

# CMU Student Senate

Minutes of March 26, 2009

## 5:07 Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Cassandra Abernathy (CIT, 1.0 absence, .5 proxy), Eduardo Benatuil (HSS, 2 proxy), Zexi Chen (SCS, 2 absence, .5 proxy), Jake Flittner (CIT), Aaron Gross (HSS, 1.5 absence), Jayesh Kapoor (TSB, .75 absence, 2.5 proxy), Barbara Kasbergen (CFA, 1.5 absence), Chansaly Ker (CIT, 1 absence, 1 proxy), Kush Mangal (MCS, 2 absence), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 proxy), Natalie Morris (SCS, 2 absence, .5 proxy), Daniel O'Toole (CIT, 2 absence), Stuti Pandey (HSS, 1.5 absence), Zack Pierce (HSS), Robert Piston Jr. (MCS, .5 absence), Vivake Prasad (HSS, .5 absence, 1 proxy), Keshav Raghavan (CIT, 2 absence), Stephanie Schneider (TSB, 1 absence, .5 proxy), Sonali Shah (MCS, 2 absence, .5 proxy), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 1.5 absence), Benjamin Trump (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 absence), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, 1 absence), Carolina Velez (HSS, 1.5 absence, 1.5 proxy), Brian Wade (TSB, 2 absence), Eric Wu (SCS, .5 absence, 1.5 proxy)

**Senators Absence:** Mana Ameri (CIT, 3 absence, .5 proxy), Michael He (CIT, 4 absence), Diane Lee (CIT, 1 absence, 1 proxy), Dina Patel (MCS, 3.5 absence), Marcela Partida (CIT, 2.5 absence), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 2 absence, 1 proxy),

**Members-at-Large Present:** Jarrett Adams (1.5 absence), Marcel Christian (3.5), Zachary Stockwell (1 absence), Krishan Taylor, Vidi (1 absence), Will Zhang (2 absence)

**Members-at-Large Absent:** Toro Adeyemi (.5 absence), My Le (3 absence),

## 5:06 Call to Order

## 5:11 Agenda Approved

## 5:11 Minutes Approved

## 5:10 Audience Participation.

## 5:10 Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs (Brian Wade):** No report.
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):** Need for joint Business Affairs/ Academic Affairs committee meeting. Communication manpower has been depleted so the committees will come together to tackle issues--meeting will be tomorrow at 4:30. Dining initiative a week from Friday, at around 5:30, because Kim Abel might make her decision soon. Putting together a big Dining information event. Everyone welcome to come and help out. Also putting together a financial taskforce. Each person write a paragraph of constituent opinion and their personal opinion and these will be sent to Deb Moon.
- **Campus Life (Chansaly Ker):** Campus Gear Sale--\$20 for clothes, every Friday. Tomorrow is the Senate UC Late Night event. From 9 -12:30 in half hour time slots. Food and drinks provided by Parkhurst.
- **Communications (Mana Ameri):** Not here.
- **Finance (Marcela Partida):** No report.
- **Internal Development (Keshav and Marcel):** Paintballing event—need cars, reimbursements for gas available.
- **Member-at-Large Caucus (Chair):** Had an event in E-tower. Was well-attended. Will have an event in Stever House next week.
- **Chair:** No report.

## 5:22: ExOfficio Report

**Michael Murphy (VP for Campus Affairs) and Lisa Krieg (Director of Enrollment Services)**

- Growth and development in Enrollment Services.
- Decided best person to lead is Lisa Krieg.
- Focus on customer service.
- Serve as a conduit to the campus community.
- Different features of enrollment services:

- The HUB
  - The smallest unit in Enrollment Services.
  - It is the primary interface, but majority of people work behind the scenes.
- Financial Aid
- ID Card Service
- Registrar
- Students Accounts/ Billing
- Recent Changes:
  - ID Card Office is now separated from the HUB.
  - New Director of Students Accounts, New Director of Enrollment Services, and a new position in the HUB.
- Desired Changes:
  - Moving to E-billing
  - Also moving toward electronic financial aid letters.
  - Improving retention
- College based advising model
  - Students have an ongoing contact—will improve customer service by giving students a consistent point of contact.
  - The Career Center, Student Affairs, etc, also work in this manner.
  - Assist where financial aid and billing interest.
  - Parents are also kept in contact with the college liaison.
  - Will also offer individualized advising.
  - Will also receive request/ referrals from academic college advisors.
- Student Billing:
  - Green initiative—working on an electronic billing system (follow tradition of other Universities).
  - Bill will be viewable as pdfs through SIO.
  - Goal is better service and going “green.”
  - Statements and bills will be redesigned—easier to understand.
  - Also get a historical sense of bills—can look at previous ones.
  - Give students and HUB same view of bill—improve communication.
  - (Zack Stockwell) Will payment be changed?
    - For now, payment is the same, but could change a year from now in terms of mechanism of payment.
  - (Chansaly Ker) What about an option for a non E-bill.
    - Have decided on that. Currently, only students have access to SIO. One option is that you ‘cut and paste’ and then send the pdf to your parents. In short term, however, we’re looking at temporary paper bills. Also looking at giving parents student IDs.
  - (Krishan Taylor) Perhaps have an option for parents to receive bills electronically along with their students.
    - Certainly, students would be able to designate what their parents can see—permission would be done through SIO.
  - (Thomas Tuttle) Send pdf bill attached to the email. There’s an unwritten assumption that people with an Andrew ID has a strong affiliation with the University.
    - Looking into mailing pdfs to parents. Looking at this is a security perspective; will move in that direction if we can be securable.
    - Identity Management System is looking into the IT issues of electronic

- billing.
    - Ambition is in the next 6-12 months.
  - (Natalie Morris) My parents would prefer paper copies. Bills would get lost easily in emails.
  - (Brian Wade) What about a credit card functionality?
    - There is not one currently. We are looking into other types of payment mechanisms.
  - (Krishan Taylor) Who is working on changing SIO?
    - Two groups, one making it a reality, other group working on the interface.
- Financial Aid:
  - Post financial aid awards online through SIO by May—only for continuing students.
- Understanding current financial situation on students/ families:
  - Loan repayments (i.e. Perkins—must happen within a certain percentage range)
  - Loan denials—indicates tough financial times.
  - Watching for reduced income requests.
  - Gathering anecdotal information from students.
  - Watching bill patterns and trends regard bill payment.
  - Outreaching to departments concerning students.
  - Goal is to engage students and let them know all of their financial aid options.
- In all, it is a highly administrative unit.
- Personal focus: reduce errors and timely problem resolution.
- Contact information:
  - [krieg@andrew.cm.edu](mailto:krieg@andrew.cm.edu)
  - 412.268.5399

#### **5:45 Questions**

- (Vivake Prasad) Can you please further explain the advisor process?
  - CIT has 2 advisors, the rest have one. The numbers are based on how many students are in each college.
  - Shift in the way we think about services.
- (Chair) Deb Moon said that there would be increases in financial aid next year, how is this possible?
  - The Universities has 5% cuts everywhere. We can't do that with utilities or with financial aid. It's a presumption that we'll have increased need—so there is an increased allocation in it. Ambition is to be a partner in these difficult times.

#### **5:50: New Business from Committee**

##### **0809-047: Special Allocation of \$300 to Office of Student Life for Jeff Chang Lecture**

- Reimbursement
- Spoke for Black History Month on Hip-Hop
- Had good funding sources.
- The event was really successful.

#### **5:52 Questions**

- (Brian Wade) How many attended the dinner and lecture?
  - 16 for the dinner and 50 attended the lecture.
- (Will Zhang) The \$300 is what we've already given them?
  - No, it hasn't been allocated yet.

### **5:54 Discussion**

- (Brian Wade) It was a great event; we should fund it.

**5:54 Move to vote. (Three-fourths super majority). 32-0-2. \$300 to Office of Student Life for Jeff Chang Lecture**

### **0809-062: Special Allocation of \$500 to Pi Delta Psi for Ishle Yi Park**

- Speaker to increase cultural awareness.
- She's a poet laureate from Queens, NY.
- Asking Senate to increase finding to \$1,000 because funding on part of AB fell through.

### **5:57 Questions**

- (Stuti Pandey) Are people charged to come in?
  - No.
- (Jarrett Adams) Advertising?
  - Posters, facebook, word of mouth.
- (Ben Trump) Other funding sources?
  - Office of international education, SDC, Pi Delta Psi, GSA hasn't responded and no funds are left in Student Life.
- (Ben Trump) Does the money need to be paid immediately?
  - We can work out a payment plan.
- (Jake Flittner) What is confirmed now?
  - \$1,300.
- (Alex) Have you considered appealing to the national chapter?
  - They said no.

