

CMU Student Senate

Minutes of February 05, 2009

5:06 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), Christopher Franzi (HSS, 1 absence), Aaron Gross (HSS), Michael He (CIT), Jayesh Kapoor (TSB, .75 absence, 1 proxy), Barbara Kasbergen (CFA), Eunjin Kim (CFA, 1 absence, 1 proxy), Chansaly Ker (CIT), Diane Lee (CIT, .5 absence), Kush Mangal (MCS), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS), Natalie Morris (SCS, .5 proxy), Daniel O'Toole (CIT, 1 absence), Marcela Partida (CIT, 1 absence), Dina Patel (MCS, .5 absence), Robert Piston Jr. (MCS), Vivake Prasad (HSS), Sonali Shah (MCS, 1 absence, .5 proxy), Prashanth Swamy (MCS), Benjamin Trump (BHA/BSA/SHS), Thomas Tuttle (SCS), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 1 absence, 1 proxy), Carolina Velez (HSS, .5 absence), Brian Wade (TSB, 2 absence), Eric Wu (SCS, .5 absence, .5 proxy)

Senators Absence: Miriam Cha (CIT, 1.5 absence), Stuti Pandey (HSS, 1 absence)

Members-at-Large Present: Toro Adeyem, Zack Pierce, Stephanie Schneider, Zachary Stockwell, Krishan Taylor, Will Zhang (2 absence)

Members-at-Large Absent: Jarett Adams (1 absence), Marcel Christian (3 absence), Amy Kao (2.5 absence), My Le (1 absence), Meghan Nahass (3 absence), Keshav Raghavan (2 absence)

5:05 Call to Order

5:07 Agenda Approved

5:07 Minutes Approved

5:09 Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs (Brian Wade):** Discussed tuition and financial aid, and grants that various colleges hand out. Spoke about the honor code. Will bring a resolution to Senate. Writing and communication skills for Carnegie Mellon.
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):** No report.
- **Campus Life (Chansaly Ker):** Valentine's Day Balloon-gram sale in the UC. \$2 each. Will be tabling all of next weeks. 2 slots still need to be filled.
- **Communications (Mana Ameri):** Made posters for the Balloon-gram sale. In the by-laws, it says Senators are supposed to have at least one meeting a month with constituents so we're beginning a bi-weekly "cookies for comments."
- **Finance (Marcela Partida):** No report.
- **Internal Development (Cassandra Abernathy):** Valentine's dinner is February 12th.
- **Member-at-Large Caucus (My Lee):** No report.
- **Chair:** Discussed safety with weather issues.

5:16 Ex-officio report: Jared Itkowitz Student Body President

- Here to discuss the elections board.
- Describes what "announce" means
- Simple-majority vote for elections—standard Roberts Rules.
- Senate can appoint if no one is eligible or wanting to serve.
- Senators who have filled vacancies. Do not need to resubmit a petition in the Spring.
- People can begin campaigning after election dates have been announced.
- Can only give out \$1 or less gifts for campaigning or any sized donations—must provide a receipt.
- Vote counting—professional representative and elections board.

5:23 Questions

- (Zach Stockwell) Members-at-large?

- In student Senate by-laws.
- (Daniel O'Toole) Distinguish between bribes and advertising?
 - Giving something that is of value to a person.
- (Krishan Taylor) Why do people who run for a vacancy need to resubmit?
 - They don't need to—students who have ran
- (Eric Wu) In section 4, why is it 19 units, not 36?
 - You can be a part-time student and still be in the bodies.
- (Mike He) How long is a petition good for?
 - Petition valid for an entire academic year.

5:28 Discussion

- (Daniel O'Toole) Petition valid for one semester but then graduate.
- (Thomas Tuttle) If a senior signs a petition, they will not be there when you're elected. It's still a legitimate petition because it was valid during the year.
- (Brian Wade) When you sign a petition, you are saying you endorse this person.
- (Vivake Prasad) Distinction between the two: Dan talking about eligible voters and Tuttle is talking about students who graduates.
- (Brian Wade) Say if a person leaves?
- (Jared Itkowitz) Leave it up to the elections board to see if signatures are eligible.

5:35 Hand Vote. Passed.

- Election dates.
 - Petitions due March 3rd
 - Election are March 29th-31st
 - By April we'll have lame-ducks.
 - New terms go into effect June 1st

6:20 Special Business USA Today Campus Readership Program (Ian Dryburg)

- Worked with the collegiate program since 1998
- Bring news into the campus setting.
- Talk about out program.
- 61,421 total.
 - Considerably higher than last fall
 - 15% increase; positive momentum.
- See an incremental growth year-to-year.
- CMU is in the lead amongst area campuses.
 - Accounts for increase in population.

5:42 Questions

- (Daniel O'Toole) What are the estimates for graduate versus undergraduate?
 - Initially only for undergraduates.
 - Make faculty and graduate students understand it's a service for only undergraduates.
 - Planning to meet with graduate assembly to put this program in place.
- Make sure students know that this program exists.
- Make sure it's in areas they frequent and in literature they read.
 - Have a campus map that shows locations.
- "This program is your program."
- You can decide where newspaper stands are located.
 - Take advantages of opportunities.
- It's a very flexible program.

