

# CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes November 1, 2007

## 5:04 pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Sudeep Paul (TSB, 1 absence), Rohit Kabra (TSB, 1 absence, .5absence), Jared Itkowitz (TSB), Evan Osheroff (TSB), Rotimi Abimbola (HSS), Alan Eaton (HSS), Dorian Adeyemi (HSS), Amanda Reapsummer (HSS, 1 absence), Helen Lam (HSS, 1 absence), Brian Wade (HSS, .5absence), Daniel O'Toole (CIT, .5 absence), Lauren Walch (CIT, 1.5 absences), Robert Bethea (CIT, 1 absence), Mauricio Garduno (CIT, proxy), Luis Balceda (CIT, 1 absence), Matthew Maurice (CIT, 1 absence), Marcela Partida (CIT, .5 absence), Ioannis Goutakis (CIT), Chansaly Ker (CIT), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 1 absence), Steven Reilly (MCS, 1 absence), Guangzu Gao (MCS, 1.5 absences), Joonho Hwang (MCS, .5 absence), Jenny Han (SCS, 1 absence), Hao Su (SCS), Benjamin Johnston (SCS, 1 absence), Kwasi Mensah (SCS, 1.5 absences), Nara Kasbergen (CFA), Julia Li (CFA, .5absence), Ranjit Korah (CFA, 2 absences, proxy), Steven Burton (CFA), Conor Flanagan (BHA)

**Senators Absent:** Edward Oh (MCS, 1 absence), Cyrus Larijani (BHA, 1.5 absences)

## 5:05 pm Call to Order

### 5:05 pm Approval of Minutes from 10/25/2007

### 5:05 pm Audience Participation

### 5:06pm Committee Reports

#### 5:06 pm Academic Affairs (Evan Osheroff)

- I met with the head of the English Department about the journalism minor.
- We'll be advertising for that next semester.
- We talked to BHA about more cross collaboration between majors.
- We're working to get Korean classes at the university.

#### 5:07 pm Questions

#### 5:07 pm Business Affairs (Timi Abimbola)

- We're publicizing for the CEO Forum. I don't have the fliers yet, but that is our job for now.

- You'll be passing out the fliers when you table.

5:07 pm Questions

5:07 pm **Campus Life** (Amanda Reapsummer)

- The Gear Sale is tomorrow.
- I need you guys to sign up for shifts again.
- We need three people per shift. Each shift is half an hour long.

5:08 pm Questions

5:08 pm **Communications** (Robert Bethea)

- Sign up for tabling to work off half absences.
- Take your pile of pamphlets and hand them out in front of Doherty.

5:09 pm Questions

- What are the fliers for?
- We have senate openings to advertise.

5:09 pm **Finance** (Alan Eaton)

- We have a bunch of funding motions today.

5:10 pm Questions

5:10 pm **Internal Development** (Julia Li)

- After meeting today if you are a new senator, or if you just want to go, we're going to Carnegie Café.
- We have the retreat on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Tell me if you can't go and give your excuse.
- The Senate dinner is tomorrow at 5pm. We'll meet at the black chairs.
- We'll get Senate sweatshirts. We'll stick on our own letters for nicknames on the back.

5:12 pm Questions

- Are some green and some black?
- No, they're all black.

5:14 pm **Chair** (Jared Itkowitz)

- Most of the business should happen outside of this meeting so committee meetings are important.
- I expect to see every senator at committee meetings this week.
- We'll be filling vacancies next week.

