

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of March 31st, 2005

7:01 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT, proxy), Maureen Burns (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT, came late), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Nasheena Porter (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS, came late), James Rogers (CIT), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS, proxy), Thomas Sabram (CIT, came late), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Sean Weinstock (HSS), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

Senators Absent: Abigail Barnes (CIT), Andres Bermudez (HSS, excused), Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Trevor Clark (CFA), Kathryn Cooper (MCS), Laura Drogowski (MCS, excused), Andrew Gehling (CFA, excused), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Andrea Hamilton (BHA, excused), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS), Long Pham (TSB, excused), Tro Shaw (CFA), Wei Tang (SHS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT)

Members at Large Present: Justin Berka (SHS), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Adam Greenberg (CIT), Adi Jain (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Fei Liu (HSS), Aaron Walker (CIT)

Members at Large Absent: Jonathan Chin (HSS), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Curtis Johnson (MCS), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Diana Purcell (BHA), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS), Shingai Samudzi (HSS), Karl Sjogren (HSS), Kohta Wajima (TSB)

7:04 pm Senate does not have quorum, so items requiring quorum are postponed until quorum is reached

7:04 pm Audience Participation (none)

7:04 pm Ex-officio Reports

7:05 pm Activities Board (Andrew Moore)

- The Carnival concert band will be the Shins – this is official and public information at this point. Hopefully the comedian will be out by Friday. There is

a Coffeehouse at Highlander on the 8th. That's about all that's going on right now.

7:05 pm Questions (none)

7:05 pm **Campus Police** (no report)

7:06 pm **Graduate Student Assembly** (no report)

7:06 pm **Greek Council** (Adam Atkinson)

- Greek Sing was a success. \$10,000 plus whatever was made from raffle sales went to the MS Society of Pittsburgh. Very pleased with how it went. Elections for the next year's Greek Council are tonight. It's always good to have people who are involved in both Senate and Greek Council, so get involved if you are interested (and Greek).

7:06 pm Questions (none)

7:07 pm **Student Dormitory Council** (Kyle Dominges)

- SDC is discussing and working on co-ed housing. Upcoming events are Soulpatch at the Underground, and Dodgeball on the 23rd. There are two competitors for their blitz booth – Mudge House and E Tower.

7:08 pm Questions

- Will try to come to Senate meetings himself as often as possible – if he can't be there, his vice president Justin Berka (a member at large) will be present instead.

7:08 pm **Student Affairs** (Jennifer Parry Bird)

- Carnival is soon. Student Affairs is also excited to bring back new and exciting ideas from conferences. The conferences gave Student Affairs ideas and thoughts about what they'll be implementing next year.

7:09 pm Questions (none)

7:09 pm **Student Body President** (Erik Michaels-Ober)

- Sent letters to every member of the South Western PA commission to ask them to approve Port Authority funding. Ed Rendell provided funding that needs to be continually approved by the planning committee, and that's why buses have not been cut. The bad news is that there is still no permanent plan set up. As of now, the total amount Ed Rendell set aside needs to be approved in chunks.
- There is a forum on the Green Graduation Pledge tomorrow at 4:30. Pledge basically states that you'll be socially and environmentally responsible in your future workplace (recycling, social justice, etc.). It's a great program – 100's of other Universities across the country participate.

- Working on extending the operating hours in the UC for dining, Entropy and the athletic facilities as late as 3 pm. Thinking that having the athletic facilities open later would take some of the stress off of the equipment. If you have feedback about this, please let me know.
- Also working on plans for the third floor of the UC.
- There are five guests from the Qatar campus who are sitting in on this meeting. Welcome to Student Senate. Today will be their last full day here, as they're leaving tomorrow morning. This is a great opportunity for us to work together and see what Student Government does.

7:13 pm Questions (none)

7:13 pm **Student Body Vice President** (Julie Beckenstein)

- If you're interested in continuing to work on the Port Authority issue, I can put you in touch with Save Our Transit (they know their stuff as they've been pursuing this for years).
- The Dining Committee has come up with some very interesting ideas. The committee has been meeting with Bill Elliott, who has been very receptive. Their new meeting time is at 6 pm on Tuesdays.
- There has been some misunderstanding about this – so to clarify, the Parkhurst contract ends in Spring 2007.
- Steve Pajewski came and talked last week about the task force's recommendations about advising. I sat on this committee. I like the idea of having FCE's for advisors. While this would be easy to implement for staff advisors, it would be much harder for faculty advisors (we would have to make it part of their tenure process or something of that nature). The whole process will probably take a few years to implement, but it's something that students definitely want.

7:15 pm Questions (none)

7:15 pm Roll Call

7:17 pm Quorum achieved, meeting continues with items on the agenda that require quorum

7:17 pm Approval of Minutes from 3/24

7:18 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

7:18 pm New Business From Committee

7:18 pm **0405-120 – Approval of Disposal of Old Tartan Computer Equipment**

- The Tartan would like to be able to dispose of their old computer equipment. Mostly very outdated stuff. The main issue is that the old equipment is taking up space that they need for other things. There is one piece from 1984, but most of the other equipment is newer than that. There are some jurisdictional issues because some of the equipment was bought before Student Government split.

7:19 pm Questions

- The money from sales would get sent back into the Tartan's budget.
- Some of the equipment has been bid on by people who work for the Tartan. The equipment will either be auctioned off or sold. There is no specific plan at the moment as to how they will go about doing this.
- The issue right now is using the space this old equipment is taking up for other things. In the short run, getting what we can for it now is really helpful. I can't speculate into the value of 20 year old computers.
- Most of them are not as old as the 20 year old piece I've shown you.

7:22 pm Discussion

- There will not be a bias in terms of how we sell the equipment. Whoever offers the most for each piece will get it. There is of course some implied bias in that the people who work for the Tartan are more likely to know about the fact that we're selling the equipment than those who don't.

