

Undergraduate Student Senate
General Body Meeting Minutes
11/20/14

5:02 PM- Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Passed

5:03 PM- Audience Participation

5:10 PM- SARVP Update: Julia Eddy and Vaasavi Unnava

- Working with PSGC for mobilization on Sexual Assault Prevention policy
- Student committee at CMU, joint effort through Student Government Exec
- Discussions throughout the week regarding these policies
- Success so far in conversations
- Regional level with PSGC
 - Sexual Assault Sub-committee
 - Attempt to change culture surrounding sexual assault policy and awareness
- National Level: Make the regional network a national network
 - Connecting colleges in similar situations
 - Trying to create a network activist groups will approach regarding new policies
 - UPenn and Columbia have signed on to join effort on the national level

5:12 PM- Chair Report

- Student Giving
 - Push from President Suresh and his office to increase rate of students giving back
 - Discussions with student government about such a perceived need
 - Proposal to receive 100% rate of donation among Senators in body by the third meeting of the second semester
 - Why is it important?
 - Reflects our school pride
 - Donation can be as small as \$1 for statistical purposes
 - Not about amount, but about choice and principle of giving back
 - Can choose a specific organization or program to donate to directly
 - Choice of peers: begins the chain of people asking, "Why should I give? Are others giving?"
 - Not only direct monetary impact, but also long-term addition of value to degree and to school
 - "Shooting ourselves in the foot" by not allowing this part of the rankings to reach potential
 - Hope that Student Government representatives can lead the move forward on this
 - Feedback

- Tuition cost may be a factor
- Can make it that future students don't have to pay as much by giving directly to scholarship fund
- Giving back as a reflection of how much this school influenced your ability to achieve in the future
- To be truly affective on campus, will need to change some perception of school "not caring" about students
- General idea of good example, but would like to see idea of follow-up initiatives
- Could be a part of programs such as Senate Week, including active donations in addition to outreach to students
- Goal could be: 100% Senate Participation, but also 100% communication about donation
- Attacking the number, should also attack the underlying issues
- Should communicate the fact that donations can go towards specific programs or projects
- Donate to what makes the school so great for you, make a personal investment
- Uncomfortable with voting on specific initiative to reach 100% mark, would put pressure on potentially uncomfortable situation
- Could look at this in context of competition between organizations (e.g. friendly competition of whom can get to 100% first)
- Could be pushed during specific events such as Carnival
- Committee has been formed to attempt to make this student giving a part of our cultural precedent
 - