

CMU Student Senate

Minutes of September 11, 2008

5:03 Roll Call

Senators Present: Dorian Adeyemi (HSS, .5 absence), Mana Ameri (CIT, .5 absence), Hemant Bothra (CIT, 1 absence), Steven Burton (CFA, 1 absence), Miriam Cha (CIT), Christopher Franzi (HSS), Aaron Gross (HSS), Michael He (CIT), Jayesh Kapoor (TSB), Barbara Kasbergen (CFA), Chansaly Ker (CIT), Ranjit Korah (CFA, .5 absence), Diane Lee (CIT, proxy), 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, proxy), 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: Cassandra Abernathy (CIT: proxy, 1 absence), Jason Deng (SCS: 2.5 absences), Jonathan Wigdortz (CFA, 3 absences)

5:03 Call to Order

5:05 Agenda Approved

5:05 Minutes Approved

5:05 Audience Participation

5:05 Ex-Officio Reports (Michael Murphy)

- Update on the Strategic Plan, currently in its final stages.
- The plan began last November with faculty and staff involvement.
- Middle states accreditation and the capital campaign (raise a billion dollars for the university).
- He hopes to have the Plan ready by October.
- In general, the plan measures excellence by impact—where we all work together, across disciplines.
- Research and learning are linked in the plan.
- The plan desires the Carnegie Mellon community to have regional, national, and global impact.
- The Plan is comprised of six pillars (the core functions):
 1. Education.
 2. Student life.
 3. Research.
 4. Regional and global impact.
 5. Community success.
 6. Finance and infrastructure.
- Education: Changing the global community by having students as leaders and architects of change.
 - Embrace creative solutions.
 - Work toward sustainability.
 - Strong communication skills (writing in particular necessitates more attention).
 - Encourage critical inquiry.
- Research and Artistic Creation –A critical and defining element of Carnegie Mellon
 - Focus on real world problem solving.
 - Engage global societies.
 - Have students ask questions: What are you trying to achieve at the end of the day? What is the critical value added to the world?
- Regional Impact: Welfare of the communities in which we reside.
 - Campus as a beacon; Carnegie Mellon has huge social, economic, and cultural influence

- in the Pittsburgh area.
 - The regional economic impact of the University is technology driven economic growth.
 - Internationalization: Students travel abroad.
 - We take many infrastructure risks in this regard.
 - Students need to think more about the global context.
 - There also needs to be more research.
 - Students should make connections to abroad experiences to the local area.
 - Communication: Alumni support.
 - There needs to be a place for talented students to learn and grow.
 - Students genuinely make a difference.
 - Financial: Not as critical, but is practical. We need this to meet other core objectives.
 - Want to raise endowment, optimize campus space, embrace environmental sustainability, and invest in info technology.
- Plan helps people understand the institution.
 - Questions:
 - (Vivake Prasad) How does the plan expand access to CMU education, like with financial assistance?
 - It's in the finance and infrastructure section. It's one of those areas that fits in-between. It's captured a lot of attention lately. We are discussing financial support for international students and merit versus financial aid awards. However, there's a practical reality that we don't have the resources to match peer institutions. We would rank 54th in the US based on finances (we are thus very efficient with resources). We need to make sure the diversity of the community is part of the decision making. Michael Murphy holds a bias ROI for the Carnegie Mellon degree because it's higher than peer institutions. Have great job and grad school placement. They want to think of creative ways to help students finance their educations but reality still stands.
 - (Michael He) Students are concerned with student life however the plan is very general in addressing them. Do you have more specifics, like housing and dining?
 - Housing and dining is not specifically mentioned in the plan. In Education and Student life, it is one of the divisions. We need greater student engagement in these plans. We also need more explicit information regarding them. Priority is on education and academics. Hence, we will not spend as much on residential buildings. We intend to listen to students about priorities.
 - (Benjamin Trump) Is it possible to give students perspectives in the direction we are going?
 - We need to make it user friendly. Students care most about what is critical to the individual. We will provide an opportunity for students to enter their spin on the plan.
 - (Brian Wade) There is a lot of strength on academics and balance with cocurricular activities. Where do you want to be and what is the end goal?
 - There is a profound difference since the past 10 – 20 years. We've come a long way. The critical domain is really caring about students and staff. But we need to still fully integrate it into our ethos. There definitely needs to be a clearer objective. Professional focus of the institution is different at Carnegie Mellon. We cannot lose that distinction; need to have even more opportunities. Need a more fully integrated regional experience. Mental and physical health not as firm in our mission.
 - (Daniel O'Toole) What difference would students see if we did raise the billion dollars?
 - If you look at the plan, there is focus on research, scholarship, and financial aid (grad

and undergrad). Also on significant facilities investments. All will impact the student experience.

