

CMU Student Senate

RAW Minutes of October 11, 2007

5:02 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Sudeep Paul (TSB, proxy, 1 absence), Jared Itkowitz (TSB), Evan Osherooff (TSB), Rotimi Abimbola (HSS), Alan Eaton (HSS), Abiola Fasehun (1 absence), Dorian Adeyemi (HSS), Amanda Reapsummer (HSS, 1 absence), Brian Wade (HSS), Daniel O'Toole (CIT), Lauren Walch (CIT, 1 absence), Sidharth Singh (CIT, 2 absences), Robert Bethea (CIT, .5absence), Mauricio Garduno (CIT), Luis Balceda (CIT, 1 absence), Matthew Maurice (CIT), Marcela Partida (CIT), Ioannis Goutakis (CIT), Chansaly Ker (CIT), Edward Oh (MCS), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 1 absence), Steven Reilly (MCS), Joonho Hwang (MCS, .5 absence), Jenny Han (SCS, 1 absence), Hao Su (SCS), Benjamin Johnston (SCS, 1 absence), Kwasi Mensah (SCS, .5absence), Nara Kasbergen (CFA), Julia Li (CFA), Cyrus Larijani (BHA, .5 absence), Conor Flanagan (BHA)

Senators Absent: Rohit Kabra (TSB, 1 absence), Helen Lam (HSS, 1 absence), Guangzu Gao (MCS, 1 absence), Ranjit Korah (CFA, 2 absences)

5:04 pm Call to Order

5:05 pm Approval of Minutes

5:05 pm Audience Participation

5:05 pm Ex-Officio Reports

5:05 pm **Associate Vice President of Enrollment** (Michael Murphy)

- I want to give a quick summary of the PAT agreement.
- Right now, students, faculty, and staff can use Port Authority vehicles whenever they want.
- In subsequent years, Port Authority needs to raise their prices. They've been saying they would have to raise prices for a long time now. They're going to install smartcards on their buses so they can count how many times CMU students actually use the bus.
- We knew this was coming so we have built a reserve to pay for the increases.
- Port Authority runs huge deficits and university deals have got a lot of pressure. CMU and Pitt are paying a lot less than a lot of other people.

- We take about 1.3 million rides a year, and with 13,000 people on campus, it is about 100 rides per person.
- Look on the handout for the financial breakdown.
- I'm giving you all this information because I won't sign a contract unless you support it.
- Each year, you've built a reserve so you wouldn't have to pay 100% of the increases.
- PAT is proposing a 15% raise a year for the next 5 years, virtually doubling the current contract.
- This deal is still better than a lot of others Port Authority makes.
- I'm proposing student fee increases for the next 4 years of 8.5%. We'd run deficits over the next few years, but we have the reserve to cover it.
- Port Authority eventually wants our fee to be 70% of the average fare.
- Right now, we pay 67 cents per ride.
- We're signing a five year contract.
- If all these figures hold, the five years after the contract should still be seeing 8% increases.
- There is a stipulation in the contract that when they put in the smartcard system and the estimated numbers are different, they and we have a right to reopen the contract. I think that is highly unlikely.

5:19 pm Questions

- How did they get the estimated number of rides from our school?
- ◊ The bus drivers have a CMU button they press.
- Pitt has already signed this deal.
- How long will we be in deficit?
- ◊ With that reserve and with these increases, we will break even in that 10th year.
- I feel CMU gets a disadvantage. Because we're close to Pitt, buses get crowded by the time they get here. With the increased fares, will they also increase the number of buses?
- ◊ Port Authority has added routes that cut Pitt out of the loop before getting to CMU. They've done that at our request. When I look at how PAT have treated other institutions, they've treated us well. Our deal is that you should never have to wait for a 3rd bus on the way to Murray.

