

# CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of March 24th, 2005

## 5:40 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Joe Arasin (SCS), Adam Atkinson (HSS), Abigail Barnes (CIT), Andres Bermudez (HSS), Michelle Birchak (CIT), Maureen Burns (CFA), Laura Drogowski (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS), Andrea Hamilton (BHA), Kirk Higgins (CIT), Jean Lester (CFA), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS), Long Pham (TSB), Nasheena Porter (HSS, left early, excused), Margaret Richards (SCS), James Rogers (CIT), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Tro Shaw (CFA), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS, left early), Sean Weinstock (HSS), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

**Senators Absent:** Ananya Bubna (TSB, excused), Trevor Clark (CFA), Kathryn Cooper (MCS), Aftyn Giles (CFA, excused), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT)

**Members at Large Present:** Jonathan Chin (HSS), Kelly Duncan (MCS), Adam Greenberg (CIT), Adi Jain (CIT), Curtis Johnson (MCS), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Fei Liu (HSS, left early),

**Members at Large Absent:** Justin Berka (SHS, excused), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Diana Purcell (BHA), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS), Shingai Samudzi (HSS), Karl Sjogren (HSS), Kohta Wajima (TSB), Aaron Walker (CIT)

## 5:42 pm Approval of Minutes from 3/17

- At 6:46 pm, Business Affairs is not the best committee. (Will not be amended, as the truth of that statement is not consequential.)

5:44 pm Minutes passed by acclamation

**5:44 pm Audience Participation** (none)

**5:44 pm Special Presentation**

5:44 pm **Steve Pajewski of the Academic Advising Task Force**

- Thanks to Josh for inviting me to this meeting. Josh heard me give this presentation to the UEC. This handout that you have is exactly what I presented at that meeting. This is a draft – we're going around to different audiences around campus this semester to get feedback. There is no data in this handout. We are going to have an article in the Tartan, and there will be some data included in that article. There is a possibility of creating a website over the summer with information about the survey.
- We've been sensitive to the fact that we don't want this information to act as job performance reviews for advisors. We do not want any advisors to be fired over this. Making data available for individual departments would be much too sensitive. Will possibly show department level data to advisors, who would then choose whether to share it with their department heads. The department heads will only be shown aggregated University data as a default.
- Over 2400 students responded – which is a tremendous turnout for this kind of survey. The observations are broken into four headings. The practice of advising heading (in the report) mentions that there are clear indications that the practice of advising varies greatly across campus. Students have a very limited understanding of why they should go and see their advisor. Likewise, advisors have a very limited view of what their students should get out of advising. Obviously, advising is a very complex process.
- There are some areas where advising is being done very well, and other cases where it is being done very badly. Advisors usually have to split their time between research, teaching and advising. Advising usually comes third on that list in terms of priorities. There is limited compensation and reward for advising, and no systematic training. The most extensive training we have for advising is having a faculty advisor's peers share tips on how to advise. Many advisors consider OLR and Academic Audit to be good substitutes for advisors.
- Departments are responsible for the updating of audit files. If you're a senior, you may want to look at files from 2002 – looking at the most recent major requirements is not always appropriate. We are aware that some departments forget about audit files and let them go out of date.

- Communication between advisors needs to be improved. Within departments, communications is okay, though communication between departments is severely lacking. If a student needs to be sent to another department for any reason, they often have to find out on their own where to go, whom to call, etc. A lot of advisors would like us to create an advisor database that has information about contacts in other departments.
- We've found that there are a few basic advising models. A major model is the distributed-faculty advising model, in which there are a few faculty advisors but one person that acts as a coordinator. Faculty advisors seem to be comfortable in a mentor role.
- Advising load for department-wide or school-wide advisors may not be such an issue, as there are advisors in such situations that are very effective.
- One of our goals is to develop a University culture that is favorable to advising. Possibilities are publishing a statement in the catalog, or putting something for freshmen to read in orientation materials. Our goals are also to promote the value of advising, dedicate adequate resources to advising and establish a resource center for advising. Other thoughts are an online tool for advisors and a training program that would come out of the resource center.
- Our mission statement not only includes what we think we should do, but the goals of advising in general. There are three parties involved: the student, the advisor and the University. The students are responsible for seeking out advisors, contacts and information as needed. Scheduling, preparing for, and keeping advisor appointments. Knowing the requirements of their individual degree programs, and taking final responsibility for making their own decisions according to the best information and advice available. We may want to state this in the catalog, and possibly hand this out to the freshmen. You can go through the other portions of the mission statement with regards to the responsibilities of advisors and the university.

