (Jon): What is the gateway to campus? Anything we can do to advertise that this is CMU without modifications?
 - Perhaps put up monuments or just do nothing
 - Question (Jon): Keep the Forbes bus stop?
 - Yes.
 - Question (Jon): Why is our library a rainbow?
 - Talk afterwards
 - Forbes Avenue
 - Goal is to keep campus mainstream instead of having a hazardous street
 - Perhaps take away a lane on Forbes and put a dedicated bike lane
 - Email: breppe@andrew.cmu.edu

- Pedestrian safety plan
 - Identified many major issues
 - Excess speeds on Forbes Avenues and Fifth Avenue
 - Increase crossings and traffic lights on Forbes
 - Structure and centralize parking reservoirs
 - Question (Kyra): Anything in Plan to address crime?
 - Neighborhood protection strategy
 - Prevent disinvestment, which we are already seeing on Beeler
- Parking
 - Currently 250 space surplus, with only 80% of the garages full
 - Perhaps propose different tag sales
- Plan is to submit the Master Plan in late February, with an expected 5-6 month approval from the city
 - Question (Jon) Did we overpay for gas station?
 - We paid what we had to

6:17 – Spring Break Funding

Kendra Albert

- Over the past 3 years there has been increasing spring break and winter break travel
- JFC funding shows an increase in spending
- Money allocated is not regular/consistent
- Coming up with a consistent way to address these groups is difficult because of the variability of expenses from different groups, especially between groups that work domestically and groups that work internationally
 - Alternative metrics for funding
 - Percentage of the total trip for funding
 - Rejected because of problems with gauging price of funding
 - Different total cap on funding
 - Rejected because too arbitrary
 - Current metric suggestion: Groups are eligible to receive Student activities fee per person minus the relevant JFC funding
 - Senate can be notified on special situations
 - (6:25) Questions:
 - Robert: Domestic and international trips are differently funded. Does this encourage international travel?
 - There is money for international travel from Tartans Abroad
 - Fermin: Does each project get paid the same amount every year?
 - Discretion of the committee

- Jake: We need metrics
- Will Zhang: Why should we encourage international trips? Fiscal responsibility and campus life more important.
 - Seconded by Kyra
- Kyra: Post this somewhere once we decide?
- Shriya Venkatesh: Growing number of international trips means that Tartans Abroad cannot adequately funding. How would you encourage fiscal responsibility? How about percentage matching of individual fundraising?
 - We can't have senate vote on unknown variables
- Discussion:
 - Will Weiner: Think we should adopt to keep a system with consistency
 - Jon: Don't think groups are coming in an appropriate way for funding. Student activity fee should be helping them, but not through special allocation
 - Anshul: We need a metric and this is good
 - Zach: Really like this metric, and it is more than reasonable
 - Fermin: Before, did previous allocations fall under this amount ? Can we institute some sort of system where we pay up front, like a set cost?
 - Pretty much yes
 - The current metric suggestion is the best since they get what they put in
 - Leon: I thought special allocations were held for on campus activities. Isn't this superfluous?
 - Jake: In previous years, the rationale for qualifications has been:
 - Reduces the amount individuals have to pay while getting CMU's name out in the world benefits individuals' experience at CMU
 - Kendra: There are things that these projects bring back things to share with the rest of the community
 - Leon: Are we not being superfluous? How come we didn't pay previous projects more?
 - Jake: Its up to the body to decide on a case by case basis, and we are discussing a metric
 - Adriel: This is good at promoting CMU, but getting the student activity fee back is better since fiscally responsibility is important. What do these kids actually bringing back from these trips?
 - Will Weiner: We're not taking money from someone else's student activities fee, and it's in the spirit of making the campus better

- Kyra: Agree with metric. We are not a scholarship organization. Finance what can't normally be financed. Requirement of too much discretion. This is a good idea
- Will Zhang: Motion to end discussion
- Jesse: Objection. We're giving them back what they put in. We have money to give out
 - Kendra: Purpose of senate finance is not to give out the money. We allocate on merit.
- Shriya: The sentiment that these activities not impacting the campus is difficult to discuss since quantifying experiences is impossible. What else would the money be used for?
- Ruth: Groups to fundraise, and then deal with it later? Disincentive to fundraise
- Will Zhang: Motion to end discussion
- **Move to vote. Voice vote. Passed.**

6:46 – New Business from Committee

Jake: Motion to move habitat for humanity to item a. from item d.

