

# CMU Student Senate

RAW Minutes of September 27, 2007

## 5:04 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Sudeep Paul (TSB), Rohit Kabra (TSB), Jared Itkowitz (TSB), Evan Osheroff (TSB), Rotimi Abimbola (HSS), Alan Eaton (HSS), Abiola Fasehun (1 absence), Dorian Adeyemi (HSS), Helen Lam (HSS), Brian Wade (HSS), Daniel O'Toole (CIT, .5absence), Lauren Walch (CIT, 1 absence), Robert Bethea (CIT, .5absence), Mauricio Garduno (CIT), Luis Balceda (CIT, 1 absence), Matthew Maurice (CIT), Edward Oh (MCS), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 1 absence), Hao Su (SCS), Benjamin Johnston (SCS, 1 absence), Kwasi Mensah (SCS, .5absence), Nara Kasbergen (CFA), Julia Li (CFA), Conor Doyle (CFA, 1 absence), Ranjit Korah (CFA), Cyrus Larijani (BHA)

**Senators Absent:** Amanda Reapsummer (HSS, 1 absence), Sidharth Singh (CIT, 2 absences), Jenny Han (SCS, 1 absence), Maximilian Arocena (BHA, 2 absences)

**Members at Large Present:** Vivake Prasad, Conor Flanagan

## 5:04 pm Call to Order

## 5:05 pm Approval of Minutes from 9/6/07, 9/13/07, 9/20/07

- Kwasi Mensah's name was misspelled in minutes from 9/13/07

## 5:05 pm Audience Participation

## 5:05 pm Special Business

## 5:05 pm Introductions

- We should do introductions around the room to know everyone's names

## 5:12 pm Ex-Officio Reports

## 5:12 pm Assistant Vice President for Campus Services (Tim Michael)

- Campus Services was created last summer. It pulled together eight organizations that served students and the community; Housing and Dining, Bookstore, Parking, Copy Center, Photo and Graphic Services, Mailing and Printing, Conference and Events, and Postal Services.
- Kim Able is our new director for Housing and Dining. She will talk to you about Housing and Dining.

- We're almost at 100% occupancy. We've already moved all the temporary housing students. The room change processes will start next week.
- The two biggest openings this year are the vegan menu and the dining guide we created over the summer.
- It's a four page pamphlet telling you how to use blocks, how to read your receipt, and when what places are open.
- Some new things; Entropy will become Entropy Plus and will move to where the Si Senior dining room used to be around Homecoming, Tartan's Pavilion will open by Resnik, and we can now use Dinex at Entropy. Meal plans are available to everyone on campus and everything bought on Dinex is tax free.
- Your feedback does count. It is being implemented through using humanely cage free eggs and recycled paper products across campus.
- The Dining Advisory Council is one way you can get your voice heard. The Secret Shopper program will launch this semester. You can email us if you want to join one of these at [plaid@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:plaid@andrew.cmu.edu).

#### 5:32 pm Questions

- I heard one of the biggest complaints is that freshmen buy out Entropy on cash out weekends. How are you dealing with that?
- ◊ There will be twice as much storage space in Entropy Plus. Entropy was not built to ever handle that much volume. I hear it's getting better. We want people to learn use their Dinex over the two weeks, not just on those cash out weekends.
- Is there any way you can use more than one meal block in a meal period?
- ◊ We want to structure a meal plan that allows you flexibility, but it depends on the cost. We could change that, but prices for meal plans may go up. The Dining Advisory Council is a great place to get your suggestions heard. We know you have more blocks than you need. We made it that way so you can have variety across. If someone eats every block and uses all the Dinextra, they will eat more than they paid for.
- I understand that there will be more perishable goods at Entropy. Will that increase costs significantly?
- ◊ Moving Entropy to Housing and Dining allows the new Entropy to carry perishable goods. We already buy a lot of produce a week, and we will just be using the same prices at Entropy.
- Is there a way to decrease prices?

- ◇ The Entropy proceeds will flow to the Dining budget. So we are looking at that.
- Is there part of the dining group that foresees these issues? Such as Entropy being sold out and pricing issues?
- ◇ In general, that's the Housing and Dining Advisory council. As for Entropy, we have to see where the students want to spend their money. It used to be the Underground, now it's moving to Entropy. We want to make what you want available to you.
- Is there any way blocks and Dinex can be interchangeable? Could we make a block into Dinex?
- ◇ The current meal plan is not made to be used that way.
- It used to be that blocks had cash value. I've heard people felt restricted by the new meal plan, where blocks comprise of an entrée, side, and drink. Could we change that?
- ◇ My understanding was that it was the Student Advisory Council's suggestion to make the change.
- Is there any way we can look at the reasoning behind that decision?
- ◇ We can look through the records.
- I'm concerned that a lot of the options in the vegan menu don't have enough nutritional benefits.
- ◇ You should send your feedback to Plaid. Just bring it to our attention.