#### 6:01 pm Questions/Comments

- Seeking out your advisor can sometimes be really hard. A lot of students don't even realize they have an advisor. Is there some way you can make sure every student knows who their advisor is?
- In H&SS, there is an e-mail that goes to everyone.

- If it's an e-mail, sometimes people don't see it for some reason. There should be something more active that lets people know who their advisor is.
- At least for CIT, you're not allowed to register until your advisor has met with you. Advisors should know who their advisees are, and should be talking to them.
- It would be great if under the advisor responsibilities it said that they have to contact their advisees.
- Seeking out advisors could mean a lot of different thing. It should be more explicit that advisors should contact their students.
- If you don't lock people out of OLR, you're going to have people signing up for their classes without doing the necessary resource.
- Locking people out of OLR is just a minor step. It's not a great idea to have your advisor contact you often, at least for the first 2 or 3 years. It could be useful if you're looking for jobs or grad school – but advising should mainly be an as-needed thing.
- For certain departments there's a set route that you take in terms of classes. Maybe departments with more options should have more advisors.
- Putting your advisor information on a more prominent place within SIO than the enrollment page would be a good thing.
- For some positive feedback – Every one of the concerns I have about advising is addressed to a reasonable degree in this packet. I like how everyone's responsibilities are listed.
- The type of advisor we are talking about is not really explicit. Most of the time, there is one person you talk to about where you want to head with your work and your career, and an entirely different person for classes and registration.
- One suggestion is having a mandatory meeting with your advisor at mid-semester – it could be as little as sending the advisor e-mail to confirm that everything is okay.
- Before OLR, people had to stand in line and get signatures for every class they wanted to enroll in. Students wanted an online system so that they could be treated like adults. Now people are using OLR instead of advisors.

- Faculty were afraid that students would react badly to having blocks on their registration on a wide scale. I'm hearing from you guys that you might want that.
- Again, this is just a draft. We hope to have an article in the Tartan soon.

Thank you for all of your feedback.

### **6:13 pm Standing Committee Reports**

#### **6:13 pm Funding and Recognition (Tom Sabram)**

- Last week we had about \$8000 left, including if the paintball club came. Looking over last year's committee reports we found that many more people have come to see FNR over the past 10 weeks than normal. Most of them are asking for about \$1000 overall. Hopefully that will let up in the coming weeks.
- Thinking about putting together a pamphlet describing the FNR process. Looking to work with communications to put that together.

#### **6:14 pm Questions (none)**

#### **6:14 pm Internal Development (Michelle Birchak)**

- Contrary to what was said last week, Internal Development is actually the best committee.
- ID has been dealing with the Fiscal Policy issue. We will be writing a separate policy that is not part of the bylaws – so it will not be a hard and fast rule.
- If you have any comments, questions or concerns please e-mail me or come by the Senate Office Mondays at 6 pm.
- The social, which everyone should attend, will be next week after the Senate meeting. Hopefully it will be in the Maggie Mo storefront. There will be free food.

#### **6:16 pm Questions**

- On the elections ballot, you vote for a ticket, not for a person for a particular office. One reason why we do this is because Student Government in general is so much of a team effort.

#### **6:18 pm Diversity**

- Hopefully you all read my written report that was handed out last week.
- Disappointed with the turnout of committee members this past week, but we do have some hard workers like Nicholas.

- We're working on Recommendations regarding the Natrat issue. You'll see the entire slate of recommendations sometime in the next week or two. Andrea is working on one, Nick is working on one, and Michelle will be working on one.

