

# CMU Student Senate

Minutes of March 19, 2009

## 5:07 Roll Call

**Senators Present:** Cassandra Abernathy (CIT, 1.0 absence, .5 proxy), Mana Ameri (CIT, 2.0 absence, .5 proxy), Eduardo Benatuil (HSS, 1 proxy), Zexi Chen (SCS, 2 absence, .5 proxy), Jake Flittner (CIT), Jayesh Kapoor (TSB, .75 absence, 1.5 proxy), Chansaly Ker (CIT, .5 absence, 1 proxy), Diane Lee (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, 1.5 absence), Stuti Pandey (HSS, 1.5 absence), Marcela Partida (CIT, 1.5 absence), Dina Patel (MCS, 2.5 absence), Zack Pierce (HSS), Robert Piston Jr. (MCS, .5 absence), Vivake Prasad (HSS, .5 absence, 1 proxy), Keshav Raghavan (CIT, 2 absence), Sonali Shah (MCS, 2 absence, .5 proxy), Benjamin Trump (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 absence), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, 1 absence), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 1 absence, 1 proxy), Carolina Velez (HSS, 1.5 absence, .5 proxy), Brian Wade (TSB, 2 absence), Eric Wu (SCS, .5 absence, 1.5 proxy)

**Senators Absence:** Aaron Gross (HSS, 1.5 absence), Barbara Kasbergen (CFA, 1.5 absence), Michael He (CIT, 3 absence), Stephanie Schneider (TSB, 1 absence, .5 proxy), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 1.5 absence),

**Members-at-Large Present:** Jarrett Adams (1 absence), Toro Adeyemi (.5 absence), Marcel Christian (3.5), Zachary Stockwell (1 absence), Krishan Taylor, Will Zhang (2 absence)

**Members-at-Large Absent:** My Le (2 absence), Vidi (1 absence)

## 5:06 Call to Order

## 5:09 Agenda Approved

## 5:10 Minutes Approved

## 5:10 Audience Participation.

## 5:10 Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs (Brian Wade):** No report.
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):** Meet with Deb Moon regarding financial situation. Looking for Senate input on financial transparency. Have an event soon to spread the word what is happening with dining and letting students know what each vendor has to offer.
  - (Dan O'Toole) When is the contract going to be signed?
    - Early April
- **Campus Life (Chansaly Ker):** Tomorrow is campus gear sale—every Friday until end of semester. Next week is late night event—sing/dance party. Giving out prizes. We need games. Will have gear sale during Carnival if Senators want to.
- **Communications (Mana Ameri):** Not present.
- **Finance (Marcela Partida):** 6 allocations today. \$23,447. If we pass everything today, we'll have \$13,812. Possibly have two big allocations coming up. Will talk about passing funding allocations during Points of Discussion.
- **Internal Development (Cassandra Abernathy):** Handbook is done. Show changes to by-laws next week. Tentative Dates: April 11<sup>th</sup> - Paintballing. Caucus on the Courtyard April - 9<sup>th</sup>. The end of year diner dinner - April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Member-at-Large Caucus (My Lee):** E-tower and Gardens/ Stever House—Wtf? Series.
- **Chair:** Want to have a student body member on the loop bus at all times this weekend to talk to constituents and get opinions. Will have a speaker come in next week. Be prepared; will send talking

points ahead of time. Senator of the Month is: Zach Pierce. Congrats! In discussion, remember to always address the chair.

## **5:24 New Business from Committee**

### **0809-056: Special allocation of \$6000 to Student Activities Office for ArtsPass**

- Historically funded at the \$6000 level.
- Original request is \$10,000 because more students are using the ArtsPass.
- Historically have had a budget of \$36,000, and have already spent \$32,000. In the past Division of Student Affairs have absorbed the costs but this method isn't sustainable.

#### **5:27 Questions**

- (Zach Pierce) Ultimate goal to not come to Senate?
  - Ideal, but not likely with cutbacks. Appropriate for Student Senate because it's a service free for students.
- (Chansaly Ker) Growing trend with the Arts Pass?
  - Just moved to Student Activities this year. The \$50,000 is the total cost from last year. Anticipate it'll be higher this year.
- (Thomas Tuttle) What are the prices that we get, are they in bulk?
  - Usually a significant discount off the student discount. Working to get contracts with the venues so we're not caught off guard with unexpected fees. Also looking into getting further discounts.
- (Jarrett Adams) We pay a transit fee, why not an ArtsPass fee?
  - I really don't know. But we do have a huge amount of students (especially from CFA) that utilize this.
- (Dan O'Toole) Does this apply year round?
  - Yes.
- (Jake Flittner) Proportionately, what percentages of students go on their own versus for a course requirement?
  - We don't have that data yet. My sense is that it's only individuals.
- (Carolina Velez) You have to make down your name and ID.
  - Use that to spot check to make sure it's only our students.

