

# CMU Student Senate

Minutes of September 18, 2003

## 5:35 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** James Auwaerter (CIT), Julie Beckenstein (HSS, 0.5 absences), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Tim Bowen (HSS), Vito Fiore (MCS), Megan Flocken (HSS), James Hazelrig (CIT), Chen Huang (CIT), Sooran Kim (CFA, left early, 0.5 absences), Steven Kling (CIT), Ben Loving (MCS), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Erik Michaels-Ober (HSS), Rebecca Nathan (CIT, 0.5 absences), Sivanipriya Nattama (SCS), Daniel Papasian (CIT), Jay Pujara (SCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Matt Rado (HSS), Edward Ryan (MCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Deniz Secilmis (CFA), Alex Sussman (SIA, left early, 0.5 absences), Wei Tang (SHS), Christopher Watkins (HSS), Yanna Weisberg (SHS), Kristina Wiltsee (MCS, left early excused, 0.5 absences), Jack Wu (SCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Joshua Yearsley (HSS)

**Senators Absent:** Wai-Loon Chan (CFA, 1 absence), Jason Chen (CFA, 1 absence), Naomi Haskell (SIA, 1 absence), Ben Magallon (CFA, 1 absence), Tom Terraccino (SIA, 1 absence), Michelle Webb (MCS, 1 absence)

**Members at Large Present:** Aaron Walker (CIT, left early, 0.5 absences)

**Members at Large Absent:** Haseeb Qureshi (HSS, 1 absence), Dynne Sung (HSS, 1 absence)

## 5:36 pm Call to Order

### 5:36 pm Approval of Minutes

5:36 pm Amendments to the September 11 minutes

- Christopher Watkins was present
- Correct spelling of Sivanipriya Nattama and Julie Beckenstein in all instances.
- 7:27 pm Discussion point: change to F&R chair supports policy
- Remove Elizabeth Anderson, Robert Andre, Eric Hong, Randy Sinnott, and Morgan Springer from the attendance list.

5:39 pm Minutes pass by acclamation

**5:39 pm Audience Participation – None**

## **5:40 pm Standing Committee Reports**

### **5:40 pm Academic Affairs** (James Hazelrig)

- AA met twice with the authors of the original letter of concern regarding the HSS overloading policy. The letter is now available online. AA also met with Jennifer Church and other relevant authorities to discuss the matter.
- Information about SAC functional issues is being compiled.
- AA met with John Papinchak to discuss final exams, room reservation, the publication of a course schedule 2 semesters at a time, and other current issues. He was responsive, but AA will continue to follow up with further meetings to encourage productivity.

### **5:45 pm Business Affairs** (Steven Kling)

- BA met with the Director of Campus Services to discuss focus groups.
- Bookstore sales are good this semester. BA met with the assistant bookstore manager to discuss issues of availability and pricing and would like to help develop policies that will make texts more affordable.
- At the committee meeting, a list of semester tasks was drafted including, among others, social security numbers being used as student IDs, bookstore, parking, and mailroom issues, and campus express surveys.

### **5:51 pm Campus Life** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

- The Student Body Dining Committee met. In an effort to increase advertising for dining, a Tartan advertisement listing a full Schatz dining schedule will be coming out soon. There will also be an RA promotional event.
- Nicholas Scocozzo and Yanna Weisberg will be alternating as liaisons to SDC and will be attending meetings on a regular basis.
- CL is considering posting abridged versions of the poster policy around campus.
- The complaint about the shortage of coin machines for laundry has been addressed, but the system as a whole is being investigated. Housing has said they may consider switching to a system where laundry fees are included in room costs and no additional fees will be charged for the use of the machines.

### **6:00 pm Communications** (Erik Michaels-Ober)

- The first round of advertising for the Student Body Vice President of Finance vacancy is complete. Thanks to committee members for completing their poster routes. A second round of notices will be posted next week or as needed. In addition to posters, an announcement has been posted to the Student Senate

web site, <http://senate.web.cmu.edu>. Announcements will be posted tonight to the Student Senate bulletin board, [cmu.student.government](http://cmu.student.government), as well as [cmu.misc.market](http://cmu.misc.market).