6:19 pm Questions (none)

6:19 pm **Senate Chair** (Nicholas Scocozzo)

- Regarding absences – I'm hearing from Committee chairs that they're having trouble getting quorum at their meetings. If you cannot come to meetings, please send an e-mail to your chair.
- I will now yield to the Communications Committee:

6:21 pm Communications (Maureen Burns)

- I would like to introduce one of the architects who has been working on the display cases, Jeff Burke.
- The plans that we are passing around have passed the design committee.

6:22 pm Questions

- Total cost is about \$3000 – we're paying about half of that.
- The display cases will be in all the different academic buildings. Specifically, one per academic building.
- If we bought the display cases ready made it would be much more expensive. We also thought that it would be much better to get students involved with this.

**6:24 pm New Business From Committee**

6:24 pm **0405-117 – Special Allocation of \$800 to OM**

- Event is the Saturday of Carnival. Covers the cost of paint, permit for Flagstaff Hill. This allocation is on par with what we gave them last year. The event is a buffet lunch, and a color fight with colored powder. Everyone should come out.

6:24 pm Questions (none)

6:25 pm Discussion

6:25 pm Call the Question (Tanvir Suri)

6:25 pm Vote on 0405-117 – Special Allocation of \$800 to OM

Passes, voice vote

6:25 pm **0405-118 – Special Allocation of \$625.50 to BioSAC**

- This is the first time in a while that we've gotten a request for a booth. We also found out that JFC did not contact this organization last year. The allocation is

for about half of what they asked for. Non-funded organizations usually get between \$300 and \$500 for booth.

- This is something we're trying for the first time this year. We're doing a lot of fundraising. The materials for this booth are about 90% reusable.

#### 6:27 pm Questions

- There is nothing against this allocation in the bylaws. The range is usually about \$300-\$500 – they brought us in a budget of about \$1400, which is why this is more.

#### 6:28 pm Discussion

- Booth allocations only bother me when I think the organization involved should be doing other things to contribute to the campus community.
- The booth is going to be really good, and I hope you all fund this because BioSAC doesn't have another source to get money from.
- This allocation will set us down a slippery slope, and will set a bad precedent. I think money that is left over at the end of the year should be used for other worthy causes.
- The main reason why we want to build this booth is to interact with the campus community. The outside of the booth will be a microscope, and the inside will be a cell.
- We're seeing a lot of "this was already approved." Organizations need to give us more time.
- Carnival was just approached a week ago about this – it is not like they were purposefully waiting.
- BioSAC has secured storage space for the materials after Carnival.
- The committee looked at their budget, and it's really tight. They're coming here once to ask us to fund it – it's not like they'll be coming back next year asking for the same thing.
- This is something that benefits the entire campus community. It's a booth at carnival – and a lot of people turn out for that. It's definitely beneficial.
- Getting more people involved in Carnival is a very good thing. Blitz booths are for organizations that don't have tons of money like sororities and fraternities. Blitz booths are a wonderful use of the student activities fee.

- It would be good if we could put something about timetables for approaching us in the FNR brochure that was mentioned during committee reports.
- This is not just a booth – it's an educational initiative. Students can also learn things from it.
- Anyone can be a member of BioSAC.
- Generally I vote against these things, but they're not going over their budget or being really lazy or anything like that. It's a good use of the student activities fee.
- Booth is good.

6:37 pm Call the Question (Michelle Birchak)

6:37 pm Objection

6:37 pm Discussion (continued)

- A blitz booth means a small booth.

6:38 pm Vote on 0405-118 – Special Allocation of \$625.50 to BioSAC

Passes, voice vote

6:38 pm **0405-119 – Special Allocation of \$1070 to SPIRIT**

- Covers some of the costs of their annual fashion show. Allocation will go to their advertising budget and cmuTV. The fashion show is very well attended and is a very large event. The SPIRIT fashion show has been in existence for about five years.

6:39 pm Questions

- Right now ticket costs are \$10 for the show and \$12 for the show and after-party.
- This allocation is about the same amount we gave them last year.
- The other funding sources are donations from stores, the Deans of various departments, the line items from SPIRIT's budget. Not sure about the exact total cost of the show, but it's probably above \$8000. I have a copy of the budget if you'd like to see.
- The money from the allocation goes to cmuTV and advertising. The money we make from ticket sales goes back to front the show for next year. We plan to offer about 800 tickets. Primarily we advertise to CMU.
- There is a small line item in their JFC budget for ticket sale proceeds.

