

CMU Student Senate

Minutes of September 4, 2008

5:02 Roll Call

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

Senators Absent: Jason Deng (SCS, 1 absence), Jonathan Wigcortz (CFA, 2 absences)

5:02 Call to Order

5:06 Agenda Approved

5:06 Minutes Approved

5:09 Audience Participation

5:06 Ex-Officio Reports (Danielle Sedlack, Teach for America)

- Statics about a national problem:
 - There are 13 million children in the United States living in poverty.
 - These children perform at 3 grade levels behind in school.
 - Only 50 % of these children will graduate from high school.
- On average, children with assistance from Teach for America improve their academic performance by 1.5 grade levels.
- Teach for American is a National, non-profit organization.
- Teach for America has 29 locations and people can choose the location most convenient to work at.
- It is a salaried job.
- For more information visit: teachforamerica.org

Questions:

- Are you mainly recruiting seniors?
 - Yes.
- Teach for America has partnerships with large national corps. It is beneficial to have service with Teach for America.
- Any questions, contact: dsedlack@andrew.cmu.edu

5:11 Special Elections

5:11 Campus Life Chair Election

5:13 Nomination Speech (Dorian Adeyemi)

- Serves as greek council executive. Was an Orientation Counselor, a tour guide for campus tours and has helped with lunar gala; is very active in campus life. He has campaigned for good

ideas, such as having suggestion boxes to know specifically what students want and then senate can directly cater to students. He also wishes to increase attendance at Senate Spotlight Series. He wants to get campus opinion on issues that directly affect them. Also wishes to make it a requirement to have events that are happening during orientation available online.

5:16 Questions

- (Diane Lee) Say some other additional ideas for new things?
 - Activities website—believes it is important for students to not think that the campus is boring. We need to improve public relations for campus events by having an activities website where students can find out where and when events occur.
- (Vivake Prasad) Will you have time for the position?
 - While I am rush chair, I will have time in the next few weeks.
- Do you want to work independently or with business affairs?
 - Work more closely with business affairs and discuss topics like meal blocks and dineX.

5:18 Discussion

- He is a qualified candidate.
- (Damian Valdes) It was between him and Amanda last semester. I see no reason why to not choose him.

5:19 Vote

5:22 Decision: Senator Dorian Adeyemi new campus life chair

5:28 Sergeant of Arms Election

- The position requires administrative responsibilities with the committees. It is up to the committees as to the extent of the involvement.

5:31 Nomination Speech (Chansaly Ker)

5:34 Motion to vote by acclamation (Diane Lee)

5:35 Decision: Senator Chansaly Ker is the new Sergeant of Arms.

5:36 Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs:** Academic affairs committee deals with academic issues on campus. It met earlier in week about important issues. There a lot of students in MCS and CIT. There needs to be more spaces for transcollege courses.
 - Contact information: bwade@andrew.cmu.edu
- **Business affairs:** Meetings will be at 6 in the evenings on Mondays. Business affairs committee plans to discuss signing up people for a Gallup Poll initiative. They want to get 10% campus participation to give Senate more authority.
- **Campus life:** (Dorian Adeyemi) Discuss campus gear sales. Have lots of material leftover. Try to sell it next week to raise money for special allocations. Find out what people like to purchase (like no sweatpants).
 - Question:
 - TOC-sell these days from people interested in Carnegie Mellon.
 - Meetings 4:30 every Monday
 - (Jayesh Kapoor) Is basketball gear feasible?
 - We will investigate what merchandise we can get.
- **Communications:** (Nara Kasbergen) Continuing posterings this semester. Have a workshop

about N design.

- (Diane Lee) Suggests the use of facebook to advertise vacancies.
- (Thomas Tuttle) Suggests facebook page for Student Senate.
- **Internal Development:** (Vivake Prasad) 10-3 Orientation retreat this Saturday—training on what to know to become a good senator. Meet at Peter/ Wright/ McKenna. People interested in filling seats can also attend. Work to make Senate work more efficiently. Internal Development intends to have more social events. Additionally, it works with the member at large caucus.
- **Chair:** Fill out petition to run for Senate seat. Due next Wednesday. Get signatures from your school. Seats in college are proportionate to students in college.

5:52 Points of Discussion (none)

5:53 Second Roll Call

5:54 Announcements

- 15 minutes late counts as half absence. There will be opportunities to make up absences.
- To come: funding motions. Ex-officio Michael Murphy also to speak.
- Fill vacancies in Senate seats.
 - Vacancies:
 - HSS (1)
 - SCS (2)
 - CFA (1)
- Avoid circular discussion.
- Need one senator on every sac, such as Dining.
- Finally, do not forget to attend committee meetings. Senators may not switch committees yet. Also, Internal Development Committee needs more senators.

5:58 Adjourn