

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of January 27th, 2005

5:40 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Abigail Barnes (CIT), Andres Bermudez (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT, proxy), Maureen Burns (CFA), Kathryn Cooper (MCS), Laura Drogowski (MCS, left early), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Andrea Hamilton (BHA), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA, came late), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT, came late), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Nasheena Porter (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS), James Rogers (CIT), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS, left early, excused), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT, proxy), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

Senators Absent: Adam Atkinson (HSS), Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Trevor Clark (CFA, excused), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS, excused)

Members at Large Present: Justin Berka (SHS), Jonathan Chin (HSS, left early), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Adam Greenberg (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Fei Liu (HSS), Shingai Samudzi (HSS), Aaron Walker (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

Members at Large Absent: Brittany McCandless (HSS), Diana Purcell (CFA), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS),

5:42 pm Approval of Minutes from 1/20

- Stephanie Rosenthal's absence was excused
- At 5:56, "Parkers" should be "Parkhurst"

5:43 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

5:43 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:43 pm Ex-officio Reports

5:43 pm **Activities Board** (no report)

5:44 pm **Campus Police** (Officer Larkin)

- There are two crime alerts up at the front. Even though the robberies did not take place on campus, they were close enough that you should be aware of them. Crime prevention tips are included in the alerts.

5:44 pm Questions (none)

5:44 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** (no report)

5:45 pm **Greek Council** (no report)

5:45 pm **Student Affairs** (Jennifer Parry Bird)

- Winter Gala is this Friday from 9-12 in the UC. The event is western themed, and we're having rodeo roping, a poker tournament, etc. There will be \$2500 worth of prizes, including iPods and XBoxes.
- February is Black History Month, and some really exciting events have been planned. Encourage your fellow students to get involved.
- In the middle of RA selection for next year, so be patient with Student Affairs if we do not answer your phone calls. There are approximately 170 applicants this year.

5:46 pm Questions (none)

5:46 pm **Student Dormitory Council** (no report)

5:46 pm **Student Body President** (Erik Michaels-Ober)

- SafeZone is a support network dealing with issues of sexual orientation or gender identity. SafeZone trainings are on February 13th and March 25th. Sessions are three hours, and it's a great experience. Applications for the February 13th session are due by February 7th. Run by Rowshan Palmer (rowshan@andrew.cmu.edu)
- Friday marks 100 days until seniors graduate. There will be a number of events for seniors between now and graduation.

5:48 pm Questions

- Dates for SafeZone training are February 13th and March 25th.

5:49 pm **Student Body Vice President** (no report)

5:49 pm **Student Body Vice President for Finance** (Steven Kling)

- Just had the second JFC Info Session. Contacted most organizations. Budgets are all due on the 19th of February.

5:50 pm Questions (none)

5:50 pm Standing Committee Reports

5:50 pm **Funding and Recognition** (Tom Sabram)

- Tuesday was the first Funding and Recognition meeting of the semester. We saw 14 organizations. The requests we chose not to bring to Senate this week were: Funding for the Athletic Council, Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity, and WRCT (who came and asked us about funding for their library expansion).

5:51 pm Questions (none)

5:51 pm Motion to move New Business From the Floor to now (Andrew Gehling)

Passed by acclamation

5:52 pm Motion to make Tro Shaw a new member at large (Andrew Gehling)

- Freshman Drama student, very involved in Senate in high school. Very passionate, likes to know and let other people know what is happening on campus.

5:54 pm Questions

- Planning on trying to fill the CFA vacancy. Can be available even when drama course work becomes very time consuming.

5:55 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

5:56 pm Vote on Motion to make Tro Shaw a member at large

Passes, voice vote

5:56 pm New Business From Committee

5:56 pm **0405-063 – Non-funded recognition of the Rifle and Pistol Club**

- Purpose of the club is to provide arms training and safety training. Want to find a place to practice together and be able to poster.

5:57 pm Questions

- Have an advisor, but have not been cleared with Risk Management as yet
- Kesden is not their advisor

5:59 pm Motion to postpone until Risk Management has been consulted (Josh Yearsley)

5:59 pm Discussion

5:59 pm Motion to postpone withdrawn (Josh Yearsley)

6:00 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

6:00 pm Vote on 0405-063 – Non-funded recognition of the Rifle and Pistol Club

Passes, voice vote

6:01 pm Motion to move 0405-069 to now because Representative has class

Passed by acclamation

6:02 pm **0405-069 – Special Allocation of \$1211.50 to the Tartan**

- Requesting to attend a conference in February to give their new leadership an opportunity to learn new skills, etc. Part of an overall program to invest in their staff. Hoping to bring eight people to attend work sessions that will teach the staff a large range of skills. Larger program includes bringing in writers from the Post Gazette to talk to the staff. Spoke to Dean Murphy and he expressed his support and willingness to help financially.