- (Nik White) The connection to alumni, can you talk more about that?
 - This connection is very important, mentioned in the “lifelong connections” section. Alumni don’t have a warm affection for the institution; we need to capture ways to get people involved. We have a relatively lower donor base than peer institutions.
- (Jerry) Number one focus is academics, when you say that you’re trying to create architects of change, what do you mean?
 - Metacurricular, embrace your ambition—create a campus that has the whole of the experience. Guest lectures, volunteer opportunities, and arts. Most are about your vision and our ability to facilitate that. Also leadership skills.
- (Vivake Prasad) How will the University hold itself accountable for accomplishing this?
 - There is a 95% retention of students compared to 60% in the 90’s. There are numbers that show this satisfaction. Tactical initiatives are measured in metrics. We need to be clearer about it and then report about meeting objectives.
 - Will the school give out reports of progress?
 - SACs for academic areas and a diversity action council. So, yes, they will.

- 5:55 Recess

- 5:56 Special allocation for the football initiative.

- Finance committee decided to fund full \$2,200 dollars.
- In need of school spirit. A department football game is a method to heighten school spirit. Four home games will be funded with the money. It will be called “Fall football fever 2008, have you caught it yet?”
- November 15 is the OIE, all American game. There will be an info session for international students.
- PR Budget for Doherty Posters. Also have T-shirts to promote.
- There are also lots of funding sources.

Questions:

- (Chistian) School colors?
 - We need to use a specific logo.
- (Nik White) \$5 dollar t-shirts.
 - We will look into that.

Discussion:

- (Daniel O’Toole) It’s one of the best thought out initiatives.
- (Vivake Prasad) Funding it is part of our mission.

6:03 Approved

6:04 President’s cabinet bylaws.

- The GSA voted yes to the cabinet and the amendments to it.
- The visibility committee bylaw is gone. It didn’t compliment other institutions in the branch.
- To have bylaws, the constitution needs to be amended.
- GSA felt that the approval and removal of application engineer should be by everyone that gives money for salary.

6:08 Question

- (Nara Kasbergen) Is this required of the President to have one if passed?
 - If it is passed, it is a permanent structure.

- (Christian) As elections board CTO, what if the applications engineer wants to run in senate?
 - He would be unable to.
- (RJ) What would be the visibility for the positions?
 - We will put out flyers and then have an interview process. We will have elections in the middle of October. Future President will have a cabinet by the end of September. Senate GSA has approval power of people on cabinet.
- (Robert Piston) Is it still up to the discretion of the student body president to have the cabinet?
 - We have decided that it'd be best to have a cabinet and it will remain permanent.
- (Thomas Tuttle) They are just working for the president, right?
 - Correct, besides the application engineer.

6:14 Discussion

- (Michael He) I think this would be a pretty good idea, but I don't believe it should be a permanent structure. It should be the discretion of the president.
- (Benjamin Trump) He did his homework.
- (Kush Mangal) The more help he gets the more he can do.
- (Vivake Prasad) For clarification, it is not a permanent structure, but a permanent suggestion.

6:17 Suspension of Bylaws (voice vote)

6:17 Vote passes on clause

6:20 Vote on entire bylaws on Presidents cabinet. Passed

6:22 Committee Reports

- Academic Affairs (Brian Wade): Action plan on UCA; refine them for scheduling classes. Need better UCA. At the UEC meeting, they started a personal nutrition class as a push to have more curriculum on health and stress management to be more proactive in wellness management. Also begin a writing center.
- Business Affairs (Benjamin Trump): Fully updated action plan. Spend time investigating housing and dining and the Parker's contract and parking. 7pm on Mondays for meetings. Committee chair will meet with Michael Murphy next week. Also, the Gallup poll next week; sampling student opinions of everybody on campus—have people participate in online surveys (10% of students). Anything with campus life and tuition costs.
- Campus Life (Dorian Adeyemi): Wants to have an aggressive semester. Read the new policy regarding the school meal plan. Campus gear sale; need money for funding motions. Work on the Campaign for Great Ideas. Work with business affairs with the printing issues. Late night event November 22—need ideas tell Dorian in person or email.
- Communications (Nara Kasbergen): Focus on ongoing projects, like posterings. Also the gavel—says what Senate has been doing in the past week. Bulletin board in UC. Work on the website.
- Finance: no report.
- Internal Development (Viviake Prasad): Speak out for dissenting opinions. Wants critical feedback of retreat.
- Chair: Students on student advising councils. Dining and security task force. Healthy campus 2010. They are ways to reach the administration
 - Student Affairs
 - Campus Services
 - Enrollment Services
 - Facilities Management
 - Housing and Dining/ athletics
 - (one senator assigned to each SACs)

- AB chair is coming in next week (it's an external committee of Senate).
- In October Jared Cohen comes for spotlight series.

6:45 Point of Discussion

- Meals, get an operating budget or have dues.
- Money for food means less money for allocations.
- Free food is a draw for people; it gets more involvement
- Perhaps formulate an operating budget. Might go under the Internal Development Committee.
- Another option is for senators to pay for food during the meetings.
- Senate subsidize (pay dues).

7:06 Announcements:

- BOC September 19
- Trip to Washington D.C. is on September 27 to meet with CMU Qatar Student government people
- The member at large elections is next week
- Student advisory councils.
- Salad conference.

7:11 Second Roll Call