

# CMU Student Senate

OFFICIAL Minutes of November 15, 2007

## pm Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Sudeep Paul (TSB, 1.5 absences), Rohit Kabra (TSB, 1.5 absence), Jared Itkowitz (TSB), Evan Osheroff (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, Proxy), Luis Balceda (CIT, 1 absence), Marcela Partida (CIT, 1.5 absences), Ioannis Goutakis (CIT, 1 absence, Proxy), Chansaly Ker (CIT), Hemant Bothra (CIT), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 2 absences), Guangzu Gao (MCS, 1.5 absences), Joonho Hwang (MCS, 2 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), Joey Cordes (CFA), Cyrus Larijani (BHA, 1 absence), Conor Flanagan (BHA)

**Senators Absent:** Matthew Maurice (CIT, 2 absences), Edward Oh (MCS, 1.5 absences), Steven Reilly (MCS, 2 absences)

## pm Call to Order

### 5:11 pm Approval of Minutes from 11/8/2007

- Steven Burton was not included in attendance.

### 5:12 pm Audience Participation

### 5:12 pm Committee Reports

#### 5:12 pm Academic Affairs (Evan Osheroff)

- Digital humans will be implemented next semester.
- Read over the syllabus. It is a 99 number so it is a university interdisciplinary course.
- There are no prerequisites. It will meet once a week.
- The course will be up on OLR by the end of the week.

#### 5:14 pm Questions

- Will it fill requirements for anything?

- No. You take interdisciplinary classes just because you're interested.
- How will you let everyone know about this class?
- It's the same as any interdisciplinary, there won't be much advertising. Courses like this would work better with a smaller class anyway.
- An advance team for Middle States already came to the University. They were impressed with the current write up and they gave us feedback.
- If we don't do a good job, the government gets involved. You don't want that happening so it's in our best interest to prepare well.
- Strategic planning came up. They're going to be sending out a questionnaire to every faculty member. It will ask them what they think about the current mission of the University.
- The CMUQ wants to create an honors program. The controversy comes with the GPA requirement, if there's going to be one or not. The requirements differ by college.
- A lot of seniors applying for fellowships aren't getting them because they can't write well. There will be a writing course during the Summit weekend for selected sophomores.
- If it's a senior problem, why are only sophomores selected?
- It's a research thing. Its also a pilot program.
- Tartans Pavilion is opening this Saturday 11am to 3:30pm for the football game. The food is really good.
- The Underground is doing wings on Friday. It's 25 cents a wing. They always sell out.
- Graduate students in Hamburg Hall want real food. Maybe another Gingers Express or a La Prima.
- Cereal's price in Entropy Plus will be dropped. There will be no price changes in organic foods.
- The Library SAC met. They will try to redesign the web page within the next semester. A new food and drink policy will be implemented. Basically they don't want outside food. Pizza was the biggest problem. Study rooms will be on Space Quest this week or next week.
- The library will be starting 24/7 hours the week before finals. They'll be trying a trial run to make it 24/7 permanently.
- There will be an online ordering service for Tartans Pavilion.

- When is the pilot for the library?
- The 24/7 pilot for the library will be this or next semester.

5:26 pm **Business Affairs** (Timi Abimbola) and **Campus Life** (Cyrus Larijani)

- Business Affairs and Campus Life had a joint meeting.
- Campus Life and Business Affairs created a new mission.
- Campus Life will deal with the well being of campus. They'll work with Healthy Campus and the smoking ban. Initiatives will be in raising school spirit.
- Housing and Dining is split between us.
- The freshman housing will be with campus life. Everything else, such as meal blocks and Dinex, will be with Business Affairs.
- USA Today will not be part of the Campus Readership Program, so we now have a surplus. We have to use the money in the spirit it was meant for. That's another issue Business Affairs will be raising.
- We want to light up the campus and have nice white lights in the Cut.
- We also want to have hot chocolate for the students from Senate during finals week.
- We need two people for the Public Arts Committee.

5:33 pm Questions

- Will the library let us serve hot chocolate inside?
- We will deal with that.
- What about the kiosks?
- The kiosks are in progress. We'll have a timeline by the end of Thanksgiving.

5:35 pm **Communications** (Robert Bethea)

- We're going to take pictures after the meeting for our posters.
- We'll take pictures of each college and post them in the college buildings so constituents know who you are.
- We have the 3 exams in 24 hours posters. We have a lot of things to poster later.
- Be proactive in getting to know your college.

