

CMU Student Senate

Minutes of February 12, 2009

5:04 Roll Call

Senators Present: Cassandra Abernathy (CIT, .5 absence), Mana Ameri (CIT, .5 absence, .5 proxy), Zexi Chen (SCS, 1.5 absence), Jake Flittner (CIT), Aaron Gross (HSS), Michael He (CIT), Jayesh Kapoor (TSB, .75 absence, 1 proxy), Barbara Kasbergen (CFA), Eunjin Kim (CFA, 1.5 absence, 1 proxy), Chansaly Ker (CIT), Diane Lee (CIT, .5 absence), Kush Mangal (MCS), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 proxy), Daniel O'Toole (CIT, 1 absence), Stuti Pandey (HSS, 1 absence), Marcela Partida (CIT, 1.5 absence), Dina Patel (MCS, 1 absence), Robert Piston Jr. (MCS), Vivake Prasad (HSS, .5 absence), Sonali Shah (MCS, 1 absence, .5 proxy), Prashanth Swamy (MCS), Benjamin Trump (BHA/BSA/SHS), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 1 absence, 1 proxy), Brian Wade (TSB, 2 absence), Eric Wu (SCS, .5 absence, .5 proxy)

Senators Absence: Christopher Franzi (HSS, 2 absence), Natalie Morris (SCS, 1 absence, .5 proxy), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, 1 absence), Carolina Velez (HSS, 1.5 absence)

Members-at-Large Present: Jarett Adams (1 absence), Toro Adeyem, Marcel Christian (3 absence), Amy Kao (2.5 absence), My Le (1 absence), Zack Pierce, Keshav Raghavan (2 absence), Stephanie Schneider, Zachary Stockwell, Krishan Taylor, Will Zhang (2 absence)

5:03 Call to Order

5:07 Agenda Approved

5:07 Minutes Approved

5:09 Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs (Brian Wade):** Moving fast with the honor code; getting information from administrators on campus. Also see how prominent it is on Carnegie Mellon's campus. Also get feedback on course units. Also still in contact with the campus bookstore and setting up a meeting.
 - (Jay Kapoor) What about disparities between course sections.
 - Address this by sending out an email/memo—remind professors that one unit equates to one hour.
 - Some courses are dropped down so a lower grade wouldn't affect QPAs as much.
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):** Trying to get Deb Moon, chief financial officer, as an ex-officio. Working on a proposal that would reduce our media cost from \$5 to \$4 and charge graduate students \$4 as well. Also would get access to the Sunday *New York Times*.
 - (Daniel O'Toole) Would we be able to do the Sunday service on a trial basis?
Yes.
- **Campus Life (Chansaly Ker):** Balloon grams are successful! Campus Gear Sale begins after spring vacation.
- **Communications (Mana Ameri):** Poster! Everyone join the Senate fan page. Next week is first cookies for comments. Next session is from 10:30 to 3:30.
- **Finance (Marcela Partida):** No comment.
- **Internal Development (Cassandra Abernathy):** By-laws and handbook done before spring break.
- **Member-at-Large Caucus (Krishan Taylor):** More of the "Wtf Series" in Boss/ McGill and Hammerschlag/ Scobel. On this coming Tuesday at 8PM.
- **Chair:** Senator of the Month goes to Diane Lee. CONGRATS! Have vacancies: 2 CIT, 1 HSS, 3 CFA.
- Added new box to main pages...can click on the "minutes" box. Also, make sure you close the door to the office.

5:29 Ex-Officio Reports

Andrew Peters (Elections Board)

- Petitions are available now on the elections board webpage. Feb. 24 and ends March 3.
- elections_lists@andrew.cmu.edu
 - Describes how to run and how to campaign.
- Must be a member of the college you intend to represent.
- Gather signatures from people in your college.

5:32 Questions

- (Krishan Taylor) Do we need to fill out new petitions?
 - We don't have them.
- (Keshav) How do you plan on advertising?
 - Postering and two campus wide emails.
- (Krishan Taylor) Can people sign as many petitions as there are seats?
 - Not specified.
- (Benjamin Trump) Established date for the elections?
 - Beginning of April- March 29th through the 31st.

5: 35 Evan Osheroff (Student Body Vice President of Finance)

- JFC budgets due this past Monday.
- About 179 organizations requesting funding.
- Increase in Activities Fee will be approved.

