

Minutes

General Body Meeting Spring 2010
February 10, 2011



Senators Present:

SCS: Christopher Hsu (2.5 absence), Will Zhang (1.5 absence)

CIT: Alyssa Danesh (1 absence), Anshul Dhankher, Willy Elmore, Jake Flitter, Kyra Gould (1 absence), Briana Larkin (3.5 absence), Bianka Roy (3 absence), Mala Shah (1.5 absence), Rutwik Parikh (3.5 absence)

HSS: Devin Beahm (3 absence), Seijean Ghang (2 absence), Benjamin Guterman (2.5 absence), Zachary Stockwell (1 absence), Will Weiner, Hannah Yang (1 absence)

BHA/BSA/SHS: Kendra Albert (1.5 absence), Alexander Blair

TSB: Joon Yeop Kim (1.5 absence), Rishi Patel (2.5 absence), Reema Thawrani (4 absence),

CFA: Elyse Carr (3.5 absence), Margaret DesCombes (2.5 absence), Joseph Dziekan (1.5 absence), Adriel Deller, Anika Yeji Jung (2 absence), Jonathan Mark (2 absence)

MCS: Varun Deshpande (2.5 absence), Jesse Lawrence, Cher Lu (2 absence), Fermin Liang (1 absence), Stephen Tjader

Senators Absent: Varun Deshpande (2.5 absence), Kyra Gould (1 absence), Briana Larkin (3.5 absence), Cher Lu (2 absence), Jonathan Mark (2 absence), Rishi Patel (2.5 absence), Bianka Roy (3 absence), Reema Thawrani (4 absence),

5:07 – Approval of Agenda

- Motion to Approve Agenda. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5:07 – Audience Participation

- No Questions

5:07 – Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs**
 - o Talks with CMU police for self-defense classes are still taking place
 - o There will be a meeting about Interpretation and Argument on Tuesday to go over what we talked about last week
- **Business Affairs**
 - o CRP is in jeopardy because GSA doesn't want to pay for the newspapers anymore. They state that they do not have funds, although our analysis shows that they do.
 - o Credit card readers are still a working progress
 - o There will be magazines in the UC in two weeks

- Dining services will hand out frequent user discount cards
- We are discussing how the campus is preparing for bikes in the future
- We will also conduct bike rental system research
- There will be a printer in Doherty by March 1
- Question (Kendra): Newspapers or magazines for CRP?
 - Newspapers
- **Campus life**
 - Not much to report this past week
 - UC black chair outlets fixed
 - Still working on initiatives
- **Communications**
 - The websites have been updated again
 - The lecture halls are being arranged, and there is now a compiled list of large lecture halls for freshmen and sophomores
 - Whoever goes to the lectures will give lectures to the entire class, and bullet points will be provided for the speakers
 - There is a second issue of the Gavel, complete with ex-officio reports
 - Spring Elections are coming up for Senate
 - There is a Feb. 25th deadline for necessary forms. Complete information is online
 - We will contact all the deans of all the colleges and STC to garner publicity for the upcoming elections, as well as put up posters
 - Question (Anshul): Will there be a Senate Week, like we did last semester?
 - If there is enough interest
- **Finance**
 - On the agenda for next week is: Rugby, Ski Team, Mosaic, and Engineers Without Borders
 - There will be sample budgets online shortly
- **Internal Development**
 - Caucus meetings are going on
 - We will release official town hall dates next week.

5:15 – Ex Officio Report – Dean of Students Affairs

- Gina Casalegno
 - Has been at CMU for 8 years, and has been the Dean of Student Affairs since July
 - Division of student affairs
 - In the process of writing the strategic plan for the next 5 years
 - Key questions that we ask are: What ties our work in improving the student experience? What do we collectively care about across the various departments?
 - Broad commitment to student life in and out of class
 - Students come to CMU for core curricular experience, but there is a meta-experience that complements the curriculum

