

# CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of January 29, 2004

## 5:36 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** James Auwaerter (CIT), Julie Beckenstein (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Tim Bowen (HSS), Vito Fiore (HSS), Megan Flocken (HSS), Daniel Jentzen (CFA), Steven Kling (CIT), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Ben Loving (MCS), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Erik Michaels-Ober (HSS), Daniel Papasian (CIT), Jay Pujara (SCS), Matt Rado (HSS), Edward Ryan (MCS, left early, excused), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Wei Tang (SHS), Tom Terraccino (SIA), Kristina Wiltsee (MCS, left early, 0.5 absences), Jack Wu (SCS, left early, excused), Yanna Weisberg (SHS, came late, excused)

**Senators Absent:** Sooran Kim (CFA, 1 absence), Rebecca Nathan (CIT, 1 absence), Alex Sussman (SIA, 1 absence)

**Members at Large Present:** Joe Arasin (SCS), Andres Bermudez (HSS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT), Eleanor Zimmerman (MCS)

**Members at Large Absent:** Ananya Bubna (SIA, 1 absence), Aaron Walker (CIT)

## 5:38 pm Call to Order

## 5:38 pm Approval of Minutes

5:38 pm Amendments to the January 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes

- Funding and Recognition report – add after the amount for the semester “Actual: \$35,603.17 (Amended January 29<sup>th</sup>)”
- Andres Bermudez, not Bermudes
- Communications report
  - The State of Communications is “confident”, not “good”
  - Add Wei Tang’s last name

5:43 pm Passed by acclamation

**5:43 pm Audience Participation** (none)

**5:44 pm Ex-officio Reports**

5:44 pm **Activities Board** (Chris Smoak)

- Much ado about Nothing, Chungking Express, no movie on Friday because of Winter Gala – Cruise ship theme, 9-12, Saturday Hand face concert underground, Barbershop Saturday.
- Carnival Band – N.E.R.D., Comedian – Mitch Hedberg

5:46 pm **Campus Police** (Sergeant Hunt, supervisor of Crime Prevention Program)

- One of our popular programs is RAD which is for men and women, students, faculty, and staff.
- Our job is the security of campus – students, staff, properties
- If anything campus-related happens or anything you want to talk about, please call us.
- Put out safety alerts when a particular crime occurs in the campus community
- Update on the Webster Hall robbery – no new information

5:48 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** – not present

5:49 pm **Greek Council** (Derrick Steigerwalt)

- Scholarship dinner tonight, over 300 Greeks qualified with GPA over 3.5 either this semester or last semester
- Getting ready for Greek Sing
- Up til Dawn Philanthropy – hoping to have a blood drive this semester

5:51 pm **Student Affairs** (Jackie Isaacson)

- Winter Gala, all of Student Activities office will be there
- UCAB is almost ready to get started. It allocates space for the 3rd floor offices, and East Campus garages. Students are the decision-makers. The applications are almost available for applying for space. It is an involved but important process
- Leadership Seminar – first one of the semester, in UC Dowd room 6:30 Monday, President Cohen will be talking about his experiences and how they have affected his leadership.

5:53 pm **Student Dormitory Council** (Dan Jentzen)

- General Body last night, sponsoring Ski Trip, Feb 7, 9-7pm, \$30, cheap, filling up quickly
- School of Rock, Jack Black, 8 10 12
- Gave a number of dorms money to see Rent

5:55 pm **Student Body President** – not present

5:55 pm **Student Body Vice President** (Gil Dussek)

- Dan is working on the Senior Night for Feb 4th, Doc's in Squirrel Hill
- Hoping to set up a coffee time with the new Alumni Relations vice president

- MLK day forum – many students didn't understand the reasoning, and President Cohen explained his position and that he was open to moving to the full day, once the programs have sustainability – needs more student involvement for the day
- Discussed with Joel Smith about the state of Computing on campus. It is okay, but hoping to get a new email client, a campus instant messenger, and to upgrade the network.
- Healthcare Insurance – with Anita Barkin, getting together a focus group
- University Diversity Council hoping to do more events together, plan one for the spring and next fall

6:01 pm **Student Body Vice President of Finance** (Paul Richelmi)

- We need people for the Joint Funding Committee, which is a great experience to learn about funding, and getting to know other senators

