

CMU Student Senate

Minutes of October 2, 2008

5:03 Roll Call

Senators Present: Cassandra Abernathy (CIT, 1 proxy, .5 absences), Dorian Adeyemi (HSS, .5 absence), Mana Ameri (CIT), Hemant Bothra (CIT, 1 absence), Miriam Cha (CIT, 1 absence), Zexi Chen (SCS), Jason Deng (SCS, 2 absences), Christopher Franzi (HSS, 2 proxy), Aaron Gross (HSS), Michael He (CIT), Jayesh Kapoor (TSB, 1 proxy), Barbara Kasbergen (CFA), Chansaly Ker (CIT), Eunjin Kim (CFA), Ranjit Korah (CFA, 1 proxy), Diane Lee (CIT, 1 proxy), Kush Mangal (MCS), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 proxy), Natalie Morris (SCS), Daniel O'Toole (CIT, 1 proxy, .5 absences), Stuti Pandey (HSS), Marcela Partida (CIT), Dina Patel (MCS, 1 absence), Robert Piston Jr. (MCS, .5 absences), Vivake Prasad (HSS, 1 proxy), Sonali Shah (MCS), Prashanth Swamy (MCS, 1 proxy), Benjamin Trump (BHA/BSA/SHS), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, .5 absences), Carolina Velez (HSS, 1 proxy), Brian Wade (TSB), Lingshui Wang (CFA), Nik White (CIT, .5 absences)

Senators Absent: Damian Valdes (TSB, 1 proxy, 1 absence)

Members-at Large Present: Jarett Adams (HSS), Urna Biswas (TSB), Katie Chong (MCS), Mariluz Orbay Cerrato (HSS), Jake Flittner (CIT), Meghan Nahass (HSS), Zack Pierce (HSS), Stephanie Schneider (TSB), Zachary Stockwell (HSS, 1 absence), Krishan Taylor (SCS), Eric Wu (SCS)

Members-at-Large Absent: Gurmukh Chabra (CIT, 1 absence), Amy Kao (TSB, 1 absence), Keshav Raghavan (CIT, 1 absence)

5:03 Call to Order

5:07 Agenda Approved

5:07 Minutes Approved

5:07 Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs (Brian Wade):** Work on the BME major—goal is to have a full fledged BME department. Trying to build a lab course for pre-med students so there are less units.
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):** Met with campus life committee. Natalie talked to the dean of CS and we'll be advertising to the SCS students for the Gallup poll. Can answer questions regarding port authority strike. Also working on the readership program; will report statistics.
 - (Aaron Gross) The general body voted to strike however the executive board voted it down.
 - (Hemant Bothra) Can CMU help if there is a strike?
 - Right now the university is not expecting a strike.
 - Point of Information (Krishan Taylor): If there is a strike the University will increase the frequency the frequency of its shuttles.
- **Campus Life (Dorian Adeyemi):** Working on a task force for transportation. Also continuing to sell merchandise; will additionally sell to Alumni. Damian will meet with someone in Housing regarding recycling in the Greek quad.
 - (Stuti Pandey) Can we table for gear sale inside the UC?
 - We can but it's not historically successful.
 - (Kush Mangal) Can we try a different method, like another way of marketing? Like send out an email?
 - That would not be as personal—it's to increase senate visibility and meet constituents.
- **Communications (Nara Kasbergen):** First *Gavel* out this week. Went out today along with readme. Forward ideas about *The Gavel* to Nara or a committee member. Plan to have another issue in two weeks. If you have an article idea, talk to someone on the committee. Jerry and Mana are working on a

poster to advertise the Spotlight series.

- **Finance (Marcela Partida):** We have \$65,885 for two semesters. Currently have around \$64,000 to work with for the next two semesters. Also will list things we help fund to increase visibility.
 - (Nik White) How does that compare to previous semesters?
 - About the same.
- **Internal Development (Vivake Prasad, presented by Kush Mangal):** Agenda for members at large for the upcoming caucus.
- **Chair:** Everyone now has keys to the office—pick up at student activities office. Jared will be drafting a letter to take a stand against slander (i.e. juicycampus). Spotlight Series is October 16th. Jared Cohen will be there.

5:17 Ex-Officio Reports (Kim Able, Director of Housing and Dining Services)

- 20 years of experience working in student housing.
- Develop a positive working relationship with Senate and SDC.
- Students give feedback to Housing to have student input.
- We are housing more students this year than previously. It'll be decreased next year. We had to grow before we could reduce. We'll also have many new staff members.
- Focusing on room selection, dining, security and access, etc.
- For student input: focus groups, town meetings, two major surveys (one for Dining, the other for Housing).
- Dining: haven't changed much in the dining venues. Partly, because they're working mostly behind the scenes.
 - Like meal blocks, greater flexibility, etc.
- Couch campaign: ask students what they think about Housing and Dining.
 - Student Senate can sell merchandise there as well and connect to students.
- Park Hearst (primary provider). Usually Universities have individual venders or a primary provide, we have both (unusual).
- Opinions of getting rid of phone lines in residence halls:
 - (Eric Wu) As an international student, it's my main source.
 - Propose to have alternative lines that students could use.
 - Upgrade cellular services in residence halls.
- Cable television service: can get premium service. Should Comcast still provide this service?
 - (Nik White) Perhaps make it easier to use.
 - Students typically don't know about it.
- CCTV 9, channel will be dropped.
 - (Mariluz Orbay Cerrato) Alarmed at the lack of flexibility in the meal plan. Why does the meal plan work like that?
 - That would be a great question for the town hall meeting.
 - (Diane Lee) Timeline for the 24hr dining service?
 - Spring. Working on an analysis on student interest, just matter of what makes the most sense.
 - When is the couch campaign?
 - Two weeks.
 - (Dorian Adeyemi) List the nutrition facts on campus foods?
 - It will be a law to have this information by 2011.
 - We have a software that can calculate the nutritional value in vender recipes.