5:36 pm **Dean of University Libraries** (Gloria St. Clair) and **Director of University**

**Planning** (Russ O'Lare)

- We have a slide presentation about Middle States
- Middle States accredits universities and colleges in PA and surrounding states. They look at all aspects of the university, not just different departments.
- They visit every 10 years. In between the 10 years we send a detailed follow up report. They will visit us in February 2008.
- They have 14 wide ranging standards they review us by. We write our report based on 5 of them.
- Student learning is a hot button issue. The federal government wants accreditation agencies to make sure students get their education.
- We have a high caliber group of people coming to visit us.
- [www.cmu.edu/middlestates](http://www.cmu.edu/middlestates) has more information. The draft of the report we will give them is also posted. Anyone with a valid Andrew ID can submit feedback.

- We're not getting much feedback from students, so we would appreciate if you would look it over

#### 5:44 pm Questions

- How did you choose these people to review us?
- ◊ Middle States chooses the team that comes.
- Are there any efforts being made to make the website knowledgeable to the student body?
- ◊ Yes we sent out emails and put out posters.
- I heard rumors that the Chemical Engineering department wasn't getting accredited. Is that true?
- ◊ The engineering departments actually have a different accreditation board, ABET.
- I don't think the posters were very catchy. Maybe a catchy phrase will have more people responding.
- ◊ The review team always wants to meet with the students. They also have a lot of meetings and they pick who they want to meet with.

#### 5:48 pm **Student Body President and Vice President** (Sean Weinstock and Adi Jain)

- Thank you for the solid support last Monday. We're looking forward to doing a lot of good things.
- We need all the leaders on campus to come to us with their issues and what they want accomplished.
- The elections process was long and difficult, but we do now have the attention of a very large part of campus. It may not be the most positive light, but if we make good changes, it'll be noticed.
- I'm not the best advocate of your issues, but if you have an issue I will help you facilitate the changes you want to happen.

#### 5:51 pm Questions

#### 5:51 pm **Student Body Vice President of Finance** (Joel Bergstein)

- The role of SBVPF is defined in the constitution. I want to change it a little bit. I'll be back in two weeks to discuss the JFC board.
- I'm excited to see new faces in Senate.
- Think of me as the student liaison to all the organizations to help them with their financial problems.
- JFC is a year round process, but has a positive effect on campus.

5:53 pm Questions

**5:54 pm Committee Reports**

5:54 pm **Academic Affairs** (Evan Osheroff)

- Look at the new fliers from the library. There are 144 new outlets.
- There are 5 new study rooms and new lights are being reordered.
- The usage of sleeping pods has been minimal. Right now, it's just for show. The intention was to move it to the third floor.
- The Library Arcade is supposed to be a game to help you learn about the library.

5:57 pm Questions

- There are new study rooms in the basement of Hunt?
- ◇ Yes. You can go to Spacequest to reserve one.
- Were you responsible for moving the Apple Orchard?
- ◇ No, that was computing services.
- The Wean clusters are used primarily for teaching and teachers didn't want to teach with Linux so they moved the Orchard to Wean.
- Carnegie Mellon's no longer on the list of top 20 wired universities.
- ◇ We're working on that.

6:00 pm **Business Affairs** (Rotimi Abimbola)

- We had our first meeting. We will be called BAC, Bringing Action to Campus.
- The CEO forum and computer kiosks in the UC are the two big things we're looking at.
- We're going to try to suggest the idea of having more off campus printing available. A lot of freshmen live off campus.
- The West Wing cluster isn't just a cluster; it is a collaborative learning environment. We had a little bit to do with that last year

6:01 pm Questions

- How many kiosks will there be? Will we have printers?
- ◇ There's a printer in the UC in the basement but it isn't used very much. We're thinking of moving it upstairs so it will be used more. The kiosks are nothing extreme. Something people can use to check their email between classes. We may put on timers so people won't use them for more than 15 or 20 minutes.

6:02 pm **Campus Life** (Cyrus Larijani)

- We are working with Student Health and Healthy Campus Task Force to finalize some issues. We want to put some senators on the Task Force.

- Senate will play a role in the Dining Advisory Council.
- We will have a date set for the Campus Gear Sale by next week.
- We haven't gone over tabling yet, but it is a great way to help out.
- We need to put two representatives in the public art committee. They don't have to be a senator. Send Cyrus an email if you are interested or know of anyone who is.