- Business cards are being printed for the Chair. If you need a printed business card, please contact the Chair. Also available are "write-in" business cards, left over from last year.
- Senate Ryan has been working to add a Student Senate "portlet" to the Carnegie Mellon Web Portal, <http://my.cmu.edu>.
- The Communication Committee is starting a Student Senate newsletter. Please contact me if you are interested in working on the newsletter in any capacity.
- Time slots are available for a Student Senate radio show on WRCT and a television show on cmuTV. Please contact me if you are interested in working on either of these shows in any capacity.
- The release date of the new Student Senate web site, <http://www.stusen.org>, has been postponed indefinitely due to the resignation of the CTO. Please contact me if you are interested in working on the web site in any capacity, particularly setting up the server.
- Student Senate shirts are coming. I will be passing around a sign-up sheet. Please indicate your preferred style (tee or polo), color, and size. A tee shirt will cost approximately \$5.00 and a polo shirt will cost approximately \$8.00.
- The Communication Committee meets on Mondays at 6:30. All are welcome to attend. To contact the committee send e-mail to [communications@senate.web.cmu.edu](mailto:communications@senate.web.cmu.edu). To contact me, send e-mail to [communications-chair@senate.web.cmu.edu](mailto:communications-chair@senate.web.cmu.edu).

6:06 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Daniel Papasian)

- There is approximately \$27,600 left in the special allocation budget for this semester.

6:07 pm **Internal Development** (Sivanipriya Nattama)

- Senate office keys will be ready for everyone by Monday. Senators are invited to keep office hours.
- The office computer can be used for homework, but senate related use takes priority. The printer is not for personal use.
- ID needs more committee members. No fixed weekly meeting time has been scheduled as of yet.

- ID will be handling interpretation of the constitution in an effort to clarify problems.
- ID will be searching through the senate archives to determine what real precedents exist.
- A consistent location for general body meetings will hopefully be happening in the future.
- There will be no alternate senate retreat, just individual meetings with cookies.
- The vice president of finance vacancy will be handled through ex-com.
- To try and counter turnover rates, ID is working to help senators feel comfortable and engaged.
- There may be the possibility of outdoor meetings if the weather is ever appropriate.
- Discussion about expanding or not expanding the number of senate seats and the impact that may have on turnover rates.

6:20 pm **Transparency and Accountability TASC** (Steven Kling and Sivanipriya Nattama)

- The committee met to brainstorm ideas. Activities Board chairs were there and, though they have certain limitations, they were open to the committee and the motives being discussed.

6:23 pm **Senate Chair** (Vito Fiore)

- Good work, everyone, keep it up.
- The committee charged with evaluating the activities fee has been meeting and evaluating numbers.
- Please use point of personal privilege if you have to step out or leave early.
- Point of information should be used only to supply information, not as a discussion point.

**6:26 pm New Business from Committee**

6:26 pm **F2003-008 Special allocation of \$369.09 to Labor Day Picnic**

6:26 pm Questions on F2003-008

- Labor Day requested funding last semester, but special allocation funds were limited and full support could not be given. Labor Day had to deficit spend and this amount is what is needed to get back on track.
- Despite poor weather, 1000-1500 people turned out for the event.
- None of the money covers food expenses.

6:29 pm Discussion on F2003-008

6:29 pm Vote on F2003-008

Passes voice vote

### **6:29 pm Special Business**

6:29 pm **F2003-007 Approval of the Election Rules**

6:29 pm Questions on F2003-007

- Changes have been made to reflect the shift from one-semester to one-year terms.
- No changes have been made referring to negative campaigning.
- Fence painting is not aloud. Chalking in accordance with the chalking policy is permitted.
- Online votes are updated in real time but the count cannot be monitored.