### **6:00 Discussion**

- (Brian Wade) Maybe we should increase the amount because things fell through. It's a good event and they need the money.
- (Brian Wade) Not a precedence to save money for allocations coming in at the end of the year.
- (Nara) Go to Student Activities for funding.
- (Aaron Gross) It won't make a big difference in our resources, and they really need it.

**6:05 Move to increase to \$1,000.**

### **6:05 Call to Question**

- (Jake Flittner) Regarding the funding resources that didn't respond--they haven't actually responded yet.
- (Vivake Prasad) Have you considered asking other organizations?
  - Kappa Phi Lambda but they've had financial problems.
- (Kush Mangal) Is it appropriate to charge a ticket price?
  - Not our aim, spread cultural awareness for free.

**6:09 Vote to increase the amount. Hand vote. 21-2-3. Amount passes.**

**6:09 Move to vote. Three-fourths super majority hand vote. 22-0-3. Passed. \$500 to Pi Delta Psi for Ishle Yi Park**

### **6:10 Special Business**

Proposed Changes to the Senate Bylaws (Cassandra Abernathy)

- Instead of 4 proxy limit for a senate a month—changed to semester.
- Chair powers—can call a special meeting of Senate.
- (Brian Wade) Line 240.
- (Dan O'Toole) Do we identify what is a regular meeting verse a special meeting?

- (Vivake Prasad) Legislation has always been our greatest struggle. Don't just look at what we are doing but what we could be doing.
- (Jarrett Adams) Duty of Senate, not campus life committee.
- (Dan O'Toole) Clarify legislation.
- (Jarrett Adams) Campus environment is too general.
- (Aaron Gross) Don't make it super specific—they are supposed to be somewhat vague.
- Changed COSO, since it's not longer a function of Senate.
- Special meeting: defined as whatever is a non-regular meeting.
- Define quorum better—needs to be more than one half.
- Replace ExComm with COSO.
- (Natalie Morris) The stuff relative to COSO, does it need to be in Senate by-laws.
  - Under fiscal policies.
- (Jarrett Adams) Will it be more than one half?
  - Changed to more than half.
- (Krishan Taylor) Regarding attendance, .5 absences count if people leave after Points of Discussion.
- (Dan O'Toole) Second roll call is same as first roll call, there's a little forgiveness.
- (Thomas Tuttle) Half of GB meeting is funding motions, half is Points of Discussion. So it makes sense that the roll call is before POD.
- (Vivake Prasad) 20 minutes after meeting is started, it's a half absence. We should mirror that for the last 20 meetings of the meeting as well.
- (Zexi Chen) Problem is that we know when meetings begin, but not when they end.
- (Dan O'Toole) I think we need to keep the by-laws the same.
- (Gina) Lines 465-470. Violations of Senate's by-laws, not COSO's.
- (Natalie Morris) Clarification—is it a situation where we think an organization should be suspended and COSO disagrees?
- (Gina) Want synergy. There isn't a precedent for COSO to put a group on probation.
- (Jake Flittner) Inform COSO and encourage their decisions so that our decisions are not counteracted by COSO.

## **6:58 Points of Discussion**

### **SAC Updates**

- (Eric Wu) Currently rewriting school's official statement on diversity.

### **General Discussion**

- (Brian Wade) Need to have more conversations about the by-laws.
- (Rob Piston) Thought the Ex-Officio report was informative.
- (Jared Itkowitz) Had nearly 100 riders on Friday, little less on Saturday.
  - Peak time was 10:30.
- Sponsoring Mayoral week. Debated on our campus. Maybe have coffee and conversation with candidates beforehand.

## **6:58 Second Roll Call/Announcements**

- Senate UC Late Night THIS FRIDAY March 27<sup>th</sup> (Setup: 8pm/ Starts: 9pm)
- Stugov Elections March 29<sup>th</sup> (12pm)-March 31<sup>st</sup> (6pm)
- Wear your t-shirts tomorrow!!
- Academic/ BizComm Meeting is tomorrow at 4:30.
- Anita Barken coming in April 2<sup>nd</sup> to give us an update on the Smoking Ban.
- April 1<sup>st</sup>—joint meeting with GSA. April 23<sup>rd</sup>—joint meeting with JFC.

## **6:55 Adjourn**