6:42 pm Discussion



- It's like we're just giving them \$1000. I remember a specific case of buying an organization donuts so that they could give the original amount back to Senate. If they're going to raise \$7000, why can't they raise \$1000 more?
- We do have a budget for the show – but budgets are cut, and this is to make up the difference.
- Normally admissions assists in the cost of the show – this year admissions was not able to fund the stage for us.
- With regards to the donut sales comment – that was a charitable event, and since Senate is not allowed to give money to charity we had to lend them money to sell donuts that was then given back to us. This is not a charitable event.
- The show costs \$10,000 and ticket sales bring in \$2000.
- Every organization's budget is zeroed out at the end of the year. When JFC does its budgets every year, SPIRIT's subsidy is smaller because they do all the wonderful things that SPIRIT does. There's no extra money or profit – all the money they're making is already allocated to something else that they want to do.

6:53 pm Call the Question (Tro Shaw)

6:53 pm Objection (Joe Arasin)

6:53 pm Discussion (continued)

- The services cmuTV is providing is what we normally purchase – but last year we were using an outside source. cmuTV can also assist with other aspects of the show – such as setting up screens, DVDs, etc.
- I don't feel comfortable using student activities fee funds for advertising outside of CMU.
- Your budget from last year doesn't account for any of this (cmuTV, etc.). These are line items that should have been on your budget in the first place.

6:55 pm Call the Question (Tanvir Suri)

6:55 pm Objection (Joe Arasin)

6:56 pm Discussion (continued)

- We are primarily advertising to CMU.

6:56 pm Motion to cut the allocation to \$600 (Joe Arasin)

- \$600 is the appropriate amount seeing as the subsidy from Admissions for that amount was not given.

- The show is in two weeks, and we're really hoping to get the money. But, as always, we'll have to adjust.
- I think this is a great use of the activities fee. Hurting the show would be bad, and contrary to what we're trying to do.
- The money would be cut from advertising, and not the show. At worst, they would be able to reach fewer non-CMU students.
- The representative from SPIRIT mentioned that they only have two weeks. How long has the SPIRIT fashion show been happening? They're coming to us at the last possible minute and holding us hostage with the fact that the show is soon.
- I didn't say that the event wouldn't happen if we didn't get the funding. I'll relate to the coordinator that we should come sooner.
- We should stop yelling at organizations. That's what we're here for – to give money to organizations that need it.
- This allocation is lower than last year's by about \$200-\$300.
- If we cut their advertising, then they sell fewer tickets, and thus have less income.
- It's a great idea to bring cmuTV into this. Having them come is more like growing the event and making it better.
- The audience is largely made up of prospective CMU students and current CMU students. The event is held on a sleeping bag weekend so that people can see the fun activities we have.

6:58 pm Call the Question (Ed Ryan)

6:59 pm Objection

6:59 pm Discussion (continued)

- If they had come to us sooner, Senate could have tried to find them other sources of funding.
- The organization came basically to try to replace funds that they lost. It makes more sense if they say they're trying to grow the event – in which case they should have included those improvements as line items in their budget. The organization came to us on the wrong note.

7:01 pm Move the Question (Samantha Rosenthal)

7:01 pm Vote on Motion to Move the Question

Passes, voice vote

7:02 pm Vote on Motion to cut 0405-119 from \$1070 to \$600

Fails, voice vote

7:02 pm Move the Question (Ed Ryan)

7:02 pm Vote on Motion to Move the Question

Passes, voice vote

7:03 pm Vote on 0405-119 – Special Allocation of \$1070 to SPIRIT

Passes, voice vote

### **7:03 pm Special Business**

#### **7:03 pm 0405-109 – Approval of Constitutional Amendment regarding Reserve requirements**

- The amendment was introduced to us by Steve Kling last week. The amendment changes the reserve limit from 10% of the amount allocated annually to 10% of the money given annually to JFC from the Activities Fee.