- 7 million dollars a year budget
- Organizational structure
 - Student Life
 - Leadership for housing communities
 - Greek Life
 - STC advising
 - GLBT
 - Student Activities
 - Advising student government/organizations
 - Working with media groups
 - Office of International Education
 - Cultural programs
 - Career and professional development center
 - Connected with alumni affairs now
 - Counseling and psychological services (CAPS)
 - First year programs and orientation
- 5 year plan:
 - Assessment of how student life is impacted by the DoSA policies
 - Life-span of the CMU undergraduate experience.
 - It starts at admissions and lasts the four-five years that students are here
 - Alumni can give back by becoming a career mentor
 - Graduate students
 - What is the grad students' experience?
 - How to support them better?
 - Partnerships with stakeholders external to campus
 - How do we leverage appropriate communications?
 - Local governments are very interested in CMU students' ability to engage the community
 - Diversity advisory council
 - We have a diverse population here at CMU
 - How is that affecting us? We should promote the students to become global citizens through robust programs that support the diversity
 - Infrastructure
 - Not a lot of fiscal resources available: most of it goes to maximizing human resources
 - Events Calendar isn't very good at the moment
 - There is significant technology catching-up to do
 - Space is a big priority: There are 280 student organizations (more in the queue)
 - Students are now guiding the student experience
- Community Safety and Relations

- There have been multiple robberies, assaults, and attempted assaults in the 4 block radius from main campus
- Shuttle Escort Routes are difficult to arrange since resources cannot match the demand
- We've seen a dip in crime thus far this year
 - However, we have had 3 laptop thefts on campus
 - Community experience should be good
- Community Relations
 - Good decisions were made this past Super Bowl
 - There are problems on Beeler Street, Wilkins Avenue, and Forbes avenue: Students are leaving trash on the streets and pulling out signs
- Interested in Feedback
- Questions:
 - Kendra: Why is Safewalk paid by student activities fee?
 - We are actually trying to change that. It is currently that way because it was started as a student organization
 - We would be willing to pay for it out of the divisional funding
 - Ben: Aren't larger assessments rather blunt instruments?
 - Yes. We need to do focus groups
 - Will answer more precisely after the 5-year plan is in place
 - I agree that we haven't quantified or qualified our actions
 - Kate: Lot of people ask why we don't have shuttles that go into Shadyside.
 - I am not equipped to answer that
 - University Police are the ones that are looking at that
 - We have shifted routes in the past due to input
 - Alex: What communications have you made to talk with the residents about the problems of partying?
 - On Beeler Street, we talked with student residents face-to-face by going door-to-door
 - David Chickering has sent emails to residents
 - There has been police and magistrate involvement
 - Alex: Shouldn't there be student government involvement?
 - Perhaps we can set up a student community liaison?
 - Kendra: Criteria for funding?
 - Basic criteria
 - Not very structured fiscal policy/ open to many people
 - Open to people

5:56 – New Business from Committee

- 1000Plus

- Finance:
 - Unexpected difficulties when they became a student organization from being a part of student life
 - Net gain for everybody on campus
 - Reasonable
- Kate and Dan
 - March 27th
 - This is the cost to pay Pittsburgh Cares, a non-profit organization that provides the appropriate services for this event
 - We formed 3 years ago
 - Student life and student development funding was cut this year due to budget constraints
 - The cost to get the services from Pittsburgh Cares was \$2000 last year, and now it is \$4000
 - Pittsburgh Cares fee will hopefully not go up next year
 - We won't have to rely on them as much next year
- Questions
 - Ben: Why did the price go up if their involvement went down?
 - They actually charge less than what we get
 - They're supposed to cost \$6000, but lowered it to \$4000
- Discussion
 - Ben: Call to question
- **Motion to vote. Voice Vote. Passed. \$4000 to 1000Plus**

- Hellenic Student Association

- Finance:
 - This would fund their activities for the rest of the term
 - Small amount of money to keep a club that has been at CMU for a while going
- HAS:
 - Club was arranged a few years back
 - Schatz wants us to serve Greek food
- Questions:
 - Zach: How many people will come?
 - We are hoping for ~500 people
 - Alyssa: Is this on a Wednesday night?
 - Yes
- Discussion:
 - Ben: Call to question