Move to Vote. Voice Vote. Motion passed

- a. (6:48) Habitat for Humanity trip to the Dominican Republic
 - JFC funded \$1250
 - 10 people going, and \$590 in additional funding is necessary
 - Planned before the JFC allocation due to Habitat for Humanity regulations
 - Supporting students of different socioeconomic backgrounds for project
 - Questions:
 - i. Will Zhang: What is the actual timeline? Contradictions from different rep regarding JFC allocation.
 1. We did not have info from Habitat for Humanity
 2. Follow up: Why did you apply after deadline?
 - a. Didn't know what project were available until after
 - ii. Rishi: How many people are going?
 1. 10 people
 - iii. Chris: payment by individuals?
 1. Yes
 - iv. Bianca: Did you ask Habitat for Humanity for funding?
 1. We have looked into engineering funding, since we are building houses, but there isn't money to go around
- b. Discussion:
 - i. Will Zhang: Motion to amend recommended amount to \$0
- c. New Motion Discussion

- i. \$0 recommendation
 - ii. Will Zhang: JFC budgets are due at a certain time for a reason, and organizations should adhere to the dates. It is not a reasonable expense
 - iii. Will Weiner: \$590 is perfectly appropriate. Even though planned after due date, this will bring value to campus.
 - iv. Jon: \$590 is very appropriate, especially according to metric just cited.
 - v. Fermin: Why not give it to them? We funded domestic ones
 - vi. Shriya: We are new and didn't know that expense would be this high from JFC fundings based on previous years
 - vii. Zach: How many people?
 - 1. 10 people and one trip leader
 - viii. Alex: This is an unpredictable expense. Do not amend to \$0
 - ix. Will Zhang: Metric is designed to fund "up" to the amount of student activities fee paid, not exactly that amount. Other trips were also based on case by case.
 - x. Move to vote. Voice Vote. Opposed.
 - d. Back to original Discussion
 - i. Will: Call to question
 - ii. Move to vote. Voice vote. \$590 to Habitat for Humanity**
- b. All University Orchestra
 - o Unprecedented Growth
 - i. String Theory group growth
 - ii. New concert hall necessary
 - iii. Special allocation is valid since this was not foreseeable
 - iv. Sebastian (President of AUO)
 - 1. 3 concerts this year
 - v. Natalie (Treasurer)
 - 1. We don't have any other option
 - b. Discussion:
 - i. Zach: Why are the spaces on campus not adequate?
 - 1. Full orchestra is 100 people and the halls are too small to accommodate. There are not enough chairs, and stage is not adequate
 - 2. Alumni concert hall is booked up
 - ii. Steven: Call to Question
 - iii. Move to Vote. Voice Vote. Passed. \$300 to All University Orchestra**
- c. Habitat for Humanity
 - a. Bus costs went up due to miscommunication and costs rose because of short time before booking
 - b. 14 people were on the trip with 2 minivans
 - c. They were told that student activities would be able to pay for vans up fronts. Time took to go between student activities, habitat for Humanity, and Enterprise; this time caused the booking prices

to go up. Was also told CMU would pay auto insurance, but turned out to be not true

- d. Discussion
 - i. Jon: Call to question
 - ii. **Move to vote. Vote by hand. Passed 19-0-2. \$700 to Habitat for Humanity**
- d. SALSA
 - a. Funding comedy night ran short due to difficulty with attendance
 - b. Was on the same night of popular football championship, and expected numbers did not show.
 - c. President of SALSA:
 - i. Food is ethnic and from local Hispanic restaurants
 - ii. Expected 350 people from the numbers last year
 - iii. Only 110 people showed up.
 - d. Questions:
 - i. Zach: Did you charge money from people attending?
 - 1. Was historically free, but was \$3 this year
 - e. Discussion
 - i. Will Weiner: Allocated amount is fair
 - ii. Jon: Call to Question
 - iii. **Move to vote. Vote by hand. 17-1-2. \$750 to SALSA**
- e. Orphanage Outreach
 - a. Not JFC funded
 - b. New organization
 - c. Questions:
 - i. None
 - d. Discussion:
 - i. Jon: Motion to raise allocation to \$4000
 - ii. New Discussion on raising allocation to \$4000.
 - 1. Will Weiner: I disagree based on metric. Why are we digressing from the metric?
 - 2. Jon: We should raise the bar for this since they don't have JFC funding, and because they are a new organization
 - 3. Will Weiner: Call to Question
 - 4. Move to vote. Voice Vote. Opposed.
 - iii. Will Weiner: Call to question
 - iv. **Move to vote. Vote by hand. 20 - 0 - 1. \$2760 to Orphanage Outreach**

7:18 – New Business from the Floor

- No new business from the floor

7:19 – Announcements

- Vacancy elections

- Make up absences
- College Caucuses

7:21 – Second Roll Call/Announcements

7:23 - Adjourned