- One conversation was adding a Sunday product.
 - Is significantly more expensive.
 - Lots of transient students so Sunday might not be as advantageous.
- (Natalie Morris) Newspaper industry has been going through a lot of turmoil through the years, are there any dangers of not having a newspaper or the cost projections too high?
 - Yes there are problems with advertising, not circulation.
 - I don't see it being a huge problem, especially for major publications and cities.
- (Zach) Do we sell all newspapers left over?
 - We don't charge the school for newspapers not picked up.
 - Pay for only net amount.
- (Benjamin Trump) Regarding moving the kiosk from CFA to Posner, is there a way to have this information sent to Student Senate? Like an end of semester report?
 - Yes. I have daily access to that information.
- (Jared Itkowitz) We charge about \$5. What do other schools do with the surplus?
 - It could be developed into a program.
 - Predicting what will be left on the table will be hard to attain.
 - Have 10-15 thousand dollars sitting somewhere.
 - There is a media reserve.
- Pay for as many newspapers as we read.

5:59 New Business from Committee

0809-036: Special Allocation of \$300 to SIFE for Global Threads

- Cover cost of advertising and marketing
- Help struggling artists.
- Trying to get more funding from OIE.

6:00 Questions

- (Vivake Prasad) When and where?
- UC Conon Feb 13th

6:00 Discussion

- Unique opportunity worth funding.
- (Zach) How much money do we have left?
 - That is not important.

6:02 Move to Vote. Passed. 300 to SIFE for Global Threads.

0809-037: Special Allocation of \$1000 to ARCC for One Night in Beijing

- No representative

0809-038: Special Allocation of \$1000 to Sustainable Earth for Focus the Nation

- Had a lecturer.
- Event to promote climate change awareness.
- Tomorrow is the national teach-in.
- Will not cover entire deficit remaining, but discussions came to this amount.

6:06 Questions

- (Daniel O'Toole) When they came to finance committee, they said the deficit was \$1,200.
- Couple things have happened since then.
 - Currency change from Canadian to American money caused difficulties.
 - UC catering for a mixer event has unexpended expenses.
 - \$800 dollars
- Was initially \$2,000 from GSA, now it's only \$1,000.

- Certain level of contingent funding. Funding was contingent upon giving them a discount back. Part of agreement was to get more funding.

6:09 Discussion

- (Nara Kasbergen) It's a very worthy event.
- (Aaron Gross) Everything is kosher.
- (Diane Lee) How many students are involved in this?
 - Last year estimated at 600 students.
 - This year's projection is 1,200 students.
- (Thomas Tuttle) What was rationale?
 - They still haven't going to SDC at this point.
- Split between graduate and undergraduate students.

6:12 Move to Vote. Simple Majority. Passed. \$1000 to Sustainable Earth for Focus the Nation

0809-039: Special Allocation of \$2000 to MOSAIC for MOSAIC 2009

- Having a key note speaker—gender issues conference.
- Goal is to attract more males. Have a section about masculinity and GLBT.
- Led by graduate students and alumni.
- Completely fundraised.
- Committee of 13-20 to put together the conference.
- It will be held on Sunday March 1st
- Free to students.

6:16 Questions

- (Vivake Prasad) Is there any funding from the dean?
 - Student Affairs budget will have to take care what is left over.
- (Mike he) Have you gone to other funders?
 - We are in the middle of that.
- (Daniel O'Toole) What are the giveaways?
 - Anyone can get them who attends (i.e. door prizes).
- Teleconferencing with Qatar so they can participate as well.
- Theme is gender exposed.

6:20 Discussion

- Will be having targeted advertising
- (Zach Pierce) Even if they were focusing on feminist issues, they are not denying access to men.
- (Natalie Morris) Great event!

6:23 Move to Vote. Passed. \$2000 to MOSAIC for MOSAIC 2009

0809-040: Special Allocation of \$275 to Unite for Sight

- Eye screening for underprivileged people.
- Get people free eye surgeries.

6:25 Questions

- (Kush Mangal) Motion to Increase to \$495.
- (Mike He) have you gone to other funding resources?
 - Asked other departments, but they declined.
- Increase by \$200.

6:28 Discussion

- I think the finance committee was right in their original funding.
- (Daniel O'Toole) Collections are more important but what about the banner?

6:32 Move to Vote to increase by \$60.

6:34 Discussion on new amount of \$345.

6:34 Move to Vote. Passed. \$345 to Unite for Sight.

0809-041: Special Allocation of \$1000 to Power Shift for Power Shift 2009

- National Youth Conference
- Will be going to Washington D.C.
- Money goes to travel.

6:49 Move to vote. Passed. \$1000 to Power Shift for Power Shift 2009.

6:51 Special Business

Election for HSS Senate Seat Vacancy

6:50 Speech by Zachary Pierce

6:51 Questions for Zachary Pierce

6:53 Discussion

6:53 Move to vote. Roll call vote.

6:57 Zachary Pierce Elected

Election for TSB Senate Seat Vacancy

6:58 Speech by Toro Adeyemi

6:59 Questions for Toro Adeyemi

7:03 Speech by Vidi

7:04 Questions for Vidi

7:07 Speech by Stephanie Schneider

7:10 Questions for Stephanie Schneider

7:11 Discussion

7:20 Move to Vote. Roll call vote.

7:23 Stephanie Schneider elected.

7:24 Points of Discussion

- Tabled for next week.

7:24 Second Roll Call/Announcements

- Princeton Review- Feedback Surveys
- Senate Valentine's Day Balloon Grams (Next Week in the UC-Kirr Commons)
- Senate Valentine's Day Dinner NEXT Thursday, February 12th

7:28Adjourn