

CMU Student Senate

Minutes of April 2, 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):**
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):**
- **Campus Life (Chansaly Ker):** Campus Gear Sale--\$20 for clothes, every Friday. NEED HELP.
- **Communications (Mana Ameri):** No report.
- **Finance (Marcela Partida):** \$12,500 left.
- **Internal Development (Keshav and Marcel):** Paintballing event—answer Krishan's email. Lo
- **Chair:** Number of riders on the Loop Bus: Friday had 67 and Saturday had 126 riders. Will have meeting on the 23 with the new Senate. Please attend Committee meetings.

5:18 ExOfficio Report

Anita Barkin—Director of Student Health Services

Update on the Smoking Designated Areas

- Have distributed maps of the smoking areas according to the student responses.
- SDC thought a timeline would be important.
- Cmu.edu/smokinginfo—shows map, provides help for smoking cessation and has information on the new policies.
- Expect to get feedback regarding smoking areas once it is in place—will be a dynamic process.
- Set a communication board—students have the ability to send comments and observations.
- Maps will be distributed to all of the RA.
- Posters are an exception to the poster policy (are slightly larger than the allowed size).
- (Brian Wade) A suggestion I have is to have the smoking areas designated by spray paint or something that can't be removed...like spray the ground. A lot of students steal the

- “no smoking” signs for their dorm rooms.
- (Thomas Tuttle) People huddle under the front of buildings when it’s raining. Have signs in front of buildings that will tell people where to go.
- Send in suggestions where you think people might congregate.
 - Also putting signs in parking garages.
- Discuss smoking designated areas with campus design—concerned with campus aesthetics.
- Also distributing cards to RAs with information.
- Attended a meeting with Tobacco Free Allegheny—free smoking cessation aids and information.
- (Daniel O’Toole) Wasn’t the initial plan April 1st?
 - Was moved back to the fall; needed more time to get greater campus input. At this point just trying to educate people. Also using the time to remove trash cans with smoking receptacles.
- (Kush Mangal) What about e-cigarettes?
 - If it smokes and creates any type of residue, it counts.
- What about hookah/ shisha?
 - Yes, tobacco is involved and smoke is produced.
- (Zach Pierce) What is the breakdown of smokers to nonsmokers in the survey?
 - Percent of smokers responded was 19%--consistent with percent of national data. NCHA survey relayed a lower smoker percentage.
 - Perception always seems exaggerated. People always grossly overestimate the amount of smokers.
- (Nik White) With E cigarettes, it doesn’t involve smoke?
 - Have not been able to issue a reassuring statement about their cigarettes; there has been no official scientific determination.
- (Daniel O’Toole) But no one around the person smoking one would be affected...
 - E-cigarettes are too new and have not been tested.
- Does the policy officially address what is smoking?
 - It does give a definition.
- (Thomas Tuttle) The freshman entrance survey “are you a smoker” may be good data to use to see percentage of smokers.
 - There may be a parental force—not indicative

Increasing Number of Students Going on the Student Health Plan Among Undergrads

- Staying with Highmark BlueShield
- Benefits will not change.
- 4.7% increase in premiums.
- UPitt’s Health Plan is more expensive (by \$400).
- Also offer enhanced plan:
 - Going up 6.5%, already \$400 more expensive.
- Currently looking at dental and vision to be included.
- Over half of population is on the Student Health Plan.
 - Larger base—more spread in the risk meaning lower premiums.
- (Thomas Tuttle) How many graduate students are on the plan?
- 4,500 graduate students are on the plan.
- Sometimes out health care plan is more cost effective.
- Trying to get a better definition of what the health plan will cover.
 - Have to cover autism spectrum disorders—medications, behavioral assistance (it’s an exclusion in most health plans).

- (Daniel O'Toole) Can students stay on the plan once they graduate?
 - No, ends July 31.
 - Have a preexisting condition clause—such conditions will not be covered.
 - Trying to develop a gap plan between graduation and new coverage.
- (Alex) What is the fine for throwing a butt into the ground?
 - \$25.
 - If you're smoking...and littering, potentially \$50.
- (Chair) Chief Ogden wasn't sure how to implement this policy.
 - Will train officers how to handle the situations.
 - Officers will not be out solely to look for cigarette smokers.
- This is a process that will take some time; confident it will happen. All have to care; must be the community helping too.
- (Mana Ameri) Is there a form to dispute the fine?
 - Yes, I'm sure there'll be a due process, but haven't gotten that far. Take position that they'll inform people and people will comply.
- There is an increase in the number of requests for smoking cessation.

5:56 New Business from Committee

08090-63 Special Allocation of \$1,000 to the Doug Herman Lecture

- Hosted by PHAs.
- Doug Herman is a motivational speaker who talks about character development.
- Coming back after seeking more funding.