**6:04 pm New Business from Committee**

6:04 pm **S2004-002 Non-Funded Recognition of Carnegie Mellon University Christian Science Organization**

- They have the objective of creating a Christian Science group on campus

6:05 pm Discussion on S2004-002

6:05 pm Vote on S2004-002

Passes, voice vote

6:05 pm Motion to move S2004-003 to behind S2004-005 (Daniel Papasian)

Passes, acclamation

6:06 pm **S2004-004 Funded Recognition of Tanah South Asian Dance Troupe**

- Though they do not have non-funded recognition, they have been in existence for a year and has been active, with events and competitions, faculty advisors
- Precedence – 6 months of non-funded to show that they have been in existence to show the stability of the group.
- Events that would need funding would include going to shows, like one that happened in NYC, which was paid out of pocket, and can't plan other events due to no funding. As well, need costume design, web design. They have 12 active members, hold tryouts open to all of the campus

6:10 pm Discussion on S2004-004

- Many groups that have come before us that we have told that they couldn't get funded because of our rules and precedent

6:11 pm Move to amend S2004-004 to be non-funded recognition (Steven Kling)

6:11 pm Objection

Fails, hand vote (12-7-4)

6:11 pm Discussion on the amendment of S2004-004 to be non-funded recognition

- The group has already been set up, and the group needs the money to go to shows and to move from being just an idea, this would force the group to go to other organizations as to support this group, non-funded for beginning organizations and to scrounge around for money
- It is only practice that we wait 6 months for groups, and this group has demonstrated that is worthy of being funded, Good rule to have a group be established, but having an arbitrary time set to be concrete is bad
- 500 dollars will not pay for them, and they will have to come to us for money regardless, and there is no rush here, and the process of special allocation works and they would go along with that, Breaking the precedent would be irresponsible of Student Senate and of our money
- Only a matter of getting started, getting to be able to get to the first show, pays for the second, which pays for the third.
- 500 dollar limit can be overruled by the JFC

6:25 pm Straw Poll (Erik Michaels-Ober)

6:25 pm Discussion on the amendment of S2004-004 to be non-funded recognition

- 500 dollar budget allows them to not pay out of pocket for next year
- It is a matter of principal, they have shown their abilities to be funded, and this would allow them to grow and to do the things they need to do
- Senate has failed in not communicating to the campus about our role in recognizing groups, and giving funding

6:30 pm Move the question (Wei Tang)

Passes, hand vote (16-2-3)

6:32 pm Vote on the amendment of S2004-004 to be non-funded recognition

Fails, voice vote

6:32 pm Discussion on S2004-004

6:32 pm Move the question (Matt)

Passes, voice vote

6:33 pm Vote on the motion

Passes, voice vote

Division (James Auwaerter)

Passes, hand vote (13-7-2)

6:34 pm **S2004-005 Funded Recognition of Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Association**

- Standard move from non-funded to funded, large increase in interest, more events this year, and MIT competition this semester, hoping to enlarge their business plan competition
- Previous money from SMC, but not steady, and then got money from the Graduate Entrepreneurship organization. Will use this money toward a lecture series and business plan competition (prize money, and award banquet)

6:38 pm Discussion on S2004-005

6:38 pm Call the question (Erik Michaels-Ober)

6:38 pm Vote on motion

Passes, voice vote

6:39 pm **S2004-003 Funded Recognition of Students for Independent Media**

- Another non-recognized group that would like to become funded, they have been active, with their website and film screenings.
- Planning for next year would use money toward buying media forms in bulk, promoting events, with expenses not being excessive
- Didn't come for non-funded recognition since they were getting by with people chipping in money, but now have more interest and would like a bigger presence on campus

6:47 pm Discussion on S2004-003

- Breach in precedent, and this makes no sense that they didn't come for non-funded since that is "given out like candy," since they knew about it
- People have received course credit, as an independent study, through this group.