5:38 pm **Finance** (Alan Eaton)

- Our current budget is \$21,000.
- We'll have \$12,503 for two more meetings if all allocations pass today.

5:38 pm **Internal Development** (Julia Li)

- Senate retreat is this Saturday.

- Be at the buses at 9am at the UC turnaround.
- Lunch will be provided and we should be back by 5pm.
- We'll order hoodies today or tomorrow.
- Is anyone interested in taking the fence?

#### 5:40 pm Questions

- I want to have a Senate social towards the end of the semester.
- Please come to the retreat. It's how Senate bonds. Its \$40 a person. Please email me or Jared if you can't go, and we'll save \$40.
- Be prepared for outside weather, bring water, sign the CMU and Outdoor Odyssey waivers.

#### 5:43 pm **Chair** (Jared Itkowitz)

- We have Robert's Rules for all the new senators.
- We can order another shipment if we don't have enough.
- Unless it's mandatory, please don't sign up for 6:30pm classes next semester.
- We'll have midterm elections. All chair positions are up for grabs. Committee chairs will talk about what their committee entails next week.
- ExComm decided Senate will be parliamentary style for today's discussions.
- Stand if you want to talk and I'll call on you. Keep standing while you're in queue.

#### 5:46 pm **New Business from Committee**

##### 5:46 pm **0708-028 Special Allocation of \$190 to Ice Hockey**

- Last week was the final game of the semester and they got a fan bus. They're asking for \$190 for reimbursement.
- We won and it was cool to have fans.
- The Fan bus helps because people don't know about the games and where they are.

#### 5:47 pm Questions

- Why didn't you ask for funds beforehand?
- I set up the fan bus but I didn't get confirmation until the Tuesday before the game.
- Did you advertise?
- We used Facebook and fliers.
- How many people came on the bus?
- 20 people.

5:48 pm Discussion

- This is a worthy cause to fund.

5:48 pm Call the Question (Dorian Adeyemi)

5:48 pm Hand Vote, 29:0:3, Passed

5:49 pm **0708-029 Special Allocation of \$5000 to CMUTV**

- CMUTV needs money because JFC often cuts large budgets and big organizations lose money.
- They're asking for equipment to have live broadcasts. They would broadcast events like Buggy, Greek Sing, and Lunar Gala.
- They can't go to GSA because no graduate students live on campus and would watch CMUTV.

5:51 pm Questions

- Could you charge organizations to televise their events?
- We would like to do it for free, if we have the capacity to do that. If we don't, we'll ask the organization. Organizations do already have a fee for production.
- Could you go to SDC for funds?
- SDC was discouraging and told us to come to Student Senate.
- What are the rights you need to have released, if there are any?
- We don't have to deal with anything specifically. Recording campus events is something we have the right to do because we're a media organization.
- The quality of CMUTV isn't that great. Will you be upgrading your equipment with this money?
- We're constantly looking for ways to upgrade. The next step is to move to HD equipment, but it will be expensive.

5:53 pm Discussion

- This sounds good to me.
- You should cut it back \$1000 because you'll have a lot to fund for the next 2 weeks. Maybe you can go to SDC again and go to GSA.
- We should support CMUTV. They help to publicize events on campus. I always go to CMUTV when nothing is on.
- We cut them short in JFC and told them to come to Senate later. We'll have enough money for the semester if we fund them. We have a great finance chair and we were late in allocations.

- CMUTV has consistently been under funded. Money has to come from somewhere to have a successful media organization.
- I don't think anyone is against funding CMUTV, but my main concern comes from footing the entire bill.
- I believe SDC and GSA are great funding sources for other things. CMUTV will have other implemental costs and can go to SDC and GSA for those costs.
- There's no harm in cutting them \$1000. If they don't get money from SDC and GSA, they can come back.
- Will you be purchasing \$15000 of equipment over a period of time or at one time?
- At one time.
- This is capital equipment and will last many years. It is hard to go to GSA as an undergraduate organization.

6:01 pm Move the Question (Cyrus Larijani)

6:02 pm Hand Vote, 23:9, passed

6:02 pm Voice Vote, Division

6:02 pm Hand Vote, 20:9:3, Passed

6:04 pm **0708-030 Special Allocation of \$1307 to VSA**

- Vietnamese Students Association wants to hold Taste of Vietnam
- It is similar to One Night in Beijing.
- They will have food stations for North, South, and Middle Vietnam.
- They would charge, but they are a new organization so want to make themselves known before they start charging.
- It will be in conjunction with the Pitt VSA. The Pitt VSA will give funding, even though it is on our campus.