- You could say the same for the 28x. CMU students fill up those buses during holidays and breaks.
- Historically, what have the increases been?
- ◇ In the past five years, we had yearly increases of about 10%, 6%, and 5% then it decreased by 8%, then there was a 3% increase last year. It was a \$10 increase over that period.
- Have you had any conversation about them cutting 28X?
- ◇ They won't promise us anything like that, but if they cut service substantially then we can break the contract.
- How did they decide on a 15% increase?
- ◇ They believe they will be stable at 70%, so they think 15% is the figure.
- Is installing smartcards contributing to the increases?
- ◇ Smartcards can be used to reopen the contract if the estimated numbers differ. The real issue is that we aren't paying enough.
- After 10 years, and we have no reserve, will we have a problem?
- ◇ If these numbers hold, we should be even. You shouldn't take these numbers in stone but looking at these numbers, we could be in a small surplus. I don't think there is a need to start another reserve

5:32 pm Discussion

- When you make these budgets, do you assume everyone is automatically charged? Is there another way to do this?
- ◇ This is the only practical way to do this. Students with parking passes, those who don't want to ride the bus, and those with medical excuses want exceptions. This is more like an insurance fee. You should ride the bus and utilize this system.
- Is the tuition board approving this?
- ◇ What the board has to approve every year is your tuition and fees. They have to look at each yearly increase.
- Don't quote me on this, but I think \$4 per ride is the actual price. My sense is the tension over Port Authority will play on, but the universities are in the middle of the issue on PAT deficits.
- Are we going to vote on this? Is this something we're passing or just discussing?
- ◇ I'd like you guys to support this.
- ◇ This is something we're talking about giving feedback on.

- I think this plan is good and has a lot of oversight.
- I think the number projection for 2017 is wrong.
- \$215,000 should be \$315,000.
- Could we change our own transportation system?
- ◊ We're not allowed to run east-west routes because it competes with Port Authority. We can run north-south routes and technically we aren't supposed to have the Tartan Express to the Waterfront. But looking at our own transportation to supplement the Port Authority is a great idea.
- I strongly support this. It is fiscally responsible.

5:45 pm **Student Body Vice-President of Finance** (Joel Bergstein)

- Every year the VPF gives a presentation on how campus finance works. I have slides up.
- The student activities fee is automatically charged. The GSA or the undergraduate student assembly can vote on 5% increases for their own assembly. I have a chart showing how money flows. Look at it and I will ask you questions on how it works.
- \$1.4 million come from activities fees; \$920,000 from undergraduates and graduates pay about half a million.
- We have reserves maintained. JFC needs to maintain a 10% reserve and there is an operating reserve being spent on UC renovations.
- The UC is a student building, so we spend our money to maintain it.
- The JFC reserve is hardly used. The last time JFC reserves were used was when there was a flood and the rowing team needed \$15,000 for boats.

5:58 pm Questions

- How is the Senate reserve replenished?
- ◊ You can decide how much you put in your reserve. I think if senate kept a 10% reserve, you would be fine.
- Last spring, some amendments were proposed to this flowchart so it's important we understand it.
- I'll send you this chart and an attachment describing the reserves.
- JFC slots consist of the GSA president, Student Body VPF, GSA VPF, Senate chair, and the finance chair. There are also 6 open slots, 5 undergraduates and 1 graduate, so it is representative of the population. You don't need to be a senator to be on JFC. We decide how to divide up the money.

- JFC has the power to shape what campus activities go on. AB has to go through JFC, so we can decide on lectures, concerts etc.
- I'm looking for a diverse JFC slate this year.
- There's a timeline set for groups looking for JFC funding.
- I'll make sure senate knows what groups are approved or not, so you can put in appeals in time.
- Alan and I will probably make the slate next Wednesday. Send Alan and me an email if you are interested in being on the board.
- Who can raise the activities fee without student consultation?
- ◊ Dean Church usually does that because of inflation.
- You have to revote the slate in the spring, but I would like the same people on for both semesters.

6:10 pm Coso representative Phil Croul

- Every organization needs to go through Coso to be recognized on campus and to have JFC funding eligibility. We sent out an email saying who the new Coso leaders were.
- We have a vacancy, so later on we'll vote someone else in.
- Coso applications are due Friday. We'll probably have to accept late applications.

6:13 pm Motion to move New Business from Committee to Now

6:13 pm New Business from Committee

6:14 pm **0708-009 Special Allocation of \$1000 to Sustainable Earth**

- We're the on campus environmental group. We have 25 active members and lots more on the d-list. We're looking to get the president to reduce the school's carbon footprint to zero. We're also trying to make the university use 51% alternative energy.
- We want to send 55 people to Powershift 2007. It is a conference about global warming.