6:36 pm Discussion on F2003-007

6:36 pm Motion to amend Section VI.E.2 to say: “no painting of the fence is permitted for a candidate for office purposes” (Megan Flocken)

6:36 pm Discussion on motion to amend Section VI.E.2

- Advertising is prohibited around poling sites
- In the past, student senate has used the fence to advertise elections but not to campaign for specific candidates
- Debate about striking section VI.E.2 altogether
- Discussion about definition of “campaign material” and “candidate for office”
- Proposal to amend to say “the fence is not to be used for campaign material”

6:46 pm Motion to recess for 5 minutes for informal discussion (Erik Michaels-Ober)

6:47 pm Vote to recess for 5 minutes for informal discussion

Fails, hand vote

6:48 pm Discussion on motion to amend Section VI.E.2

- All candidates are notified of the policy

6:49 pm Motion to amend amendment to Section VI.E.2 to add “without the approval of the elections board” (Steven Kling): Ruled out of order.

6:49 pm Motion to amend Section VI.E.2 to say: “no painting of the fence is permitted for a candidate for office purposes” withdrawn (Megan Flocken)

6:50 pm Motion to amend Section VI.E.2 to add “without the approval of the elections board” (Steven Kling)

6:50 pm Discussion on motion to amend Section VI.E.2

- Concerns about equal opportunity
- The elections board should be an independent third party
- Debate about returning the proposal to ID for further consideration
- The elections board does not have any existing guidelines to determine who can or cannot advertise on the fence

6:59 pm Motion to end discussion (James Hazelrig)

6:59 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, voice vote

6:59 pm Vote to amend Section VI.E.2 to add “without the approval of the elections board”

Fails, hand vote (9-15-x)

7:00 pm Discussion on F2003-007

7:01 pm Motion to strike Section IV.E

7:01 pm Discussion on striking Section IV.E

- Candidates deserve equal opportunity to advertise
- No campaigning is aloud next to polling places
- No other policies dictate who can or cannot paint the fence. Discussion about weather it should be left to tradition or, in this special case, regulated

7:06 pm Motion to divide the question to consider sections IV.E.1 and IV.E.2 separately

7:06 pm Vote to divide the question

Passes hand vote (17-4-1)

7:07 pm Discussion on striking Section IV.E.1

7:07 pm Vote to strike Section IV.E.1

Passes voice vote

7:08 pm Discussion on striking Section IV.E.2

- Repeat of concerns about equal opportunity and unique case of elections

7:10 pm Motion to end discussion (James Auwaerter)

7:10 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, voice vote

7:11 pm Vote to strike Section IV.E.2

Fails, hand vote (4-17-1)

7:11 pm Section IV.E.2 will now become IV.E.1 by acclamation

7:11 pm Discussion on F2003-007

- Possibility for further restrictions on election board membership

- Possibility for elections board members to campaign vs. to be elected by write-in

7:13 pm Motion to amend Section IV.D to strike the first half of the sentence through “and” (Steven Kling)

7:13 pm Discussion on amending Section IV.D

7:14 pm Motion to amend to remove other references to fall election throughout entire document – accepted as friendly

7:14 pm Motion to amend to also strike “spring term” (Wei Tang)

7:15 pm Discussion on amending to also strike “spring term”

7:15 pm Motion to amend to also strike “spring term” withdrawn (Wei Tang)

7:15 pm Motion to recommit F2003-007 to Internal Development (Erik Michaels-Ober)

7:15 pm Discussion on recommitting F2003-007 to Internal Development

7:16 pm Motion to recommit F2003-007 to Internal Development withdrawn (Erik Michaels-Ober)

7:17 pm Discussion on amendment to Section IV.D to strike the first half of the sentence through “and” and to remove other references to fall election throughout entire document

7:17 pm Motion to amend amendment to also strike “spring term” (Daniel Papasian)

7:17 pm Discussion on amending amendment to also strike “spring term”

- Special elections are not handled by the elections board

7:20 pm Motion to end discussion (Erik Michaels-Ober)

7:20 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, voice vote

7:21 pm Vote to amend amendment to also strike “spring term”

Passes, voice vote

7:21 pm Vote to amend Section IV.D to strike the first half of the sentence through “and spring term” and to remove other references to fall election throughout entire document

Passes, voice vote

7:22 pm Discussion on F2003-007

7:22 pm Motion to amend Section II.E to stipulate that all election board members must be eligible voters (James Auwaerter)