6:04 pm Questions

- Could not find any regional conferences happening right now. Are making sure that people who are going to the conference will be able to contribute to the Tartan for years to come. Many of the people going are Freshmen.

6:05 pm Discussion

6:05 pm Motion to increase the allocation from 1211.50 to 2464.96 (Nicolette Louissaint)

6:06 pm Discussion

- The Tartan does not have the money we calculated that they would have, so we should increase the amount.
- Dean Murphy is funding 50% of the cost (2464.96 is half of what they need)
- The money will be spent where it is supposed to be spent, as Jennifer Parry Bird is their advisor.

6:08 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

6:08 pm Vote on motion to increase the allocation from 1211.50 to 2464.96

Passes, voice vote

6:09 pm Discussion (continued)

6:10 pm Call the Question (Laura Drogowski)

6:10 pm Vote on 0405-069 – Special Allocation of \$2464.96 to the Tartan

Passes, hand vote (20:0:5)

6:11 pm Motion to move 0405-065 Special Allocation of \$2000 for the honorarium for Malik Shabazz (3/4th vote) to now (Laura Drogowski)

Passed by acclamation

6:11 pm **0405-065 Special Allocation of \$2000 for the honorarium for Malik Shabazz (3/4th vote)**

- The event will be held on February 17th as a part of Black History Month. At the moment, there are no events that go back to history in Ancient Egypt. Looking at textbooks and professors, there are not a lot of readily seen accomplishments

that come from Black Culture or people as a whole. A lot of people aren't aware of our accomplishments. It is important that educated people look back to where they came from. At the end of his talk there will be an open floor and dialogue.

After the dialogue there will be vendors selling cultural videos, etc.

6:14 pm Questions

- Controversial speakers have come to the school before. It's not possible to please everyone. The speaker obviously has strong opinions.
- Whether he's racist depends on what you see as racism – controversial is controversial. He's not coming here to say he's racist. The topic is to enlighten people about their history and discuss the role of the black college student.
- If someone asks him a question, even about his views, he has an obligation to answer.
- In any discussion, there's room for controversy. Not everyone agrees with what everyone else says.
- Not confident that she will be able to get funding. No speaker is lined up as a substitute. Wanted him to come specifically so has been putting all her time into it.
- The speaker's practice of hate speech was brought up to her.
- The representative will take all responsibility for the event, but there's not guarantee that the speaker will not be offending. She has been offended here many times.
- The University has said that they will not be willing to help fund the event.
- She doesn't know anything about his anti-semitic comments, because she wasn't there. The media can distort anything.
- Shabazz has been really instrumental in starting up student movements, is an activist and has been everywhere.

6:26 pm Discussion

6:26 pm Motion to give speaking rights to Professor Trotter (Ed Ryan)

Passed by acclamation

- Black History Month was created in 1926 (at that point it was a week). America was segregated, and black people and white people had very few interactions. America has become more diverse. The African American community has also become much more diverse. Shabazz in no way represents the black community, and he is very controversial.

- A lot of this is about how the forum is set up. Having Shabazz here would offer an opportunity for people to see diversity. Shabazz would make people think, and that's the point of having a speaker in the first place.
- Comparing having this event to the Natrat is a bad idea, mainly because this event would be very positive, whereas the Natrat was a very negative experience. It is important to have someone come here who will make us think and reflect.
- There is a difference between someone who is politically diverse and someone who is diverse in matters of race. It does no one any good to bring a speaker to campus who has anti-semitic views. There are plenty of speakers who could take his place. Using student activities fee money to support bringing him to campus is wrong.

6:48 pm Motion to give Dan Papasian speaking rights (Aaron Walker as proxy for Michelle Birchak)

Passed by acclamation

- ****Reading of Various Excerpts of Shabazz's Comments Regarding Jews****
- It is fine to bring him here, but we should not pretend we're bringing just anyone.
- It's not our job as senators to vote based on our personal preferences.