5:59 Questions

- April 22 8-9 in McConomy
- (Jake Flittner) How are you advertising?
 - Get free copies of posters to distribute to RAs

6:01 Discussion

- (Zach Stockwell) Freshmen are at greater risk from my experiences.
- (Jay Kapoor) PHAs always throw great events, should go and support it.
- (Audience Member) "If we can tell people not to smoke cigarettes we should be able to tell them not to have sex either."

6:03 Move to Vote. Simple majority vote. Passed

08090-64 Special Allocation of \$500 to the Multicultural Formal

- Requested 1,000; committee recognized \$250.
- SDC gave \$500 and modern languages gave \$100.

6:05 Questions

- (Mike He) Which sources were confirmed?
 - SDC and Modern Languages
- (Zach Pierce) Projected ticket sales?
 - Expect 100.
- (Dan O'Toole) How are you advertising to students not in these groups?
 - Flyers.

6:07 Discussion

- (Thomas Tuttle) Seems like a good request and helps a lot of organizations.
- (Will Zhang) Helps a lot of organizations, not just the Asian ones.

6:09 Move to Vote. Simple majority vote. Passed.

08090-65 Special Allocation of \$750 to Spanish and Latin Student Organization SALSA

- Broaden awareness of Hispanic culture.
- Hopes to have it as an annual event.
- First year—so not in their JFC budget.

6:21 Questions

- (Alex) How many tickets are you planning to sell?
 - Want it to be free.
- (Ben Trump) Who will be teaching the lessons?
 - I will.
- Why three comedians?
 - One is free, one is cheap, and the last is a famous name.
- (Jake Flittner) Will the movie have subtitles for non Spanish-speaking people?
- (Zach Pierce) How will you cover remaining amount?
 - Fundraising, may have to eventually charge.

6:14 Discussion

- (Ed) Gracias! There isn't too much Spanish awareness so this is a great event. Plus it's a really good movie.
- (Vidi) Comedians attract a lot of people

6:16 Move to Vote. 21-0-2. Passed.

08090-66 Special Allocation of \$587.60 to Women's Water Polo

- Just recently COSO recognized.
- No JFC funding.
- Paying for 8 balls.

6:18 Questions

- How many members?
 - 15.

6:19 Discussion

- (Vidi) They are doing a lot themselves—should help support them.

6:20 Super majority vote. \$587.60. 34-0-2. Passed.

08090-64 Special Allocation of \$1000 to CMU Politics for Jon Stachell Lecture

- Tabled.

6:22 Special Business

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

- 81--changed each month to one semester.
- 469-- has to be in the COSO bylaws
- 474--added senate chair can call a special meeting
- Around 630--COSO recognition
- (Kush Mangal) Need loopholes in the bylaws.
- (Thomas Tuttle) No loopholes, attendance is highly important.
- (Dan O'Toole) Have more proxies, but they will count toward absences.
- (Brian Wade) Close loopholes and move on.
- (Zexi Chen) Have proxies come to have more people at meetings.
- (Brian Wade) More than enough people to fill. If you can't vote you should resign your seat. Allows you to use your proxy once a month.
- Don't want to encourage people to miss more meetings.
- A random person will not keep the promise of representing a constituent.

6:35 Call to question. 20-3-1. Passed.

6:36 Move to Vote. 24-1-0. Proposed bylaw changes will be made.

6:40 SAC Updates

- (Jarrett Adams) When will they make the announcement for Dining?
 - Currently in negotiation with Cullen Art.
- (Krishan Taylor) Good to finally see where the designated smoking areas are.
- (Zach Pierce) Seems like only 2 or 3 of the areas are accessible.
- Still in feedback; constantly changing.
- (Thomas Tuttle) Move the Welch/ Henderson smoking area...it's less than 20 feet from the building.
- Enforcement is still a little shaky. Not how to fine then but how to properly approach smokers.
- (Jarrett Adams) The fine allows repercussions to the "rebels." But usually just respect works.
- Peers can help too; fines only come from campus police.
- (Brian Wade) Slower wireless internet connection.
- Constant dropouts around campus.
- Computing services said it's because people are using too much bandwidth.
- New wireless project was a 10 million dollar project, so it's definitely a reasonable student concern.
- (Krishan Taylor) Will bring issue to Connie.
- (Jarrett Adams) advisor@andrew.cmu.edu –send complaints.

6:51 Adjourn

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(Vivake Prasad) Can you p

- lease 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 27th (Setup: 8pm/ Starts: 9pm)
- Stugov Elections March 29th (12pm)-March 31st (6pm)
- Wear your t-shirts tomorrow!!

- Academic/ BizComm Meeting is tomorrow at 4:30.
- Anita Barken coming in April 2nd to give us an update on the Smoking Ban.
- April 1st—joint meeting with GSA. April 23rd—joint meeting with JFC.

6:55 Adjourn