7:04 pm Call the Question (James Rogers)

7:04 pm Vote on 0405-109 – Approval of Constitutional Amendment regarding Reserve requirements

Passes, voice vote

### **7:04 pm New Business From the Floor (none)**

#### **7:04 pm Points of Discussion**

7:04 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Timetables for Special Allocations and Precedent

- Didn't we pass a bylaw last session that motions have to be in MotionTracker 36 hours before the meeting?
- That was a session rule.
- It would be a good idea to have something similar to that be instituted for FNR. Special allocation requests would not be allowed after a certain point in time before the event, without really good reason.
- How do you determine what a really good reason is?
- There is a general feeling among all the student organizations that we're really hard to get money from. I don't know why we find that image desirable.
- A really good reason could be classified as unforeseeable.
- Spirit's request seems to have been foreseeable.
- I said I didn't want to talk about this anymore... We already vote on it.

- Creating a time limit like that could create a situation where we could abuse our power. It's better to have them come up with a more refined budget than a request for \$1200 when the event will only cost them \$600.
- In terms of funding, rules are generally a bad thing.
- Rules are there for a reason – mainly to protect us against a future less-mindful incarnation of ourselves.
- Frequently comments about what is allowed and what has been done before come up in discussion. We should bring up instead what should be done.
- We should not emphasize precedent so much.
- I like to be reminded of what we've done in the past because I don't always remember.
- We give what we have done before too much value. We should be more focused on each individual motion as it comes.
- Our sole reason for funding something should not be "we did it last year."
- We shouldn't fund something because we did it last year. However, we shouldn't not fund something just because it might set a precedent.
- These people are making me cry.

7:11 pm Motion to End all Points of Discussion (Michelle Birchak)

7:11 pm Withdrawn

7:11 pm Motion to End this Point of Discussion (Michelle Birchak)

7:12 pm Motion passed by Acclamation

7:12 pm Point of Discussion Regarding Timing for Next Week's Meeting

- Next Thursday's meeting might overlap with another event. The Tartan is planning a debate for Student Government Elections, starting at approximately 5:00 pm. We have three options. 1. Keep the meeting at it's usual time, in which I would ask you to please leave the Debate early. 2. Delaying the meeting. 3. Canceling the meeting.
- We should start the meeting at 6:00 or 6:30 pm
- The debate is not supposed to last longer than 90 minutes.
- Keep in mind that we do have the social next week.
- The social is a little lower on the priority list. Don't worry, we will have one.
- Next week is one of the last meetings before Carnival – for FNR purposes it should not be cancelled.

- We should delay the meeting and streamline it.
- Nicholas sets the agenda. There is no motion involved in this discussion.
- Who wants to start at 6:30?
- (A show of hands for all in favor of starting the meeting at 6:30 reveals that starting at 6:30 is a prospect pleasing to many people.)
- We will aim to start at 6:30 pm.

#### **7:16 pm Announcements**

- Student Senate petitions are due tomorrow, March 25th in UC Box 46. Executive platforms are also due tomorrow, March 25th, and Senate platforms due next Monday, March 28th to the Elections Board Chair, Mark Roboff, mrobhoff@andrew. One can also send a platform to internal-development@senate.web.cmu.edu to be forwarded.
- Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 31st at 6:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. The social will occur right after the meeting.
- Friday at 7 pm is KGB Capture the Flat with Stuff! It's the event of the semester, and a grand ol' time. The rules presentation is at 7 pm in Wean 7500. Tell everyone you know.
- Leave your whole night free for the social next week. You have to come because Michelle will be there.
- Thank you to everyone who supported Greek Sing! And, the one date turned into three dates! Yay!
- There is a forum next Friday at 4:30 on the Green Pledge. Before they graduate, students take a pledge to do green things after they leave school. Come to the forum. If you want a poster to put up on your door or somesuch, you can have one.
- Look at the back of Nicholas' monitor. Come see JAWS in the UC Pool.
- There is a dodgeball tournament this Saturday – if you're interested, see Akil.
- If anyone is interested in going to dinner now, come see Michelle. It'll be lots of fun.

#### **7:19 pm Adjourn**