6:54 pm Move the question (Jon Mendelson)

Passes, hand vote (12-5-2)

6:55 pm Vote on S2004-003

Passes, voice vote

6:55 pm **S2006-006 Funded Recognition of the Racquetball Club**

- Been around for 2 years, and have increased in membership, came last fall for money for racquetballs
- Have a tournament ladder this semester which is updated regularly, tournaments and games coming up this semester, 4 hours of court time, 35 members, free membership, been recognized for about a year, want to avoid dues,

7:00 pm Discussion on S2006-006

7:00 pm Call the question (Julie Beckenstein)

7:00 pm Vote

Passes, voice vote

7:00 pm **S2004-007 Special Allocation of \$25 to Racquetball Club**

- \$25 for the reproduction rights of the rule book, want to avoid dues

7:02 pm Discussion on S2004-007

7:02 pm Call the Question (Matt Rado)

7:02 pm Vote on S2004-007

Passes, voice vote

7:03 pm **S2004-008 Special Allocation of \$1150 to Society of Women Engineers**

- For their Winter Ball, \$400 for the ad campaign, and \$750 for transportation from here to the hotel and back, great event and well attended, \$15 for single, \$25 for couples
- Departments are not giving money this year due to budget cuts, and they were funded last year

7:05 pm Discussion on S2004-008

7:05 pm Call the question (Wei Tang)

Objection

7:05 pm Discussion on S2004-008

- Dinner is included in the event and will be paid for by SWE, including the hotel, security

7:06 pm Call the question

7:06 pm Vote on S2004-008

Passes, voice vote

**7:07 pm New Business from the Floor**

7:07 pm Motion to make Sara Sareen a Member at large (Jon Mendelson)

7:07 pm Candidate Speech and Questioning: Sara Sareen

7:09 pm Discussion on electing Sara Sareen a Member at large

7:09 pm Vote to elect Sara Sareen a Member at large

Passes, voice vote

**7:09 pm Points of Discussion**

7:09 pm During joint meeting with GSA, as part of the resolution we passed, Senate promised to restrict its funded recognition, and this has caused non-funded to be worthless

- The increase of money from the activities fee would go to new groups, and we need to revoke funding recognition of defunct groups.

- Groups must be established so students know that they exist and that they are open to all students, like other funded groups.
- Acceptable if the groups do not know, but not if they did know about recognition
- Some have this elite view of Senate and its bureaucracy
- Recognition is to make a vibrant and exciting campus, and not to punish groups
- It is not punishment to ask groups to be non-funded and then go to funded
- Getting sidetracked by focusing on process and not results, and need to look at each unique organization and not dwell on theoretical ideas
- Could put non-funded recognition as a prerequisite as funded recognition, make it as a reward to groups for following the process

7:27 pm Move to end discussion on this point (Matt Rado)

Passes, voice vote

7:27 pm Funding makes a group less autonomous (in reference to comment in discussion of the Tanah South Asian Dance Troup) and makes them dependent on us and most of F&R motions are passed here and that Senate doesn't critically examine it

- Autonomy would mean less time fundraising, and more time dancing and self-governance, though they would become a part of the University

7:33 pm Call to End Points of Discussion (Steven Kling)

Objection

7:33 pm What is the philosophy of the line in the bylaws about the requirement of \_ vote for transportation?

- Don't want to get into the habit for this money to be used for this and certain other line items

7:33 pm Move to End Points of Discussion (Matt Rado)

Fails, voice vote

Division

Passes, hand vote (11-4-1)

### **7:36 pm Announcements**

- There are presently eleven vacancies in Student Senate for the new semester: 4 in CFA, 2 in HSS, 2 in CIT, 1 in MCS, 1 in SCS, and 1 in SIA. Petitions are available at the UC Info Desk and are due back to UC Box 46 by February 3, 2004 at 5 PM.
- We are seeking Joint Funding Committee volunteers. Senators, contact Megan and Paul (mflocken@andrew.cmu.edu, sbt@andrew.cmu.edu) this week to get involved in this important process!

- The 2004 Winter Gala is tomorrow January 30, 2004 from 9 PM to 12 AM. The theme is "Cruise Ship"! Come support this HUGE (partially Senate-sponsored) event and have a great time!
- President Cohon is holding a leadership seminar in UC Dowd at 6:30 PM on Monday, February 2, 2004. This event is open to all student leaders and organizational officers. Contact [leaders@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:leaders@andrew.cmu.edu) for information.
- Senate is hiring in its clerk and CTO positions. Those interested should contact [id-chair@stusen.org](mailto:id-chair@stusen.org) and view the postings on TartanTrak.
- The next Student Senate meeting is Thursday, February 5, 2004 at 5:30 PM in UC McKenna/Peter/Wright. See you there!

**7:39 pm Adjourn**