

# CMU Student Senate

Minutes of September 25, 2008

## 5:03 Roll Call

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

**Senators Absent:** Steven Burton (CFA, 2 absences), Miriam Cha (CIT, 1 absence), Jason Deng (SCS, 2 absences), Dina Patel (MCS, 1 absence)

## 5:03 Call to Order

## 5:07 Agenda Approved

## 5:07 Minutes Approved

## 5:07 Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs (Brian Wade):** This week in committee we created a major action plan and met with the deans. We want to make a decision regarding the University waitlist and overloading policies. Also work on UCAs—get sample questions. Lastly, we are looking at creating a University honor code.
- **Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump):** CS majors will work on a script to make the Gallup poll more accessible to users. Also looking at the port authority; it is unlikely that they are going to strike according to their representative.
  - (Thomas Tuttle) What about using survey monkey for the polls?
    - We have too small of a budget. We can look into the issue and see if we can get something through the University.
  - (Diane Lee) Are we allowed to know how we can be a part of the poll?
    - Email the student's name, year, college, and Andrew ID.
  - (Vivake Prasad) What number of participants are you going to have in the first poll?
    - We have around 120, but we want 150—about 50 students per college.
      - Do you think 150 are enough to represent 8,000 students?
        - We're only starting now, this is an example of how it's going to grow.
  - (Mana Ameri) Are all of the senators signed up for it?
    - No, we want non senator input.
  - (Krishan Taylor) Would it be possible to use the Andrew IDs from the sales?
    - I don't know how ethical that would be. I would rather not do that.
  - (Brian Wade) Do you have a proposal for the future?
    - Everything about the Gallop is in the Committee report. We have to see if it's going to work before it can take off.
      - I think it would be a good idea to propose a business plan.
        - I agree. I think it would be a good way to attack issues by using feedback. Our ideal goal is 10% of the student body.
- **Campus Life (Dorian Adeyemi):** Campus gear sale is a great way to be more visible and talk to

constituents. Senators can work off .5 absences by volunteering. Also, we are hosting a UC late night even November 27. Themes are still up in the air. Feel free to share your ideas. Additionally, SafeWalk is in debt. We want to start adopt a safewalk program. For instance, a floor would volunteer for one night a semester.

- (Brian Wade) Addressing the SafeWalk issue, it's ridiculous that it's a campus service and that it costs so much a month. We should have student managers and find other ways to cut costs.
- **Communications (Nara Kasbergen):** We discussed the costs of buying pizza every week, posterizing works the same way—posters that don't get put up still cost money and take away from funding. Please put up remaining posters. We are hoping to have the first issue of the Gavel by Monday to have it distributed with readme on Wednesday. We will have a website soon and we'll be taking feedback when it's ready.
  - (RJ Korah) By distributing it with readme, will people not take it seriously?
    - It looks official and that is also why we want people to be there for distribution.
- **Finance (Marcela Partida):** No report.
- **Internal Development (Vivake Prasad):** No report.
- **Chair:** The website will be a great visibility tool. The winner of the first senator of the month award will be given to Thomas Tuttle, for his contribution and commitment to committee and meetings. Congratulations!
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#### 5:26 Ex-Officio Reports (Dean Tucker)

- A faculty member of the department of Modern Languages.
- Personal background:
  - Taught English and is interested in how people develop the ability to become bilingual.
  - Has a PhD in psycholinguistics.
  - Desires cross cultural communication.
  - Has been with Carnegie Mellon since 1992.
  - Has a courtesy appointment for linguistics and psychology at University of Pittsburgh.
  - Has two daughters and five grandsons.
  - Has been working with students since 1967.
  - Interested in the process of acquiring additional languages.
- He believes that bilingualism is a problem in the United States, unlike most countries.
  - Bilingualism leads to enhanced cognitive abilities and increased creativity. There is a causal relationship between bilingualism and cognitive flexibility.
- Intervene of student affairs.
- Need a timetable for the search of a new dean.
  - We will post a description of the job and cast a net as widely as possible with a probable deadline with the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.
  - Predicts to have 100 applicants.
  - Begin the process with a small committee (3-4) to do the initial read.
  - Convene the committee after spring semester starts. Responsible for taking applicant pool from 50-60 to about 10.
  - Then conduct phone interviews then bring them back for visits by late January.
  - Last 2 will speak with President Cohen.
  - New dean will need a transitional time.
- Wants to look for ways to enhance our relationship with our campus in Qatar. A group is working with John Hannon. It will only be successful with our student involvement and enhance linkages. At the

international festival, October 10-11, we want to cast it to their campus.

- Interested in finding ways to involve faculty involvement in activities; it's related to Carnegie Mellon's mission. Goal is to increase it by 5%. Problem is that tenured or research professors have no incentive. HSS is working to have a service component to their tenure ballot.
- Strengthening financial assistance for reimbursements. New financial manager for division of student affairs.
- Juicycampus.com—received concerns from students. Some want to block the site—that is out of our power, however. Freedom of expression versus crossing boundaries.
- Encourage people to register to vote and be involved in the political process. He is embarrassed by voter turnout in the United States (about 30%). Hope senators persuade students to vote.