6:06 pm Questions

- Why are we covering 60% if it is a joint event?
- Because it's on our campus. More people will be CMU students.
- Why are you making it free?
- This is the first time we're holding an event like this. We want to appeal to more students and this is in the beginning of the semester.
- Do you plan to advertise Senate's participation?
- We plan to put your logo on our fliers.

6:07 pm Discussion

6:07 pm Hand Vote, 30:0:2, passed

6:08 pm **0708-031 Special Allocation of \$2000 to Lush Entertainment**

- The organization is seeking to bring Jay Sean, a recording artist in the UK.
- The event will be in Red Tavern in Station Square.
- Jay Sean is asking for a lot of money.
- He went double platinum.
- They originally asked for \$3500.
- We will be funding a third party vendor. Usually, we fund student organizations. Since the use of student activities fees were supposed to be used for activities, we can fund it.
- This is a student formed business in conjunction with Mayor SASA.

6:11 pm Questions

- Have you discussed getting funding from the UPitt student government?
- They did get funding from them.
- Are you making profits and where is it going?
- Right now, we don't expect to break even. If we do get profits, we'll return back the percentages we got from Senate. If we have money left over after that, it will go to a charity.
- What is the capacity of the club?
- 1000+.
- I thought all Pitt students get in for free if Pitt is funding the event. Could you look into that?
- Last I heard, Student Affairs will not be funding this event due to the alcohol present.
- Pitt has a lot of students. Could CMU students be charged less than them?
- I would have to run it by ISA and my partner.
- Your funding is to cut down ticket prices?
- Yes.
- How many CMU students are you expecting?
- We're expecting 200-300 students.
- Is this event is open to the general public?
- Yes.
- If you don't get this funding, will it be shut down?
- No.

- What is the role of your company in this as opposed to Mayor SASA?
- We're facilitating bringing the artist and they're helping with promotional support.
- Do you expect the event to sell out?
- No. Hopefully we'll have more than 500 people come. We took averages of Mayor SASA's after parties and got that number.

#### 6:20 pm Discussion

- If the venue has a capacity of 1000 and if Pitt is only putting in \$900 and Student Affairs isn't giving funding, this is a huge burden for our student organization.
- I don't think Senate is in a position to fund an event like this. This is everyone's money that goes into something that will not be accessible to everyone.
- Student Affairs will fund DS, but not the after party. It is because of the liability of the alcohol.
- Senate can fund the act, but not the alcohol that's going to be there.
- I will be ok with it if you're using this money to lower CMU students' ticket price, not everyone's.
- This is a great event. Honestly he's bigger than anyone we had here in terms of entertainment.
- I think this is a great event for CMU to put its name on. The liability issues are taken care of, the club is providing security and it's the club that is providing alcohol. They're throwing a concert that will add fun to this school.
- This shows our support for cultural events.
- I don't think the issue is if it will be a great event. Even if the alcohol is coming from a third party vendor, we're giving money to an event where alcohol will be present.
- I think the price is right for this event. We gave \$190 for 20 people to ride the fan bus.
- Jay Sean is huge abroad. It is awesome to see a really big artist for a lower price. I believe the Student Activities Fee is to facilitate activities for students and this does exactly that.
- It is done in conjunction with UPitt, it is off campus, and has alcohol. The alcohol is out of our hands. Senators have said CMU students don't leave campus. This event will get students into the city.
- Can this be moved to another venue?



- We spent a week and talked with different places. AB tech couldn't do it. This is the only place not on the strip that would let the event be 18plus.
- We gave Bhangra \$1000 and we're giving them \$2000. They could do more fundraising.
- I feel UPitt's student government should take up more of the burden.
- I think all the funding can come from the cover charge. I don't know how we can fund a company. There's no oracle string or a Tartan Card. I think this is fiscally irresponsible.
- What would our liability be, there being alcohol?
- It would depend on the situations that occur. We've had DUIs, people sent to hospitals, and people getting arrested. It gets tracked back to who funded them.
- There will be a massive turnout with this price. \$25 is extremely expensive.

