

CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of November 8, 2007

5:03 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Sudeep Paul (TSB, 1.5 absences), Rohit Kabra (TSB, 1 absence, .5absence), Jared Itkowitz (TSB), Evan Osherooff (TSB), Rotimi Abimbola (HSS), Alan Eaton (HSS), Dorian Adeyemi (HSS), Amanda Reapsummer (HSS, 1 absence), Helen Lam (HSS, .5 absence), Brian Wade (HSS, .5absence), Vivake Prasad (HSS), Daniel O'Toole (CIT), Lauren Walch (CIT, 1 absence), Robert Bethea (CIT, .5 absence), Mauricio Garduno (CIT), Luis Balceda (CIT, 1 absence), Matthew Maurice (CIT, 1 absence), Chansaly Ker (CIT), Hemant Bothra (CIT), Edward Oh (MCS, .5 absence), Steven Reilly (MCS, 1 absence), Guangzu Gao (MCS, 1.5 absences), 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), Steven Burton (CFA), Jerry Wang (CFA), Cyrus Larijani (BHA, 1 absence), Conor Flanagan (BHA)

Senators Absent: Marcela Partida (CIT, 1.5 absences), Ioannis Goutakis (CIT, 1 absence), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 2 absences), Joonho Hwang (MCS, 1.5 absences)

5:05 pm Call to Order

5:05 pm Approval of Minutes from 11/1/2007

5:05 pm Audience Participation

5:05 pm Ex Officio Report

5:05 pm Chair of COSO (Phil Croul)

- COSO looks at all the organizations on campus.
- We review their constitution, see if they're giving something to campus and see if they have members.
- Right now 35 members conditionally recognized, 110 who have been recognized, 50 have yet to be recognized.

5:09 Questions

- Do groups need to be recognized to get JFC funding?
- Yes.

- Are you done accepting applications?
- Yes. The deadline was 2 weeks ago, but we accepted one this week.

5:10 pm Committee Reports

5:10 pm Academic Affairs (Evan Osheroff)

- For the journalism minor, we got \$5000 from Indira Nair conditionally for the spring.
- Right now, the only way to access the journalism track is through professional writing in the English department.
- We want to get rid of the prerequisites to make it available to everyone, regardless of their majors.
- Based on the number of people who sign up, we may add another class.

5:13 pm Questions

5:13 pm Campus Life (Cyrus Larijani)

- The Campus Gear Sale went really well.
- Healthy Campus is talking about stress in school and how to deal with it.
- If anyone is interested in being on the Public Arts Committee, let me know.

5:15 pm Questions

- We should do the Gear Sale again. We should also have more sweatshirts next time.

5:15 pm Communications (Robert Bethea)

- We have a senator working on an article in the Tartan. It will be good.
- I wasn't pleased with tabling this past week.

5:16 pm Questions

- Is it possible to email us the day before about tabling?
- I couldn't this time, but in the future I will email you.

5:17 pm Finance (Alan Eaton)

- We have \$24,000 in our account and three or four more meetings.
- Bigger groups will come later, so the money will be spent

5:18 pm Questions

5:18 pm Internal Development (Julia Li)

- Retreat is on November 17th, 9:30am to 4:30pm.

5:19 pm Questions

- Can we come back early from retreat?
- If anyone can't go and has an excuse, you have to email me.

5:20 pm **Business Affairs** (Timi Abimbola)

- We figured out what Business Affairs's role was on campus.
- We'll deal with any issues that are monetary, such as PAT, tuition issues, the smoking ban, and housing and dining.
- A lot of current projects will switch over, according to our new definition.

5:23 pm Questions

5:23 pm **Members at Large**

- We started looking through the bylaws. We'll move on to the constitution later.
- It hasn't been changed in a number of years, so we'll need to update it.
- We've gone through a lot of details of Senate policies.
- We're going to Ikea this weekend to put furniture in the Senate Office. It's been painted already.

5:24 pm Questions

- What's the most interesting thing you learned about Senate looking through the bylaws?
- There are some things Senate doesn't do anymore, like having a newsletter.
- Is there anything you want in the Senate Office?
- White board, cork board, soft lighting, computer, printer, scanner, a sign outside, better chairs situated for group meetings.