7:23 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

7:23 pm Objection (Adam Atkinson)

- This is similar to what happened when Scotch n' Soda was trying to sell their welder. They had to follow up with FNR after the item was sold to make sure that everything was good.
- The Tartan would be happy to do that.

7:24 pm Vote on 0405-120 – Approval of Disposal of Old Tartan Computer Equipment Passes, voice vote

7:24 pm Motion to consider 0405-083 – Non-funded recognition of College Prep Tutoring

7:24 pm Motion passes by acclamation

7:24 pm **0405-083 – Non-funded recognition of College Prep Tutoring**

- Tutoring program that deals with mathematics and the sciences. The organization would like to have non-funded recognition so that they could expand their membership and awareness of their organization. The organization wants to prepare students for college. In addition, many members of the organization

were involved in math Olympiads. They would like to let the students they tutor have the same experience.

7:26 pm Questions

- The organization's advisor is in the math department.
- They are aware of other programs that bring students to our campus.
- They are in contact with a variety of high schools that need them and are very interested in having them come in and work with students.
- There are three officers and two members of the club.
- The focus right now is on math and science, but we will expand to other areas if members who come in are capable of teaching other areas.

7:27 pm Discussion

- It's great that they're focused on certain subjects. There are a variety of programs where people go in to schools and don't have a clear goal.
- The fact that they're going into schools makes us as a school more visible in the community. A drawback to our insular campus is that we are not really visible in the community – this could help with that. Also, kids are cool.

7:28 pm Vote on 0405-083 – Non-funded recognition of College Prep Tutoring
Passes, voice vote

7:29 pm Motion to Consider 0405-112 – Special Allocation of \$500 to Paintball Club

7:29 pm Motion passed by acclamation

7:29 pm **0405-112 – Special Allocation of \$500 to Paintball Club**

- There was a misunderstanding this past year with regards to their funding. In the last couple of years they were funded \$1000 per semester. This year they got \$1000 and thought it was for one semester, not the whole year.

7:30 pm Questions

- There was confusion about their JFC budget. The allocation is for \$500.
- They did receive \$1000 as their allocation in the JFC process. In the past it has been \$2000 total.
- Be mindful that in years past there has been a fall and a spring JFC process, and that we have now consolidated it into just one process. This is the first year that it has been only one process.
- Their budget was not cut – they only requested \$1000 to begin with because they thought that they were only requesting money for one semester.

- Granting this allocation would leave us \$4500 in special allocations for the rest of the semester.

7:33 pm Discussion

- Given the nature of the misunderstanding, and that last year there was a change in the process, I am grateful to the Paintball Club for their patience with the process.

7:34 pm Call the Question (Joe Arasin)

7:34 pm Vote on 0405-112 – Special Allocation of \$500 to Paintball Club

Passes, voice vote

7:35 pm New Business From the Floor

7:35 pm New Business From Communications

- Communications has been doing a lot lately. We're passing around this sheet with sign up times on it. We're painting the fence after 12, chalking, putting up signs. Please sign up – we need everyone's help.

7:36 pm Motion to charge Internal Development with the task of revising the current Freedom of Information Policy (Benjamin Hackett)

7:37 pm Vote on whether to consider this motion now

Passes, voice vote

7:37 pm Discussion

- Was not familiar with the process – there is no reason to make a motion of this if it can just be considered in committee.

7:38 pm Motion withdrawn

7:38 pm Motion to make Breanna Zwart a new member at large

- Freshman in H&SS. Very involved in Scotch 'n Soda. Would like to help out.

7:39 pm Questions

- Not sure about what committee she would like to be on.
- Intending to run for Senate.

7:41 pm Discussion

7:41 pm Call the Question (Michelle Birchak)

7:41 pm Vote on motion to make Breanna Zwart a new member at large

Passes, voice vote

7:42 pm Points of Discussion

7:42 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Getting People to Vote on the Newspaper Fee

- Most of us saw the debates. It's interesting that there is such a difference of opinion about the Newspaper referendum among the candidates. Please encourage lots of people to vote on the referendum so that our future executives know what students want.

7:43 pm Point of Discussion Regarding what Ben Hackett Would Like to Change about the Freedom of Information Policy

- Would like to change the number of signatures needed to get an appeal (from 25 to some lesser number). Will get a pdf of changes for everyone. The basic idea is that it should be easier for people to appeal.
- I'm concerned about the changes you're proposing. You're going to have to approve it with GSA.
- GSA meets both in May and throughout the rest of the year.
- You can discuss this in committee and invite Senate to come.

7:45 pm Announcements

- The semester Senate Social will be held tonight, right after the meeting in Margaret Morrison Intersection Lounge. Please join us for food, drink, and DDR.
- Student Government elections will be held April 4th and 5th online at <http://elections.andrew.cmu.edu/>.
- See you next Thursday, April 7th at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room!
- Adam will be sending out an e-mail with regards to tabling for both Campus Life's carnival event and CMU gear. Apparently some of the bookstore personnel are confused about gear sales, and that someone higher up than the person we've been talking to has an issue with it. Should be fine for Monday – but I will be sending out an e-mail confirming and asking for as much tabling help as possible.
- Michelle needs help transporting stuff from the Senate Office to Margaret Morrison.
- Communications really does need your help tonight at about 11, and for other things. Maureen will send out an e-mail. Please come if you can. Help with this will mean more voter turnout.
- The weekend after Carnival there's a joint show of Candide going on.

- If anyone knows anyone who is funny, or is funny themselves, and is an ally or GLBT, Adam would appreciate any help you can give him for the stand-up comedy show he's doing after the Day of Silence.

7:49 pm Adjourn