6:58 pm Motion to give Kierra Wright speaking rights (Tom Sabram)

Passed by acclamation

- Shabazz has spoken at Universities all over the country, and knows the venue.
- Does not make sense to bring in someone who teaches hate. For any other racial or ethnic group, this wouldn't be considered. Having him come here would not be constructive, and has nothing to do with what Black History Month is about.
- We are not discussing Shabazz's beliefs. We're discussing funding a speaker to discuss topics having nothing to do with his beliefs.
- Having Shabazz come here fulfills the third Natrat recommendation exactly. This is just one example of many events and ideas that should happen on this campus.
- Funding this event is putting money into the pocket of an anti-semite. No one can guarantee what he will talk about. As evidenced by the division in this meeting right now, the event is clearly causing dissent.
- We should not always have the majority voice here on campus.

- The event is not about racism, but Shabazz is still racist. If we were bringing a professor here who used to be involved in the KKK, no one would think about it for a minute.

7:20 pm Motion to Move the Question (Ed Ryan)

Passes, hand vote (18:3:3)

7:21 pm Motion to Have a Roll Call Vote (Andres Bermudez)

7:21 pm Vote on 0405-065 Special Allocation of \$2000 for the honorarium for Malik Shabazz (3/4th vote)

Fails, roll call vote (12:12:2), see Appendix

7:25 pm Motion to move 0405-70 – Special allocation of \$500 to the Co-op to now

Passed by acclamation

7:26 pm **0405-70 – Special allocation of \$500 to the Co-op**

- For Co-op week. Covering the costs of Tech, advertising and supplies.

7:27 pm Questions

- The Co-op is Carnegie Mellon's newest housing option. Houses 22 students, operates using a system of democratic decision making. Co-op week is one week of events to reach out to the community.

7:28 pm Discussion

7:28 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

7:29 pm Vote on 0405-70 – Special allocation of \$500 to the Co-op

Passes, voice vote

7:30 pm **0405-064 – Funded Recognition of HAPAs (2/3^{rds} vote)**

- Social and cultural group. Many members are half one race and half another. Looking to become a funded organization so that we can become larger. HAPAs was recognized in March 2002.

7:31 pm Questions

- Have about 80 members. Have been at all activities fairs, have trips, social events. Get out the fact that there are a lot of mixed race people on campus. Participate in the international foods festival.
- Want to hold a movie night featuring a documentary about being biracial or a movie featuring a biracial actress or actor.
- Will request approximately \$500 for the year.

7:34 pm Vote on 0405-064 – Funded Recognition of HAPAs (2/3^{rds} vote)

Passes, hand vote (18:0:2)

7:35 pm **0405-066 – Special Allocation of \$1200 to the Society of Women Engineers**

- For their annual winter ball. Have supported this event in the past.

7:36 pm Questions

- The amount of money we give them varies every year between \$1100 and \$1350.

7:36 pm Discussion

7:36 pm Call the Question (Sean Weinstock as proxy for Samantha Rosenthal)

7:36 pm Vote on 0405-066 – Special Allocation of \$1200 to the Society of Women Engineers

Passes, voice vote

7:37 pm **0405-067 Special Allocation of \$1350 to Mock Trial (3/4th vote)**

- Covers the cost of entering a team in the national competition. If they don't make nationals, they just give us the money back. Have two teams this year, strongest since 2002.

7:37 pm Questions (none)

7:37 pm Discussion

7:37 pm Call the Question (Jonathan Mendelson)

7:38 pm Vote on 0405-067 Special Allocation of \$1350 to Mock Trial (3/4th vote)

Passes, hand vote (18:0:2)

7:38 pm **0405-068 – Special Allocation of \$750 to the Women's Center (3/4th vote)**

- For bringing a comedian to campus on February 25th, in McConomy. As of now the Women's Center has about \$1000, and AB Comedy is going to help as well.

7:38 pm Questions (none)

7:38 pm Discussion

7:39 pm Call the Question (Tanvir Suri)

7:39 pm Vote on 0405-068 – Special Allocation of \$750 to the Women's Center (3/4th vote)

Passes, hand vote (17:0:1)

7:40 pm **0405-071 – Special Allocation of \$1500 to SALSA**

- Trying to become a more serious presence on campus. February 21st – 25th is Latin Heritage Week. We're holding a series of events. Asked originally for \$4,350. The biggest events will be the dance show, party, and panel of people coming in to talk about Latin identity and the history of ancient civilizations. Requesting \$1500 leaves them \$850 short of proposed budget.

7:42 pm Questions

- Will solicit donations at the dance show

7:42 pm Motion to give Karl Sjogren speaking rights (Andrea Hamilton)

7:42 pm Questions (cont.)

- Want to become a serious association on campus. They are part of Hispanic Heritage Month. They are paying for the party, and asking other organizations if they can contribute in any way. Dean Murphy is supporting them.