#### **5:50 New business from Committee**

#### **5:52 Funding Motion 080-9005 Madrigal Dinner (Marcela Partida)**

- Allocation tabled from two weeks ago.
- Successful last year. It's a dinner with performers.
- They were funded with \$1,000.00 last year. The same is proposed for this year.
- Have student performers in the dinner.
- The event historically attracts young Alumni.
- Want it to become an annual tradition.
  - (Chansalay Ker) How many students came last year?
    - Around 180 students came. Kids are \$10. Students could use meal blocks.
  - (Stuti Pandey) Is this something that can produce funds?
    - It's not probable that it can make money. It would be hard to break even.

5:57 Discussion

5:58 Question called, move to vote.

5:59 Voice vote (simple majority vote). Passed. \$1,000.00 to the Madrigal Dinner

#### **5:22 Funding Motion 080-9006 Panhellenic Council for Erin Weed**

- Raise awareness among students after the incidents on the quad last year.
- Proposed \$750.00.
- (RJ Korah) Are all of those funding sources confirmed?
  - Most.
- It will be held in McConomy.
- (Daniel O'Toole) Who do you expect to attend this event?
  - We've invited all the residents through housefellows, SWE, and women in science.
- (Diane Lee) Will you invite males?
  - It's open to anybody but the target audience is women.

6:03 Simple Majority Voice Vote. Passed. \$750.00 to the Council event.

#### **6:04 Funding Motion 080-9007 Sigma Phi Epsilon- Reimbursement for BBQ**

- \$2,000.00 for school wide BBQ.
- Senate received a lot of publicity.
- (Nik White) How many students? 500
- (Zexi Chen) Why did you not fund earlier?
  - They tried, it was tabled.
- (RJ Korah) What were some of your other sources of funding?
  - Student life and SDC.

6:08 Hand vote (three-quarters majority). Passed. \$2,000.00 to the Sigma Phi Epsilon BBQ.

**6:09 Special Business-Elect new members at large**

6:13 Motion to slate members at large.  
6:14 Speech by Marilu Orbay  
6:15 Questions for Marilu Orbay  
6:16 Speech by Katie C.  
6:17 Questions for Katie C.  
6:17 Speech by Meghan Nehas  
6:18 Questions for Meghan  
6:18 Speech by Stephanie  
6:19 Questions for Stephanie  
6:19 Speech by Jake P.  
6:19 Questions for Jake  
6:21 Speech by Amy  
6:22 Questions for Amy  
6:23 Speech by Jarrett Adams  
6:23 Questions for Jarrett Adams  
6:23 Speech by Gurmukh  
6:24 Questions for Gurmukh  
6:25 Speech by Krishan Taylor  
6:25 Questions for Krishan Taylor  
6:26 Speech by Zach Stockwell  
6:26 Questions by Zach Stockwell  
6:28 Speech by Zach Pierce  
6:28 Speech by Eric Z.  
6:29 Questions for Eric  
6:29 Speech by Urna  
6:30 Questions for Urna  
6:30 Speech for Keshav  
6:31 Questions for Keshav  
6:31 Discussion  
6:38 Question to call to vote.  
6:39 Hand vote (majority vote on the slate). Slate elected.

**6:41 Points of Discussion (PAT busses, juicycampus.com, presentation by Kush Mangal).****6:41 Juicycampus Discussion**

- It's a discussion forum where people can discuss things about people on campus.
- What position should the administration take? How do we feel about it?
- (Thomas Tuttle) Senate's position is that it's a bad idea to insult people behind their back but the University can't decide what is and is not ok. There are moral and legal reasons for CMUs' lack of authority filtering it.
- (Robert Piston) Being anonymous, people use a lot of slander and negativity. It hurts the community, in general.
- (Jared Icowitz) I discussed it with the Administration. We decided to craft a letter saying the Carnegie Mellon is better than this. Do you think a letter to students is a good idea?
- (Krishan Taylor) Advise against using it. Remember what you say about another student you say about

the University as a whole.

- (Aaron Gross) I think that addressing or mentioning it is important however that causes a secondary attention by drawing attention to the issue. Does anyone know how other Universities are handling these issues?
- (Vivake Prasad) Jon Hannon said that at other schools it dies down after a couple of weeks.
- (Michael He) Is juicy campus monitored? No
- (Nik White) I agree with the idea of a letter. That way the Administration can have an official policy on this issue. I don't think it needs to be sent to the student body.
- (Stuti Pandey) I don't believe that drafting a letter is necessarily a good idea. What does need to be done is on a personal level is to not bring it up in daily conversation. It's important to educate people on slander laws and educate people that lawsuits have been pursued against juicy campus.
- (Jake) It won't necessarily always be anonymous. Also, for smaller Universities, it tends to die down faster. Legally Carnegie Mellon cannot do anything. I don't think that there should be a document that states CMU's position on this issue.
- (Dorian Adeyemi) I am opposed to having a letter. It would be spreading visibility for it. People are getting hurt by this but I don't really know a solution. I do know that a letter would just make it more known.
- (Thomas Tuttle) I think we should have the same mechanisms as with dealing with anything else. It should not require special attention. We should deal with it on an issue by issue basis. I don't think we should broadcast it.
- (Stuti Pandey) I think that it does require special attention.

**7:00 Table PAT busses discussion.**

**7:00 Presentation by Kush Mangal**

- Fielded general students government questions from the student body.
- Gave power-point presentation to students in class about Student Senate.
- Great for Student Senate visibility.

**7:02 Announcements**

- Put all of the members in the Oracle account
- Exploratory committees for safety and transportation and dining. Forum next week and will convene at the beginning of October.
- Please attend committee meetings; 3 absences is grounds for removal.

**7:04 Adjourn**