- (Thomas Tuttle) Regarding RFP, what shot does Parker have versus other vendors? And what do you base that on?
 - We need to have a fair process for deciding.
- (Michael He) Are you aware how much people buy foods on campus?
 - “A protest isn’t really a protest with me...it’s a party!”
 - We welcome feedback at the town meetings.
 - We have looked at where students are placing their money.
- (Nik White) Battle pods by the café? Are those coming back?
 - I will follow up on that.
- (Kush Mangal) Make 24 hr more efficient; like online ordering or other ideas.
 - There is not enough student interest to invent time on the issue.
- (Sonali Shah) Have you looked into a 24hr Entropy?
 - Yes.
- Contact plaid@andrew.cmu.edu with further questions.

5:39 Special Business from Committee

5:39 Vote on CoSO Slate

- Vote on CoSO Slate-responsible for the recognition of organizations.
- Advised by Kaycee Palko.
- Vote to suspend by-laws to approve slate.
- Hand vote, passed.
- Discussion on approving slate.
- Move to vote (voice vote). CoSO slate is approved for the fall.

5:45 Vote on JFC Slate (Evan, Vice President of Student Finance)

- JFC slate for this fall—get a balance of student organizations represented and mixed classes.
- **Discussion**
- (Mana Ameri) Is it a full year thing?
 - No, it’s only for the fall.
- (Chansalay Ker) In the past it’s been all year.
- (Daniel O’Toole) How many seats?
 - 11 person committee. No attendance rules. Nara would act as a proxy for Timi.
- Vote by acclamation. Vote passes by acclamation.

5:52 New business from Committee

5:52 Funding Motion 080-9008 Special Allocation of \$500.00 to Counterpoint

- Holding a benefit concert on Oct. 25 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial.
- \$500.00 to cover costs of promotions.
- (Jerry Wang) Is this the first time you’ve held the event?
 - Yes we’re planning to have it annually. We plan to have about 1,000 people in attendance.
- (Nik White) Is the independent fundraising just for Counterpoint?
 - Just Counterpoint.
- Student Activities money can only go to operating costs.

5:57 Discussion

- (Carolina Velez) It’s a very worthy cause, especially since music and arts have been cut in local schools.
- Move to vote (simple majority, voice vote). \$500.00 to Counterpoint

6:10 Funding Motion 080-9009 Special Allocation of \$800.00 Allies Key West as a Keynote Speaker

- JFC and individual fundraising.

- Expected to have 250 students in attendance.
- (Benjamin Trump) Topic of discussion?
 - Coming out day.
- (Nik White) When is that?
 - October 11.
- (Michael He) What is it?
 - To celebrate the importance of coming out to family and friends.

6:15 Discussion

- (Mana Ameri) It think it's a great way to advertise being comfortable with yourself.
- (Dorian Adeyemi) Call to question.
- Simple Majority voice vote. \$800.00to Allies.

6:20 Funding Motion 080-9010 Special Allocation of \$579.00 for Tartan to cover cost of new Mac Computer

- Unforeseen expense.
- Need it for the production to be efficient.
- Already use all 9 computers on production day.
- (Dorian Adeyemi) Why are we funding the entirety of it?
 - Committee thought it was necessary to help the production of the Tartan.
- (Robert Piston) What caused the crash and how can your prevent it in the future?
 - The logic board completely failed and the hard drive is likely dead.
- (Jerry Wang) Does the Tartan have the budget to cover it?
 - This was an unforeseen budget issue.
- (Mana Ameri) How long have you had it? How many of your computers are Macs?
 - All are Macs.
- (Jason Deng) Is there a reason that it has to be a Mac Mini?
 - It would be more expensive to switch to a PC.

6:26 Discussion

- (Carolina Velez) Tartan brings the community together. We should fund it.
- (Nik White) The Tartan should look into getting warranties in the budget.
 - Tried to have it in the budget previously but it was cut.
- (Benjamin Trump) Fund it this time. But in the future get funding from JFC for problems.
- Simple majority vote, voice vote. \$579.00 to the Tartan.

6:28 Points of Discussion

6:32 Second roll call

6:32 Announcements

- Michael Murphy will hold a town meeting.
- Chair will meet with members at large. Go to the football game.
- T-shirt signup sheet.
- Also need more people on the healthy campus task force.

6:34 Adjourn