5:37 Special Business

Director of Housing and Dining (Kim Abel)

Room Selection Process

- Used to be called "Room Draw"
- New Room Selection website: cmu.edu/housing/roomselection
- Coming Monday is when you retain your room via the Internet.
- After two weeks you'll have the opportunity to pull in a roommate.
- Next is block housing.
- General process occurs in third week of March.
- Not everyone receives a number, only the people participating in the process.
- Negative: increase space for first-year students.
- Displaced some of the upper-class students.
- Provide open assignment—means it's a guaranteed assignment but you find out where later.
 - For students that cancel their Housing contracts.

5:44 Questions

- (Diane Lee) Is Cat Man retainable?
 - No.
- (Jarrett Adams) What will my residents in Cat Man do?
 - Be in priority for Oakland houses.
- (Jay Kapoor) Mudge will no longer be open to upper-classmen, so do they get priority elsewhere?
 - Can apply for the Mudge mentor program.
- The houses on Forbes, are they part of campus housing?
 - No.
- (Daniel O'Toole) Changes for suites?
 - Room selection task force.
 - One recommendation for Roselawn or Resnik, is to not have the ability to pull in

roommates. We need more input from students—a definitive decision hasn't been made.

- One thing we've noticed is that it's important to have a roommate. Asking students to find the people they want to live with.

The Request for Proposal Process

- Create a proposal for people considering coming to Carnegie Mellon and bidding to contrail dining program (the places operated by Parkhurst).
- 9 companies participated.
- 4 proposals submitted 2 weeks ago.
- Did a blind review.
- Companies are Parkhurst, Sudexo, Cullinart
- 4:30 to 6:30 MWTr. In the Cruciform room—have a brief presentation then have food.
- “What do you expect from your dining experience?”
- “How well does it reflect what I'm interest in?”
- Will evaluate them on other campuses.
- Have decision by first week of March, and then contract by first week of April.

5:51 Questions

- (Brian Wade) Catering doesn't really reflect quality of service.
 - This is the reason for site visits.
- (Zexi Chen) Entropy is run by Parkhurst, so if they're replaced, will Entropy be replaced?
 - Yes.
- (Krishan Taylor) What about the block system?
 - Fixing things methodically. A change in the process can be expected.

Economy

- We are an auxiliary.
 - We are a business within the University so we don't receive funds from the University.
 - Services more about the services themselves.
- Keep you in the priority.
- Huge changes are not anticipated.

6:03 New Business from Committee

0809-036: Special Allocation of \$625 to Deewane South Asian A Cappella Group

- Came first week of semester.
- Money to cover cost of uniforms.
- Gave them 25% because of stipulation in the by-laws.

6:04 Questions

- (Brian Wade) Who is your supplier?
 - From a place in Jersey.
- (Diane Lee) Are members paying out of pockets?
 - Going to GSA, but whatever is left comes out of pocket.
- (Mike He) How come no JFC funding?
 - This is the first year we applied for funding.
- (Diane Lee) How many are in the singing group?
 - About half and half grad and undergrad.
- What are the uniforms worn for?
 - Performances

6:07 Discussion

- (Jared Itkowitz) How many people were in the group?
 - 20

- (Toro Adeyemi) How many performances a year?
 - About 4 or 5 a semester.
- (Brian Wade) Why only 2 or 3 years?
 - Anticipate them wearing out.
- (Diane Lee) I've seen these people perform and they're good. Although this seems like a significant amount for only 5 members.
- (Krishan Taylor) They will probably have more next semester.

6:10 Move to Vote. Three-fourths super majority. Hand Vote. Passed 21-0-2.

0809-042: Special Allocation of \$700.00 to SafeWalk

- Need to put together an operational budget.
- Applying for JFC funding.

6:11 Questions

- (Zach Pierce) How many requests a week?
 - About 3 a week.
- Prior people put it into debt. Now just need to put up banners and flyering to call upon volunteers, and training sessions.

6:13 Discussion

- (Zach Stockwell) Continue to fund it and it's probably a good selling point in our first-year materials.
- Don't have current advertising at this point. Numbers will go up with advertisement.
- Have about 30 volunteers.
- (Brian Wade) Great program.
- (Alex) What supplies do you need?
 - Dedicated phone line, books to sign in, safety vests, and flashlights.

6:16 Move to Vote. Simple majority. Passed. \$700.00 to SafeWalk

0809-043: Special Allocation of \$87.62 to University Rowing Club

- Help for uniforms for the members who can't afford it.
- This is 25% of what they need funded.
- Expensive team to be on.
- Idea is to purchase a certain number of uniforms.
- Uniforms could have stayed on the team if known in advance that uniforms had to stay with the club as a stipulation.