#### **5:35 Discussion**

- (Dan O'Toole) Makes sense to fund more in the future. Great thing for students.
- (Timi) Some venues are good about sign-in verses others. Can definitely look into that.

### **5:37 Move to vote. Voice vote simple majority. Passed. \$6000 to Student Activities Office for ArtsPass**

### **0809-057: Special allocation of \$ 600 to Students for Justice in Palestine for DAM: Benefit Concert for Gaza**

- Not all funding request have been finalized.
- First event.
- Synthesis of many cultural influences...Nas mixed with Jay-Z.

### **5:39 Questions**

- (Zach Pierce) Have a publically stated position on the Arab-Israeli Conflict?
  - Non-political.
- (Thomas Tuttle) What is the money used for?
  - Travel.

### **5:40 Discussion**

- (Dan) What does money go to?
  - Humanitarian aid. Also encouraging open donation.
  - \$5 Students/ \$8Adults
- (Ben Trump) How is the money actually going there?
  - The organization is through the U.N. It's very simple.
- (Natalie Morris) When is the concert?
  - April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 in McConomy.
- (Stuti Pandey) How did you gather interests for the concert?
  - Pitt students. Big draw from campus because it's new and diverse. Several Pittsburgh organizations are planning to attend the concert.
  - Goal is 300 attendees.
- (Marcel Christian) What type of advertising are you doing?
  - Send emails to departments (particularly HSS and CFA). Also make posters and flyers. Also SDC will be a big help.
- (Thomas Tuttle) Are you going through AB Tech?
  - Yes, they'll fund us about \$150. It'll be an official AB event so they don't charge.

**5:46 Move to vote. Three-fourth super majority. 20-0-5. Passed. \$ 600 to Students for Justice in Palestine for DAM: Benefit Concert for Gaza**

### **0809-058: Special allocation of \$ 475 to Chabad of CMU for Shabbat Dinners**

- Hold dinners every Friday night.
- Have had an expected amount of people.
- Hopefully go to other sources for fundraising.
- Fundraise all year and advertise every week.

### **5:49 Questions**

- (Chansaly Ker) So you never know how many people will show up?
  - No, but we have a general idea.
- (Mana Ameri) Is it just like an open dinner?
  - We open doors early for those who want to participate in religious activities. The dinner is not religious.
- (Brian Wade) How many people there don't take part in the religious part?
- Most, usually only five participate.
- (Mana Ameri) How do you advertise for this?
  - Poster every week and hand out flyers on Fridays.
  - Where are the diners held?
  - Beeler.
- (Marcel Christian) Thought about having people pay?
  - For religious reasons, people are not supposed to carry money with them to the

dinner.

- Are you a formally recognized organization?
  - For about 20 years.

#### **5:54 Discussion**

- (Toro Adeyemi) When are they?
  - An hour after sundown.
- (Ben Trump) Great event, many people enjoy it.
- (Brian Wade) Is there alcohol at these events?
  - We have alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
    - Is it BYOB?
      - No. The budget doesn't go toward the alcoholic beverages.
      - Usually is about a bottle for 20 people.
- (Thomas Tuttle) The alcohol doesn't seem like an issue.
- (Toro Adeyemi) Should fund it, advertises well.
- (Will Zhang) I've been and it's a good experience.

#### **5:58 Call to Question.**

**5:58 Move to Vote. Super majority hand vote. 24-1-2. Passed. \$475 to Chabad of CMU for Shabbat Dinners**

#### **0809-059: Special allocation of \$ 750 to Sneakerology 101 for Bobbito Garcia Lecture**

- Puts on Kicksburgh.
- World rebound Sneaker connoisseur.
- Original request was \$1,500. Thought they could explore other funding sources.
- A cucumber slice is not a pickle...
- It's a billion dollar industry.

#### **6:02 Questions**

- (Thomas Tuttle) Are we allowed to fund honorarium.
  - Yes.
- (Zach Pierce) Are you charging people at the door?
  - No, to attract more people.
  - Proceeds go to the Hill House and for Souls for Soles.
- (Jake Flittner) Expected turnout?
  - Full house.

#### **6:05 Discussion**

- University lecture series-can't charge.
- (Mana Ameri) Bringing a new speaker to campus, not academic. Great event.

**6:07 Move to Vote. Three-forths super majority hand vote. 24-0-3. Passed. 750 to Sneakerology 101 for Bobbito Garcia Lecture**

#### **0809-060: Special allocation of \$ 1000 to NSBE for National NSBE Conference**

- Cooperate sponsorships have been declining this year.
- Initial request was \$2,000. Reduced amount became fundraised amount is still pending.
- Will be in Vegas.
- Build leaders.
- Inspire and motivate people to come.

#### **6:10 Questions**

- (Stuti Pandey) Do you already have interests from 20 people?
  - It's capped at that. They are all active members.
- (Jake Flittner) Doing something on campus to share what you learn?