6:05 pm Questions

6:05 pm **Communications** (Robert Bethea)

- Everyone sign up for tabling shifts.
- The big drive now is getting Senate full.
- We're hoping to do the constituency barbeque within the next two weeks.
- We were thinking of taking the fence and having the barbeque the next day

6:06 pm Questions

- Robert sent out departmental emails about the vacancies. I've already gotten a lot of emails asking about them.
  - When are petitions due?
- ◇ 4:30 next Wednesday. Put it in our mailbox.

6:07 pm **Finance** (Alan Eaton)

- No report.

6:07 pm **Internal Development** (Julia Li)

- We need to set up a day for the Senate retreat. We're thinking of doing a ropes course.
- We need to do it sometime in October or November. Before it gets too cold.
- We do a retreat once a year. It takes up maybe half a day, everything is paid for. I encourage everyone to come.
- Go to the retreat. Getting to know everyone helps with communicating and working together.
- It will be on a Saturday or Sunday.
- We'll send out an email with a couple dates.
- I was wondering if there are any vegans or vegetarians. We're thinking of ordering food from different places for Senate meetings.
- We're going to make binders for everyone. We're updating everything. It'll have Robert's Rules and the Bylaws.

- We're talking about publicizing being on Senate. We want you to make posters with your face on it and put it around school. A lot of people don't know who's on Senate or who their senators are.
- We want Senate hoodies. Think about what you want on them.

6:14 pm Questions

6:14 pm **Chair** (Jared Itkowitz)

- Can everyone sit in front of Kaycee from now on?
- When someone comes up to talk to us, like an ex-officio, let's put our laptops away.
- President Cohen will join us on October 25th. He'll be the only ex-officio, so we can ask lots of questions. It would be nice if you prepare some questions and comments.
- ExComm elected their chief technical officer. We should have an updated Senate website by the end of the semester. If you have questions or comments about what should be on the site, email them to Meg Richards.
- We have a barbeque to get rid of constituency meetings. Please make sure you are there at the barbeque.

6:16 pm Questions

- What time is the barbeque?
- ◇ Probably 11am to 4pm. It's a standard barbeque.

**6:16 pm New Business from Committee**

**0708-004 Special Allocation of \$1000 to Southwestern Pennsylvania program for Deliberative Democracy**

- This program has come to us 3 semesters in a row.
- This year, they're focusing on marriage and what it means in America.
- They're asking for the part that affects the students that represent us.
- The subset we're asking funding for is called Campus Conversations.
- We design background information to give to participants. We have an hour to an hour and a half discussion. Then they take a survey, to see what Carnegie Mellon or the City of Pittsburgh feels about an issue.
- We think deliberative polling could improve long term issues with the community. It also helps students become more a part of the community, not just a student.

6:23 pm Questions

- What other universities you will be taking this to?

- ◇ We have number of schools across the state. There will be 4 joining us.
- I don't think enough people know about this. How are you going to get the word out?
- ◇ We're making posters. We've gone up in numbers every time. Giant Eagle auditorium was pretty full the last time.

#### 6:26 pm Discussion

- Is it alright to fund this, by or bylaws?
- ◇ We've funded this organization in the past.
- It takes us two to three months to develop a document like this. We want to consider Pennsylvania's definition of marriage, compare it to the Massachusetts marriage equality act and the Vermont civil union.
- I love this program. It can deal with a lot of issues Student Senate cannot talk about. Do you see this becoming like an ArtsPass program?
- ◇ I could see that happening, but it depends on it being JFC recognized.
- Do you see this becoming a student organization with heavy faculty advising?
- ◇ This is almost a full time job. As long as there is a rich overlap between the school and the program, it could happen.

#### 6:32 pm Call the Question (Cyrus Larijani)

#### 6:33 pm Voice Vote, Passed

#### 6:34 pm New Business from the Floor

- Nomination for Vivake Prashad for HSS Member at Large.

#### 6:35 pm Speech for Vivake Prashad

#### 6:35 pm Questions for Vivake

#### 6:37 pm Voice Vote, Passed

- Nomination for Connor for Member at Large.

#### 6:38 pm Speech for Connor Flanning

#### 6:38 pm Questions for Connor

#### 6:40 pm Voice Vote, passed

#### 6:40 pm Points of Discussion

- Will you have member at large caucus?
- ◇ We'll look into it.

#### 6:41 pm Announcements

- We will discuss fun things regarding changes to bylaws. It'll probably be a long meeting, but a productive one.



**6:42 pm Motion to Adjourn (Cyrus Larijani)**

**6:42 pm Adjourn**