5:16 pm Questions

**5:16 pm Ex-Officio Reports**

5:16 pm **Director of Student Development** (John Hannon)

**Director of Housing and Dining** (Kim Abel)

- Student Development primarily works with residential buildings for first years such as Donnor, Hammerschlag, and Newhouse.
- Prior to 1995, there was no dedicated first year housing. A task force was pulled together and decided to make as much dedicated first year housing as possible.
- The task force met last spring and quickly reached the decision to continue designating 1<sup>st</sup> year housing. We want to make activities to cater to the first year experience.
- The task force wants to designate more spaces to first year housing until all first years are living in first year housing. All the housing should be on the main campus
- The proposal is that Boss Hall and Scobell Hall become a first year residences and add 100 first year beds in Mudge House. Scobell Hall has been predominately first years so far, so it will be easy to convert it to first year housing. We feel if we take a 100 extra beds for first years in Mudge, it will accommodate upper class students who want to retain their rooms. We'll be having a meeting with the Mudge community to hear from them.
- We want to get first year students out of places like Resnik and West Wing.
- By 2009, Mudge will be entirely first year housing. There will be a new set of residences built on the Roselawn and Woodlawn area. It will be a 120 bed facility for first year students.
- We'll have at least one town meeting open to the whole community.

5:29 pm Questions

- Where are you drawing these numbers from? What if the number of first years go over or under your expectations?
- Admissions is committed to bring in around 1425 students. We always need a backup plan, like using lounges as triples as we have done before. But we have a good communication between Housing and Admissions.
- Boss and McGill is run as a pair right now. Will it be split up with your plan?
- Yes. Over time some of the paired house communities will have reconfigurations. Scobell, Welch and Henderson will probably be split too.
- Who makes up this task force?

- The task force is made up of ten people; five students, two people from Housing and Dining, and Three from Student Affairs.
- I like this idea. How far has the planning got into? Have you gotten past the administrative aspects?
- In the long run, there will be many all upper class buildings. We have to consider if RA training needs to be changed. We've begun a lot of those conversations. The plan takes staggered changes over time. As we see these changes, we can plan better for the year after. A problem I see is when we take away Scobell and McGill, we take away all the standard double options for returning students. We want to look for affordable rates for returning students. We're getting ready to identify a consultant to talk about the design of the buildings. I want us to move our office spaces outside of Morewood to provide 60 more beds. We're trying to troubleshoot as we go along.

#### 5:38 pm Discussion

- Will Boss and McGill become coed?
- Boss will be coed and McGill will be all female. We know we need to preserve all female housing.
- There are students currently living in apartments that love it there. Maybe you could turn one of the smaller buildings into first year housing?
- Historically, only 5-15 first years request apartment living.
- How will it affect the Housefellow roles? Will we have more?
- More people will be wearing a hat that says Housefellow, but we won't necessarily be hiring more people.
- How many returning students will be displaced from on campus housing?
- We looked at retaining numbers in the past. They were really small in Scobell. In Mudge, only 34 students retained their room and 36 stayed in the building. This probably would be a move that would not inconvenience students tremendously.
- I lived in Cathedral Mansions my first semester, and I did feel detached from the main campus. This is a great initiative.
- I understand freshmen should live on campus, but I liked the idea of living in Henderson and living with upperclassmen.
- We're looking at how to get the first year and upperclass communities together. Mudge Mentors program is an example. It could be present in some situations.

- Were there students polled about their contentment about first year or non first year resident experiences?
- The survey data we always get says first year students would prefer to live on the main campus.
- Entropy is really expensive. What are some steps taken to change that?
- I asked us to look at common things people purchase, and how we're priced compared to Skibo, Underground, CVS, Get-Go, and the 7-11 by UPitt. Once I have that data, we'll talk with Parkers. Parkers does have high employee costs.
- I talked to Craig from Parkers and he said prices from Entropy were not that different. It was just the organic foods that are priced high and getting the attention.
- Anything they had in the old Entropy is priced the same. Anything that they added, they created their own price. Those are the prices I'm concerned with.
- Even the new entropy has stock issues.
- I will ask about that. They may have underestimated.
- Can't they take foods from Skibo or the Underground?
- They can't take stock from Skibo. Skibo, Zebra and Underground are run by a separate vendor.
- Freshmen have a different buying power than upperclass students. Freshmen have Dinex, while upperclassmen have to use cash.
- I think we need to start dialogues with student advisory groups
- Have you seen a jump in numbers in the new Entropy?
- Yes.
- Have you surveyed students?
- Yes. There's a survey box in the store and we've got a lot of feedback.
- There will be a traffic jam when the doors to the courtyard are closed in the winter.
- That will be monitored. It's one of the things we adjust as we go along.