5:27 pm **Chair** (Jared Itkowitz)

- I got a letter from President Cohen following our meeting. It addresses the illegal downloading issue. It was cool he sent us a personalized letter.
- I've met with Meg to talk about the Student Senate website. We should have a better one up by the end of the semester.

5:28 pm Questions

- Tell me if you want to have any input on the website.
- Each senator should have a picture and a profile.

5:29 pm **New Business from Committee**

5:29 pm **0708-024 Special Allocation of \$1000 to IFC**

- IFC threw a concert open to all students in the beginning of the year.
- There were two bands.
- This was the second year we threw this concert.
- We threw it in the first week of school this year, instead of during Orientation. It was successful, but there were costs we couldn't foresee.

- Orientation paid for food the first year, but this year we had to cover it. We were prepared for that extra cost though.
- We had a smaller band the first year. We had to pay for insurance this year for a bigger band.
- The water main break brought extra charges to the food. Dining had to use a system to boil all the water beforehand.
- FMS also charges a lot of money. We're disputing charges right now.
- We worked the whole summer for this and we want to make this a yearly thing.

5:32 pm Questions

- How were you not aware of the band's insurance?
- The year before, the agency paid for their insurance. It went through legal fine last year, but this year, the band wasn't insured. There was a miscommunication and we were not aware.
- What is your current debt?
- It is \$900. We can cover it, but we won't be in a good situation for the rest of the semester.
- We're trying to cover all the costs we didn't expect.
- What else goes into the budget?
- We have dues to pay, we send people to conferences, give money to houses for philanthropy, mostly Greek stuff.
- If we gave you \$900 you'd be even?
- We'd be even, but we wouldn't have any money for the rest of the semester.
- How will you do this differently next year?
- Next year, we'll stick strictly to the budget. We went over the budget for the bands. We'll also hold it in Orientation.

5:36 pm Discussion

- We should fund them. IFC was responsible and had an emergency fund, but we should fund them so they'll have some money for the rest of the semester.
- I think finance committee did a good job on this recommendation.
- IFC runs on a bare bones budget. IFC's been trying to do a lot of good things for the campus.

5:39 pm Call the Question (Dorian Adeyemi)

5:39 pm Hand Vote, 26:0:3

5:39 pm **0708-025 Special Allocation of \$400 to Armenian Club**

- Armenian Club is the Armenian cultural interest club on campus.
- They're asking for \$400 because they didn't get much for their JFC budget.
- We want to have simple dinners and Armenian interest nights.
- Armenian Club has recently been very active. We haven't been getting much funding from JFC.
- All of our members are very interested.
- We're thinking of having 3 dinners; we had one last week and it was very successful. We want one before the holidays and one around Easter.
- The club is non-denominational.
- Armenian culture is nonexistent in Pittsburgh, so we wanted to take matters into our own hands.
- Committee thought \$400 was appropriate. It would cover two dinners.

5:41 pm Questions

- How many non Armenian students are in your club?
- There are a few.
- How much was the last dinner?
- It came to around \$250. We had a turnout of about 25 people and almost ran out of food.
- Have you considered going to GSA?
- That was in my future plans.
- Are you buying the food or do you make it?
- We buy food from the grocery store and prepare it ourselves.
- How would a fee affect attendance?
- We were thinking about collecting dues for another event coming up at the end of May. So we would have fees, but it wouldn't go towards the dinners.
- About Armenian culture in Pittsburgh, did you know about the Cathedral of Learning? They have an Armenian room.
- We know about it, but that's all there is in Pittsburgh. No videos are shown and there are no restaurants.

5:45 pm Discussion

- We should fund this. Through food, people can learn more about other cultures

5:46 Call the Question (Dorian Adeyemi)

5:46 Hand Vote, 24:0:2 Passed

5:47 pm **0708-026 Special Allocation of \$200 to Undergraduate Marketing**

Organization

- UMO is seeking to have a fundraiser with Women's Center.
- UMO is a chapter of the American Marketing Organization.
- AMO gives out community service grants. This year we want to help the Women's shelter.
- There will be two parts. For the first part we'll be standing by Giant Eagle, asking people to buy canned foods for the shelter. For the second part we'll be by Entropy at a cash out weekend asking students to buy canned foods.
- We don't know if we'll get the grant until later. We want to go ahead with this plan, so we can't wait for it.
- We have two budgets, if we get the grant or not. Even if we do get the grant, we need Senate money for certain things we can't use the grant money for, like the tabling bake sale expenses.