6:15 pm Questions

- You have 25 active members, but you want to send 55 people?
- ◊ The event is open to the university.
- Where is it?
- ◊ It's at the University of Maryland on November 2-5.
- Is it just college students attending?

- ◇ I think it's also open to high school students and other members of the community.
- Committee decided on this number because the organization was still talking to other sources.
- Have you already started sending out notices?
- ◇ We sent out fliers and we just formed a committee for advertising.
- How much money are you getting from the Sierra Club?
- ◇ \$2500 if we're lucky.
- Do you expect to send a whole 55 people?
- ◇ Right now we can say 25 for sure, but we would like to send that many people.
- Could you send out emails to house fellows?
- ◇ I'm not sure. This isn't exactly Sustainable Earth's thing.

6:18 pm Discussion

- I feel a lot of CivEs would be interested. The engineers should be notified about this.

6:20 pm Call the Question (Dorian Adeyemi)

6:20 Voice Vote, passed

6:20 pm **0708-010 Special Allocation of \$1000 to CMU Filmmakers**

- CMU Filmmakers are filming a pilot.
- The money they are asking for is for production costs.
- CMU Filmmakers consists of 21 students at CMU, not all of them are art majors.
- We want this pilot to have a very distinct Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon taste. It is being shipped around L.A. right now.
- The costs are as minimal as we can make them.

6:22 pm Questions

- Where are you getting money from?
- We get it from private sources. A couple of producers are putting in their own money. We've applied for grants but we didn't get them.
- Is it just those 21 students that are involved?
- We had open casting call and open spots for crew. That was open to the campus community.
- We're going to make this happen, the difference is how well we'll be able to do it.

6:26 pm Discussion

- What bothers be is that it is \$1000 just for 21 students.

- Not all the students are drama students. This supports cross educational experiences.

6:27 pm Motion to lower to \$500 (Evan Osheroff), Second (Timi Abimbola)

- There are many sources they could go to on campus.
- Committee decided on \$1000 because they went to couple of deans, submitted surge grants, and went to CFA. People tend to not fund them because they don't really fit into a single scope. The high costs of arts are discouraging for people who want to fund them. It's a side project so this is outside of CMU Filmmakers' JFC budget.
- I feel \$500 is a good number because they haven't exhausted all their options
- What did they actually do? I keep hearing they've gone to other sources
- They didn't ask us for their whole budget. It has zero income. They'd still be \$1500 in debt.
- We have on average \$5000 a meeting. I think we're being frugal. We have the ability to fund it and we're supporting creating diversity on campus.
- The argument seems to be that they did not exhaust all their options. I don't see why we shouldn't be paying them. Art is not a very supported thing on campus, especially if it's not your major.
- I think it's great that they came to Senate first. It shows something about Senate. We can help them out.
- Senate shouldn't be the be all end all source; there is a huge number of resources on campus.
- They only got \$2,900 from JFC. They don't have the money to fund something like this

6:37 Call the Question (Brian Wade)

6:37 Hand Vote, failed

6:38 pm Call the Question (Edward Oh)

6:38 pm Voice Vote, passed

6:39 pm Motion to move New Business from the Floor to now

6:39 pm New Business from the Floor

6:39 pm **Special Allocation of \$900 to Carnegie Clan**

- Carnegie Clan is spirit group on campus.
- The \$900 is for the Homecoming Chili Cook-Off.

- We're working with alumni this year to support student alumni connections. They're giving us \$7000 but that's not enough to cover all costs.
- Coming to senate was a recommendation.

6:41 pm Questions

- Where is it?
- ◊ It is at Merson Courtyard this year.
- The money listed in your budget, is that already given to you?
- ◊ I'm pretty sure we already got the alumni gift, the rest is still pending.

6:42 pm Discussion

- We're looking to increase student spirit. This is a good thing to give money to.

6:43 pm Call the Question (Kwasi Mensah)

6:43 pm Voice Vote, passed

6:44 pm Motion to make Lizzy Young a Member at Large

6:45 pm Speech for Lizzy Young

6:45 pm Questions for Lizzy

6:46 pm Discussion

6:46 pm Passed by Acclimation

6:47 pm Motion to make Dina Patel Member at Large

6:47 pm Speech for Dina Patel

6:47 pm Questions for Dina

6:48 pm Discussion

6:48 pm Passed by Acclimation

6:48 Motion to validate Lauren Hudock on Coso slate (Phil Croul)

- There is a vacancy on the Coso slate and we would like Lauren Hudock to be on it.
- Lauren ran for Vice President. She expressed interest in being on this.