6:00 pm **Student Body President and Vice President** (Sean Weinstock, Adi Jain)

- One of our objectives is institutional memory. The idea took off when the Tartan Wiki was formed.
- Tartan Wiki was brought forward to have students and organizations talk freely about their experiences.

- Tartan Wiki sort of died off. We want to make an Org Tracker. We want to create sustainable documentation so future presidents can look at the past for ideas, what worked and didn't work
- We want to make sure student organization leaders write in it. We're working on designing an interface.

#### 6:03 pm Questions

- Why don't you just use the Tartan Wiki?
- Tartan Wiki is a broader tool, it doesn't cater to our needs. Also, Wiki pages aren't as organized.
- I think it's a good idea, it just seems like it will need constant maintenance.
- We're going to break into groups with group leaders to talk about maintenance

#### 6:06 pm **Student Body Vice President of Finance** (Joel Bergstein)

- We received approximately 100 applications, a lot less than how many groups received funding last year so I extended deadline to this Wednesday.
- Case Western's student government will be visiting. They want to see our UC, have a campus tour, try our dining hall food, and talk to our student government leaders. I'd like to have senators to talk to them so I'm not the only one there.
- I don't need you for the whole time; I especially want people during lunch

#### 6:09 pm Questions

- We have our last game then and the revealing of the mascot.
- We can take them to the game.
- Do you know who is coming?
- There will be 10-15 members. I will ask who is coming and what organizations they represent so I can match people up better.

#### 6:11 pm **Graduate Student Assembly President** (Beth Ayers)

- We're getting ready to do GSA elections.
- It will be on December 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be at least a new president in the spring.
- We can talk more about student government so we can have smoother joint meetings.

#### 6:12 pm **New Business from Committee**

#### 6:12 pm **0708-017 Special Allocation of \$500 to Pi Delta Psi Fraternity**

- They will be holding Dragon Boat racing. The event will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Dragon Boat is a 20man boating event.
- The sport will be in the Beijing Olympics.

- Buses will be at the UC turnaround to take people to the Allegheny river.

6:15 pm Questions

- How many people are expected to come?
- Currently 40-50 are signed up. We're expecting 80-100 people.

6:16 pm Discussion

- They have a good per capita ratio and have lots of outside funding.

6:16 pm Call the question (Dorian Adeyemi)

6:16 pm Voice Vote, Passed

6:17 pm **0708-022 Special Allocation of \$550 to Variety Fair**

- This show incorporates many aspects of entertainment. It will be a red carpeted event
- Committee decided essential parts to fund were essential to production, like the legal aspects and tapes.

6:20 pm Questions

- What was the original request?
- The original request was their entire budget.
- Variety Hour is about an hour of films, sketches, 3 big musical acts, and we will try to put on a live band or a magic show.
- This will be on CMU TV?
- Yes.
- Will this be a recurring thing?
- We want to do at least one show per semester. It will be on repeat on CMU TV.
- What is the date?
- December 7-9.
- What are your big musical acts?
- It's student based. Some of the songs are from mainstream musicals and words have been rewritten to fit CMU.
- Where else are you going to go for funding?
- This event was thought of last year. Jen church promised \$500, this event is known and supported.
- Do you have any spots in the cast?
- Yes. I'll leave you my email.
- When did you advertise for cast spots?
- We didn't really advertise in the beginning. I was recruited.

- How will you feel about publicizing to the whole campus to fill the spots?
- We wanted to have something to show people when we come to the campus with the idea.