5:50 pm Questions

- Could you get ask students to donate Dinex?
- Last year a group did that, but it didn't work out.

5:50 pm Discussion

- We voted for \$200. They can come back if AMO doesn't come through.
- UMO has been more active this year.

5:51 pm Voice Vote, Passed

5:51 pm **0708-027 Special Allocation of \$1000 to ASA**

- We want to bring Wong Fu to campus.
- ASA's mission is to hold service, social, and cultural events to promote cultural awareness.
- This is one of the cultural events we're hoping to host.
- We had to postpone this event, but we want to go forward with it.

5:52 pm Questions

- What is the event?
- Wong Fu is composed of three guys that graduated from UCSD. They have mock music videos and satirical videos on YouTube. They started filming with a home camera, and they recently released their first feature length film.
- Why was the event postponed?

- The school felt it would be more beneficial to us and the group to postpone it so we can publicize and have a more stable financial base.
- What will they do?
- They will do a couple of screenings. They aren't allowed to show their whole film, but they will show clips of the film. They will talk about Asian Americans in the film industry.
- Have you thought about co-hosting this event with another organization, like TSA?
- We talked to other organizations to co-host or do something related to this event, but we didn't expect this in our budget, so I don't anticipate other organizations to have had this included in their budget either.
- This is open to all students, but their talk is going to be about Asian Americans?
- It will be about film making and the industry. Anyone interested in those areas can come.
- What was the original request?
- \$1000.

5:57 pm Discussion

- This is a good event to fund. It's good for cultural development.

5:57 pm Hand Vote 26:0:2, passed

5:59 pm Special Business

5:59 pm **Election of CFA Senators (3 vacancies)**

5:59 pm Speech for Jerry

6:00 pm Questions for Jerry

6:03 pm Discussion

6:03 pm Voice Vote, Passed

6:04 pm **Election of CIT Senators (1 vacancy)**

6:05 pm Speech for Mana Amary

6:06 pm Questions Mana

6:09 pm Speech for Hemant

6:11 pm Questions for Hemant

6:13 pm Speech for Diane Li

6:16 pm Questions for Diane

6:17 pm Discussion

6:32 pm Roll Call Vote, Hemant

6:33 pm Election of HSS Senators (1 vacancy)

6:33 pm Speech for Vivake Prasad

6:34 pm Questions for Vivake

6:35 pm Discussion

6:35 pm Call for Acclimation, Passed

6:36 pm New Business from the Floor

6:36 pm Points of Discussion

- I can forward you the email in regards to the discussion we had with John Hannon last week.
- Can we discuss removing laptops from the Senate chamber?
- This always happens when there is a privilege. Some people abuse it.
- I like to open my laptop once a while to check important emails.
- I think it is a respect issue.
- I think laptops should be closed
- We have meeting once a week. If you don't want to pay attention, you shouldn't be here.
- Regardless, it's only a couple hours a week. You should pay attention.
- Paying attention the whole time would be the ideal, but we shouldn't open our laptop and feel threatened that we'll get kicked out of Senate.
- Perhaps we can have a five minute rule? Laptops aren't the only thing that can be a distraction.
- I take notes better on a laptop. I can't speak for other people, but it would be detrimental for me if we ban laptops.
- People who want to use laptops should sit in the front so we can see if they're doing relevant things.
- Basically, it's about courtesy. If you were up there, you wouldn't want someone doing their homework while you speak.
- Last year, there was a no laptop policy. I don't think we were hindered last year. The general body meeting should be the smallest commitment for Senate.
- We will continue to allow laptops, as long as no one is speaking in front.
- I'm bringing the Case Western people to our football game. I'll email you when and where we'll be. I'd like senators to be there.

6:51 pm Announcements

- There's a free concert. Broken Social Scene is playing at the gym this Saturday.

- There is a Fan bus at 4:30pm for CMU ice hockey before that.

6:52 pm Motion to Adjourn (Kwasi Mensah)

6:52 pm Adjourn