6:50 pm Questions

- Do you think it would be more responsible to let the students know there is now an opening?
- ◊ I think it is more responsible to fill the slate and get groups recognized.
- What happens if you don't have a full slate?
- ◊ We have to wait to start looking into the organizations. That could lead to groups not getting JFC funding eligibility.

6:51 pm Call the question (Cyrus Larijani)

6:51 pm Voice Vote, passed

6:51 pm Motion to make Hemant Bothra a Member at Large

6:52 pm Speech for Hemant

6:52 pm Questions for Hemant

6:54 pm Discussion

6:54 pm Passed by Acclimation

6:54 pm Motion to Make Senaly a Member at Large

6:54 pm Speech for Senaly

6:56 pm Questions for Senaly

6:56 pm Passed by Acclimation

6:57 pm Committee Reports (continued)

6:57 pm **Academic Affairs** (Evan Osheroff)

- The University Education Council was yesterday.
- Academic Development wants more funding. It was designed mainly for freshman and sophomores and too many juniors and seniors are using it.
- We're designing a new UEC for the Qatar campus.
- What do you think about more clocks in classrooms? We can have someone come talk about that.

6:58 pm Questions

6:58 pm **Business Affairs** (Rotimi Abimbola)

- We'll have a meeting with Computing Services to talk about computers in the UC.
- We still have a meeting with USA Today.

6:59 pm Questions

6:59 pm **Campus Life** (Cyrus Larijani)

- We have the gear sale on the 26th. Sign up for shifts.
- We're working on the old and new Entropy.

7:00pm Questions

- When is the new Entropy opening?
- ◊ November 3rd.
- There's no update on Healthy Campus.

7:01 pm **Communications** (Robert Bethea)

- The Senate BBQ is next Wednesday. We need more senators to sign up for shifts. 13 out of 34 of you are signed up so far.
- It's really rewarding to come to.

7:02 pm Questions

- What's the plan with the fence?
- ◊ We're painting the fence the night before.

7:02 pm **Finance** (Alan Eaton)

- We have two funding motions today. Our budget for the semester is \$34,750.

7:03 pm Questions

7:03 pm **Internal Development** (Julia Li)

- The retreat is on November 17th, 10am to 2:30 pm.
- It is at Outdoor Odyssey. It's a low ropes course.
- Anyone want to go to Fright Night tomorrow?
- We need at least 20 people to go.
- I want to have a coffee break after this meeting.

7:05 pm Questions

7:05 pm **Chair** (Jared Itkowitz)

- Discussion was great today.
- Laptops are allowed, but put it away when Ex Officios like the Vice President, are here.
- There is no meeting next week
- October 25th meeting is crucial. President Cohen is coming to Senate for the first time. Prepare questions and comments. Everyone dress in formal or business casual. It will be in DH1212.
- Three CFA vacancies will be filled that meeting.

7:08 pm questions

7:08 Points of Discussion

- Think about FCEs and executive payment.
- I'm just bringing those things up now; we will have discussion on it later.
- Let's discuss our vision of fiscal policy.
- I thought more senators would sign up for the Elections Reform Board. Four graduate students already expressed interest, so I would like more from Senate.
- We're still noticing problems in Entropy.
- The new Entropy is going to open soon and it's going to be a lot bigger than the old one. We should give it a month or so. It might not be the issue it is now.
- Let's talk about the lockout fee being raised and the money going to Safewalk.

7:15 pm Announcements

- The Constituency BBQ will be Wed. Oct 17th from 11-4pm.
- The Campus Gear Sale will be Fri. Oct 26th from 10-3pm.
- No meeting next week!
- President Cohen coming on the 25th, wear nice attire.
- 1 CIT and 3 CFA vacancies will be filled on Oct 25th.
- Pick up this issue of the Tartan. There is an article about FCEs.
- The last president of India is coming.

7:17 pm Motion to Adjourn (Alan Eaton)

7:17 pm Adjourn