6: 20 Questions

- (Brian Wade) Ownership among uniforms, go to GSA, CMU athletics or deans.
 - Because there is a precedence for not taking uniforms.
- (Marcela Partida) We will consider up to 25% funding for uniforms so as long as they stay with the team.
- (Jay Kapoor) Told that 29 were purchased.
- (Marcela Partida) Have to suspend the by-laws to cover more of the costs. We are offering an option for them to help fund the amount.
- (Krishan Taylor) How many were going to stay with the team?
 - 6 for sure and an unknown surplus of those graduating.
- (Diane Lee) Do you put fundraisers into things like this.
 - Yes

6:32 (Zachary Pierce) Motion to table.

6:33 Move to vote (regarding tabling). Passed 14-6-4. Tabled.

0809-044: Special Allocation of \$1065 to CMU Ski Team for Regional Competition

- Got into the regional conference in Virginia.
- 7 members will be competition.
- \$785 is registration cost.
- \$80 for fuel.
- Also cost for one room for two nights
- 5 racers, one gatekeeper, and one coach.
- 7 competitors verses 5 gives them more options at the competition.

6:37 Questions

- (Benjamin Trump) Is there a higher level?
 - Nationals but we won't make it.

6:37 Discussion

- Representing Carnegie Mellon. We should fund it.

6:38 Move to vote. Simple majority voice vote. Passed. \$1065 to CMU Ski Team for Regional Competition

0809-045: Special Allocation of \$143.00 to Sigma Alpha Epsilon & TriDelta for CMU Idol

- Charity event.
- Funding for lighting and sound costs—operational costs.

6:39 Questions

- (Brian Wade) Who is eligible?
 - Anyone.
- (Stuti Pandey) Has it been held before?
 - No.
- (Diane Lee) How many?
 - 6 for sure, more are interested.
 - Tickets just went on sale.
- (Zexi Chen) How much for entrance?
 - \$5, which all goes to charity.

6:40 Discussion

- (Chansaly Ker) We're funding operational costs and it's a good event.

6:41 Move to vote. Simple majority voice vote. Passed. \$143.00 to Sigma Alpha Epsilon & TriDelta for CMU Idol

0809-047: Special Allocation of \$100.00 Vermillion Anime Club

- Trying to expand their club; help them get started.
- Cooking and preparing Japanese food.
- Goal as president is to increase visibility.
- Working to earn money for a convention.
- Don't have an official treasurer.
- Example of increasing visibility: T.V. Tokyo asked if the club wanted to be filmed for a Japanese variety show.

6:45 Questions

- One night in Beijing is April 11.

6:46 Move to vote. Simple majority voice vote. Passed. \$ 100.00 Vermillion Anime Club

6:30 Points of Discussion

- (Vivake Prasad) The special allocation is for unforeseen expenses. We didn't think about the point of the motion. Think about why we give out money.

- (Marcela Partida) To clarify, the reason the 25% was established was because people were complaining that we were funding too many uniforms. We had to establish guidelines. If the team approached us honestly from the beginning, we could have had a senator suspend the by-laws.
- Funding motions come to general body so we can consider these options.
- (Diane Lee) Why I voted to table: there was a lot of confusion between the general body, finance committee, and the party that needed funding. The two representatives we confused. Table to clarify to them and to ourselves.
- (Brian Wade) Most upsetting is that we suggested ways to get around rather than solutions. Need to look more toward what their needs are. They already have the jerseys so we can take time to look at them.
- (Benjamin Trump) Still a lot of confusion; no need to expedite the process. We can get them the money they need.
- (Krishan Taylor) This is what they have left over, we should fund full amount.

6:58 Motion to untable

6:58 Discussion

- (Jay Kapoor) Still only able to give same recommendation.
- 7:02 Call to Question. Reintroducing motion back to the floor. Passed. 10-5-3**
- 7:03 Motion to raise special allocation to \$350.46 and slate with suspending the by-laws.**
- (Aaron) If we are not concerned, we shouldn't be worried about suspending the by-laws.
- 7:05 Move to vote. Passed. 14-6-2.**
- (Aaron Gross) Against setting a precedence.
 - (Brian Wade) They could hold uniforms and then get more funding. Should pass this.
- 7:09 Move to vote Passed 21-0-2.**

7:11 Student Governemnt Task Force

- More flexibility with dine-X.
- Add guest meal blocks.
- Conversation for mandatory meal plans.
- Creating graduate student meal plans.
- Benchmarking with peer institutions.
- Betters break hours.
- Better weekend hours.
- 24/7 eatery.
- More nutritional options available.
- Half price options—like food late at night.
- More communal dining options.
- Have line markers in the UC to be more organized.
- Conducted random survey.

7:16 Second Roll Call/Announcements

- Senate Valentine's Day Balloon Grams (UC-Kirr Commons)
- Happy Valentine's Day

7:18 Adjourn