6:35 pm Move the Question (Kwasi Mensah)

6:35 pm Hand Vote 14:16, Failed

- \$25 is expensive for a student. How do you feel about using the money just for CMU student tickets?
- That would be fine.
- \$10 is a good price. We couldn't charge more for Bhangra.
- As long as the third party vendor checks IDs and there is someone monitoring it, we can't be sued. It could look bad for CMU, but we can't be sued.
- I don't see a way to enforce that the money will only go to CMU student tickets.
- At the end of the day, some of the student activities fee will go to funding the general public and Pitt students.
- If this is rejected, what would your funding be?
- Then tickets would probably be about \$30-\$40 and no one will come. We'll probably cancel the event.

6:44 pm Hand Vote, 15:13, Failed

### **6:45 pm New Business from the Floor**

6:45 pm Motion to give \$1500 to Alternative Break for their trip to Ecuador (Alan Eaton),  
Second (Brian Wade)

- Alternative Break came in twice to committee. They're taking 10 students to Ecuador.
- They have a full budget including travel costs.
- We didn't fund it during committee because there is an academic bend to it.

- People have the option of taking a 3 unit mini after attending this trip.
- Since we'll be funding the activity and not the class, committee reconsidered it via email.
- Last year we did hurricane relief work.
- Does this need to be funded now? I want to see the budget before.
- This will need to be funded soon or we'll need to cancel the trip. Majority of our costs ties into the travel expenses. We need to book international flights as soon as possible.
- Do the people attending have out of pocket costs?
- The cost per head is \$1355. Our target student participation fee is \$550. We've stated \$650 because we're not sure we'll be able to fundraise all the way.
- Do you already have people going on the trip?
- We gave out applications last night at the info session.
- We want to buy the tickets before the end of the year.

6:53 pm Discussion

- Student Senate typically funds this every year. If they're willing to come to \$600 out of \$1000, Senate should cover the rest.
- It's not fair for students to pay \$1000 to go abroad on a trip like this.

6:56 pm Hand Vote, 23:0:2, Passed

### **6:58 pm Special Business**

6:58 pm **Election of CFA Senator**

6:58 pm Speech for Joey

6:58 pm Questions for Joey

7:00 pm Discussion

7:11 pm Voice Vote, Passed

### **7:12 pm Points of Discussion**

- About Lush Entertainment, I think the biggest problem is that a lot of groups that come have done fundraising. You shouldn't be discouraged and you should come back next meeting.
- Something you have to keep in mind is that most people don't buy tickets three weeks before the event.
- I suggest going to Pitt again and see if our money can go specifically to CMU.
- I like the idea of selling presale tickets with a \$15 reduction for CMU students and then coming back to us.

- Next meeting we'll talk about Greek vs non Greek composition of Senate.
- We need to decide on Executive Payment next meeting.
- There was a lot of circular argument, so we should break down discussion to 3 parts. Should they get paid, how much, and should it be necessary to log hours.
- The Member-at-large/Internal Standing Committee Attendance Policy hasn't been upheld. We were discussing if this should stay in our bylaws, or changed to be more realistic.
- We should discuss Senate's visibility on campus.
- It is a problem that Senate is viewed as a funding body. Students should know what Senate does. There are three types of individuals; leaders, people attending events, and people in their clusters. In the next semester, we can change our image to student leaders and the people who attend the events. That way we can bring them in.
- We can do more. We can have discussion forums.
- Senate does a lot, but it is not publicized. There's a printer in Donner that Senate put in that I didn't know about. I also didn't see posters for the BBQ.
- We can work with AB and show power points before their films.
- We need to let students know what we do.
- This is the biggest challenge this body has.
- A lot of those things are great ideas. Would communications do that?
- I think this task is too much for just one committee. All of senate needs to buy into this.
- Maybe we can have one day a week when we all wear our hoodies.
- Maybe we can have an event during orientation week.
- We recognize and fund AB, so we should use them. We should be at concerts, films, coffee houses, and winter gala. AB does so much on this campus and they are at least a fifth of our funding.
- We can have a bboard so we can communicate better with each other.
- I think each committee should work individually to have unique approaches to address this issue.
- Could we discuss the feasibility of getting a small article or blurb every week in the Tartan?
- That's up to the discretion of the Tartan.
- If we do that, we'll only target students who read the Tartan.

- Maybe everyone can email their constituents to let them know you are available.

#### **7:33 pm Announcements**

- We're taking pictures after this meeting.
- SigEp is throwing Battle of the Bands this weekend.
- I met with 12 representatives from Case Western. I'll give a more detailed report next week.
- I'm working on writing something to the student body and the Tartan. Email me if you have suggestions of what you want in there.

7:36 pm Motion to Adjourn (Alan Eaton)

**7:36 pm Adjourn**