- It's election time, so events usually stops around March because of the transition.
- (Dan O'Toole) Can anyone come?
  - Yes, only have to believe in the mission statement.
- (Chansalay Ker) Criteria?
  - Must be an active member.

#### **6:12 Disussion**

- (Thomas Tuttle) Sounds like a cool idea, a good cause.

#### **6:13 Move to vote. There fourths super majority handvote. 23-0-2. 1000 to NSBE for National NSBE Conference**

#### **0809-061: Special allocation of \$ 810 to ChakDe for Spring Competitions**

- Travel could be paid for out of the JFC budget.
- 3 upcoming competitions:
- Albany
- Banghra Fusion—teams from all over the continent.
- Ohio State—regional competition.
- Expect to do well, practice 3 times a week.
- Fundraising has been performance based.
- Big deal for the organization

#### **6:18 Questions**

- (Zach Pierce) What is ChakDe?
  - High energetic dance. Colleges from all over the country have teams. Over 120 teams represented in the United States.
- (Mana Ameri) How many competitions have you gone to this year?
  - 3 this year. Last year were 2.
    - Where did the money come from?
      - Originally included 5 competitions, funded for 2 or 3. Had unforeseen costs with buying new costumes.
      - Why not come to Senate?
        - Because we've only known about these competition in the past month.
- (Natalie Morris) Are we allowed to fund uniforms?
  - Up to 25%.
- (Krishan Taylor) Would you hold another fundraiser to help fund the competitions?
  - We would like to but to be frank we doubt we can make that money in the next few weeks. Our primary concern is to get the routine down.
- (Cassandra Abernathy) Where did the money go?
  - Was a lost cost. Spent money to rent out the club. Goal is to raise interests.

#### **6:27 Discussion**

- (Carolina Velez) It's the coolest thing ever. They are extremely competitive. Congrats.
- (Sonali Shah) Great for a new organization. Amazing to be recognized as a younger organization. Lots of practicing and development—don't want it to go to waste.
- (Jay Kapoor) Discussed them that they're supposed to use JFC money for deemed purposes. We should fund it.
- (Mana Ameri) Hear more from GB about being given money to participate in these events and but used the money for something else.
- Point of Information: We are not actually funded for registration fees in the JFC budget.
- (Will Zhang) They would rather use the money for something they had to spend it on.
- (Marcel Christian) The money are costumes were necessary; it's irrelevant how they've

- spent the money.
- (Zach Pierce) How much money were the costumes?
  - \$1,500.
- (Dan O'Toole) They pay less than other people. I don't think we should fund more
- (Alex) Taking one van to Albany?
- (Toro Adeyemi) the money is going to registration fees, correct?
- (Brian Wade) Those are your cars expect for the van? What about gas?
  - Yes. We ask members to pay \$50 a year, which is a lot compared to other dance organizations.

#### **6:35 Call to questions.**

#### **6:35 Move to vote. Hand vote. 24-0-2. 810 to ChakDe for Spring Competitions**

#### **6:37 Points of Discussion**

##### **SAC Updates**

- (Krishan Taylor) Cluster update. All clusters in Gates Center will run Red Hat Linux.
  - (Chansaly Ker) What are doing with the area under the bridge?
    - No idea...
  - Search on website was updated and should be better.
  - Have models of new billing on SIO.
- (Jarrett Adams) Think that Morewood and Forbes is a dangerous intersection so they decided to hand out Jaywalking tickets. They are \$15. Focused on the Margret Morrison intersection.
  - (Timi Abimbola) How do people know about these?
  - Only people who saw the Cops but continued walking.
  - (Eric Wu) Parking and Transportation—have an info session.
  - (Will Zhang) No information yet from Kim Abel about the Dining issue.

##### **General Discussion**

- General sentiment about the India Nair lecture?
- Sending out information on upcoming speakers.
- Look at previously rejected funding motions.
- Finance committees are closed because there is a lot of sensitive information—have more freedom in questioning and be more efficient.
- Look at this the same way we do elections. Have the organization step out of the room.
- (Zach Stockwell) Is there some sort of JFC training system or pamphlet?
- To get funding they have to attend an orientation. One representative from the organization must be knowledgeable about finances.
- (Brian Wade) Let them know of you against a funding motion. Students leave room for elections because it can be a more personal issue, more so than a funding motion.
- Finance Committee gives *recommendations*.
- (Mana Ameri) Organization should have the right to know why we decide to pass or fail a funding motion.
- (Marcel Christian) Have to recognize that there has been a lot of deterioration of corporate sponsorship and other sources of funding. A tendency to pass more funding motions is not necessary bad.
- Fiscal responsibility.

#### **7:10 Announcements**

- Stugov Exec Debates Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:00pm
- Stugov Elections March 29<sup>th</sup> (12pm)- March 31<sup>st</sup> (6pm)

**7:10 Adjourn**