6:24 pm Discussion

- We saw their video in committee and thought it was great

6:25 Motion to increase funding to \$1000 (Dorian Adeyemi), Second (Amanda Reapsummer)

6:25 pm Discussion

- What committee decided to fund was what was essential to the event happening. We are the first place they came to, and there are other sources of funding on campus. \$550 is one fourth of their budget.
- What we need funding for is capital funding.
- That is what committee thought we were funding.
- I think \$1000 is out of hand. We did cover your capital costs and you can still go to other sources.

6:28 pm Call the Question (Evan Osheroff)

6:28 pm Voice Vote, failed

6:28 pm Call the question (Kwasi Mensah)

6:28 pm Voice Vote, passed

6:29 pm **0708-018 Special Allocation of \$350 to College Bible Fellowship**

- We're bringing a non denominational minister.
- He will be leading a conversation that is non proselytizing.
- Anyone can come, it's not specific to a religion.
- It can help campus grow spiritually. Money is mainly for food, copies of the syllabus, and travel costs for the independent minister.

6:30 pm Questions

- What is the topic?
- The Old and New Testament connection.

6:31 pm Discussion

- Last year JFC didn't fund religious groups so that is what Senate is for. I feel it is appropriate.

6:32 Hand Vote, 21:0:2, Passed

6:32 pm **0708-019 Special Allocation of \$1000 to Amnesty International**

- Amnesty International asked John Boe to come and speak.

- We promote human rights, this year we're focusing on human trafficking.
- He is a New York Times journalist. He recently published a book on human trafficking and was on daily show.
- It will be on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm.
- He will give a speech and have a Q&A session after. There will be a reception in the UC with food and a book signing.
- They have outside funding, \$1000 will complete their budget.

6:34 pm Questions

6:34 pm Discussion

- I know they were able to get this speaker to come in for a lesser amount. This is a great opportunity for CMU.

6:34 pm Hand Vote 21:0:3, Passed

6:35 pm **0708-020 Special Allocation of \$1000 to IFC**

- 6:36 Motion tabled until representative available

6:37 pm **0708-021 Special Allocation of \$1000 to Soundbytes**

- We're going to Boston to perform at Harvard next weekend.
- This will be their first tour outside of greater Pittsburgh.
- We will be performing at Harvard and at a middle school.
- We will probably sing at a church after services.
- Funding is to help cover costs of air fare.

6:38 pm Questions

- What are the out of pocket costs?
- We will find out when we get there. Most of it will be food.
- Are people contributing?
- We're fully prepared to have members pay for part of their tickets; we just don't want to make them pay for the full ticket.
- Have you gone to other places?
- This is our first place. We did fundraise \$270 and will have revenue from the concert.

6:40 pm Discussion

- This helps spread Carnegie Mellon's name to other places.
- The only thing is that it's \$1000 for 18 people, but I think it will help Carnegie Mellon overall.
- Tickets for 18 people to Boston are definitely more than \$1000.

6:41 pm Call the Question (Kwasi Mensah)

6:41 pm Hand Vote, 19:3:2, Passed

6:43 pm **0708-023 Special Allocation of \$400 to Armenian Club**

- Motion tabled until representative available

**6:44 pm Special Business**

6:44 pm **Election of CHA Senators (3 vacancies, 1 petition)**

6:44 pm Speech for Steven Burton

6:44 pm Questions for Steven

6:47 pm Discussion

6:48 pm Voice Vote, Passed

**6:48 pm New Business from the Floor**

**6:49 pm Points of Discussion**

- Tim Michael is no longer a part of the university. Michael Murphy will be filling his role.

**6:50 pm Announcements**

- Thank you for signing up to table
- Bhangra in the Burgh is this Saturday.
- November 10<sup>th</sup> is the mascot revealing and the football game.
- The Campus Gear Sale will be Fri. Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10-3pm.

6:51 pm Motion to Adjourn (Kwasi Mensah)

**6:52 pm Adjourn**