7:23 pm Discussion on amendment to Section II.E

- The elections board is appointed by student senate
- Student Activities people may be helpful on the board

- It is difficult to find people to serve on the board as is

7:25 pm Motion to end discussion (Matt Rado)

7:25 pm Vote to end discussion

Passes, voice vote

7:26 pm Vote to amend Section II.E to stipulate that all election board members must be eligible voters

Fails, voice vote

7:26 pm Discussion on F2003-007

7:26 pm Motion to end discussion (Steven Kling)

7:26 pm Vote to end discussion

Division, voice vote

Passes, hand vote (16-4-2)

7:27 pm Vote on F2003-007

Passes, hand vote (17-3-2)

7:28 pm **F2003-009 Approval of the Judicial Board Nominees**

7:28 pm Questions on F2003-009

- Student Life has an application process that allows them to generate a list of recommended candidates.
- These candidates undergo training before they are allowed to serve.
- Student Life supports the candidacy of everyone on the list.
- There are three boards all of which draw from the same pool of people.
- The motion can be delayed, but Student Life has said they would like to get this taken care of as soon as possible.
- The pool does not have a limited number of seats.
- Questions about whether or not demographics info can be provided
- Between 2 and 7 students serve on a board depending on the board
- Student Life tries to ensure diversity and conflict of interest when assembling a board

7:41 pm Discussion on F2003-009

- Student Life has selected and is supporting these people

7:44 pm Motion to postpone one week and request Student Life to supply additional information about the process and the candidates (Tim Bowen)

7:44 pm Discussion on motion to postpone and request additional info from Student Life



- Debate about whether enough information has been provided for educated approval on the part of student senate
- Approving people vs. providing reasons for lack of approval
- Pool already has serving members but Student Life would like to get approval taken care of

7:48 pm Quorum Call – 19 present out of 34

7:49 pm Discussion on motion to postpone and request additional info from Student Life

7:51 pm Vote to postpone one week and request Student Life to supply additional information about the process and the candidates

Passes, hand vote (12-5-2)

### **7:51 pm New Business from the Floor**

7:51 pm **Motion to amend election rules definitions to add Section II.H** reading

“Campaign purposes: using ‘campaign materials’ to influence voting for a particular ‘candidate for office’ at an election” (Megan Flocken)

7:55 pm Chair rules motion does not need vote for consideration

7:56 pm Discussion on amending election rules definitions to add section II.H

7:56 pm Motion to change “voting for a particular” to “voting for or against a particular” (Tim Bowen)

7:56 pm Motion to change “voting for a particular” to “voting for or against a particular” accepted as friendly (Megan Flocken)

7:57 pm Discussion on amending election rules definitions to add section II.H

- The definition clarification is in response to sections IV.E and IV.G

7:57 pm Motion to change “a particular” to “one or more particular candidates”

7:57 pm Motion accepted as friendly (Megan Flocken)

7:57 pm Discussion on amending election rules definitions to add section II.H

7:58 pm Vote on amending election rules definitions to add section II.H: “Campaign purposes: using ‘campaign materials’ to influence voting for or against one or more particular ‘candidates for office’ at an election”

Passes, voice vote

### **7:59 pm Motion to introduce a student directive**

8:00 pm Chair considers motion introduced and will e-mail out relevant information

8:00 pm **Motion to amend the orders of the day** to remove Points of Discussion (Daniel Papasian)

8:00 pm Discussion on amending orders of the day

- If the meeting ends due to loss of quorum, all unfinished business will have to be completed at the beginning of the next meeting

8:01 pm Vote to amend orders of the day to remove Points of Discussion

Passes, voice vote

**8:01 pm Announcements**

- There are presently 2 CIT vacancies and 2 CFA vacancies. These will be filled in the coming weeks and a specific deadline will be set soon. Stay tuned.
- Student Body Vice President of Finance vacancy petitions are due September 26th at 5 PM at the UC Info Desk to Box 46. Petitions are also available for pickup at the info desk. 100 unique signatures of activity fee paying students are required. Senate and the Graduate Student Assembly will fill the vacancy in a special joint session.

**8:03 pm Adjourn**