7:44 pm Discussion

7:44 pm Call the Question (Nicolette Louissaint)

7:44 pm Vote on 0405-071 – Special Allocation of \$1500 to SALSA

Passes, voice vote

7:45 pm **0405-072 – Special allocation of \$660 to Awareness of Roots in Chinese Culture**

- For the event called One Night in Beijing. Similar to TSA's culture night, but with much more focus on traditional Chinese culture. Bringing in other off-campus Chinese organizations. Event will be held in April.

7:46 pm Questions (none)

7:46 pm Discussion

7:47 pm Call the Question (Sean Weinstock as proxy for Samantha Rosenthal)

7:47 pm Vote on 0405-072 – Special allocation of \$660 to Awareness of Roots in Chinese Culture

Passes, voice vote

7:48 pm **0405-073 – Special allocation of \$500 to Student Affairs Multicultural Initiatives**

- For the final Black History Month event on February 25th in Rangos. Bringing in the gospel choir Exalted Praise.

7:48 pm Questions

- This event is representing just one aspect of Black Culture.

7:48 pm Discussion

7:49 pm Call the Question (Nasheena Porter)

7:49 pm Vote on 0405-073 – Special allocation of \$500 to Student Affairs Multicultural Initiatives

Passes, voice vote

7:50 pm New Business From the Floor

7:50 pm Motion to make Karl Sjogren a new member at large (Sean Weinstock as proxy for Samantha Rosenthal)

- Has a range of campus experiences, might be an asset when working with Senate. Interested in Academic Affairs and Campus Life committees.

7:51 pm Questions (none)

7:51 pm Discussion

7:51 pm Call the Question (Andres Bermudez)

7:51 pm Vote on Motion to make Karl Sjogren a member at large

Passes, voice vote

7:52 pm Motion to make Daniel Papasian a member at large (Andres Bermudez)

7:52 pm Declined

7:53 pm Motion to make Kohta Wajima a member at large (Tom Sabram)

- Wants to make a difference on campus. Sophomore Business major.

7:53 pm Call the Question (Tom Sabram)

7:53 pm Vote on Motion to make Kohta Wajima a member at large

Passes, voice vote

7:54 pm Points of Discussion (none)

7:54 pm Announcements

- There are currently four vacancies in Senate, 1 CFA, 2 H&SS, and 1 TSB seats. The CFA seat will be filled on a rolling basis and will be voted on once a petition is submitted. The deadline for H&SS and TSB petitions will be Tuesday, February 1st by 5:00pm in UC Box 46 and will be voted on Thursday, February 3rd. Petitions can be found online at our website, stusen.org, or at the UC Info Desk.
- As a reminder, the Student Senate retreat will be held on Sunday, February 13th at 11:00am in Rangos 1. Attendance is mandatory and will count as a general body meeting absence, unless otherwise excused.
- The next Senate meeting will be on Thursday, February 3rd at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. See you then!
- CMU EMS is holding new member training this weekend. E-mail cmuems@andrew.cmu.edu for more information. Will be holding CPR and First Aid classes. E-mail cmuems@andrew.cmu.edu if you want to get certified in First Aid or CPR.

7:55 pm Adjourn

January 27, 2005 – Appendix

Joe Arasin	SCS	opposed
Adam Atkinson	HSS	absent
Abigail Barnes	CIT	opposed
Andres Bermudez	HSS	opposed
Michelle Birchak	CIT	opposed
Ananya Bubna	TSB	absent
Maureen Burns	CFA	affirmative
Trevor Clark	CFA	absent
Kathryn Cooper	MCS	affirmative
Laura Drogowski	MCS	absent
Andrew Gehling	CFA	opposed
Aftyn Giles	CFA	absent
Rachel Gougian	MCS	affirmative
Andrea Hamilton	BHA	affirmative
Kirk Higgins	CIT	affirmative
Jonathan Lee	CIT	abstain
Jean Lester	CFA	opposed
Nicolette Louissaint	CIT	affirmative
Jonathan Mendelson	SCS	opposed
Sophia Nagornaya	HSS	absent
Nasheena Porter	HSS	affirmative
Margaret Richards	SCS	opposed
James Rogers	CIT	affirmative
Samantha Rosenthal	CIT	opposed
Stephanie Rosenthal	SCS	absent
Edward Ryan	MCS	affirmative
Thomas Sabram	CIT	affirmative
Nicholas Scocozzo	CIT	abstain
Akil Simon	CFA	affirmative
Tanvir Suri	TSB	affirmative
Wei Tang	SHS	opposed
Yew Choe Wong	CIT	opposed
Josh Yearsley	HSS	opposed