- **Motion to Vote. Voice Vote. Passed. \$100 to Hellenic Student Association**
- **Tepper Ball**
 - Finance:
 - Tepper Ball is relatively historic
 - Costs for the event have risen this year
 - Event doesn't seem sustainable since they don't have new sources of revenue
 - They want \$1500, but we recommend \$500
 - Tepper Ball
 - The fact that this year's Tepper Ball is on a cruise ship will provide a different experience for students
 - It's open to all Carnegie Mellon Students
 - We couldn't obtain as much funding this year due to budget cuts
 - We want the special allocation to cover transportation fees(\$1000)
 - The cost went up because it's a longer drive (not 10 minutes like last year, but to the river), and \$500 won't be sufficient to fund it all
 - Expecting 130 people
 - We are trying to find new ways of increasing revenue to keep it more affordable
 - Question:
 - Will Weiner: When did you plan for the clipper ship?
 - November
 - Ben: How much is Tepper giving, not including Economics Department funding?
 - \$3000
 - Jesse: Food cost is \$6300 for 130 people?
 - The 'food' cost includes boat price
 - Kendra: Is this the same clipper ship during orientation?
 - Yes
 - Will Zhang: Why is the Tepper contribution not in the revenue?
 - This was the budget that we presented for Tepper
 - Kate: What is the cost comparison with last year? Why does the location change every year?
 - It was in a Greek cathedral last year
 - We want to provide new experiences for students
 - It's actually not much more expensive this year
 - Will Zhang: How are you going to make up deficit if you don't get this funding?
 - We can negotiate with Tepper and the Economics Department to get more

- We will have to cut and/or pull out funds from other Tepper events like Tepper Spirit Day
 - Alex: Will you serve alcohol?
 - Yes. Tepper Ball serves Alcohol
- Discussion
 - \$500 allocation
 - Will Weiner: Seems reasonable because the Clipper is luxurious, and the transportation is rather exorbitant
 - Alex: Why are we not funding the whole thing?
 - The price went up, but revenue didn't go up
 - Jesse: Motion to raise the funding to \$1000
 - Kendra makes a great point that their revenue stream was static, but this is for transportation for CMU students who are overworked
 - Ben:
 - It will be nice, but they did choose the location. They should have planned accordingly
 - Will Weiner:
 - They raised the cost by irresponsibly planning events. Let's keep it at \$500
 - Zach:
 - We need to be fiscally responsible as well. I recommend \$500
 - Adriel:
 - I agree. People need to pay attention to funding
 - Call to question
 - Vote to change to \$1000. Voice Vote. Failed. Motion remains at allocating \$500
 - Will: Call to question
 - **Hand vote. 18-1-2. \$500 to Tepper**

6:18 – New Business from Floor

None

6:18 – Points of Discussion: CRP

- Jake: Campus Readership Program is what enables us to put in ID cards into newspaper bins to get free newspapers. This is funded by the \$5 undergraduate media fee. However, graduate students can also take newspapers despite it being an undergraduate program. GSA bought into it last year.
 - President of GSA stated that they don't want to spend money on this program
 - The question is: Do we want to keep this program, and if so, should we have a referendum for grad students? Should we talk to the GSA body?

- Will Weiner: How much is GSA currently funding?
 - o \$8000
- Zach: Can they unilaterally exit this program?
 - o No, they have to have a vote.
- Fermin: They don't think it's environmental
- Will Zhang: I don't understand the funding
 - o If GSA pulls out, we will have enough reserve funds to keep this for another year
 - o We only pay for the papers that are taken
- Will Zhang: \$5 per person comes from everyone, not Senate?
 - o We started it, and made it that way
- Would we have to change open bins to closed bins?
 - o There are varying philosophies
 - Zach: Open-air policy advocates say that the newspapers are easier to access, thereby promoting efficiency while saving the cost to have the bins
- Will Weiner: I would be curious as to how GSA body feels about this before we survey grad students
- Kasey: We should talk to the GSA general body about the greener options
- Will Weiner: The newspapers are trying to make things green, but evidence shows that online access is not much greener than paper
- Will Zhang: Is there anyway to make grad students pay the same fees?
 - o There would need to be a referendum
 - o DoSA: Senate made the program only available to undergraduates
- Jared: GSA doesn't want to charge graduate students anything
- Kate: GSA would be in favor of a referendum, but how would undergraduates feel if GSA closes the funding?
 - o Alex: Ian brought this up at CRP meeting
- Jake: Who's in favor of talking with the GSA general body about this?
 - o All members in favor

6:35 – Announcements

- Campus gear next week
- We will have to ratify the election results with GSA
- H&SS caucus is tonight 8:30

6:38 – Second Roll 6:38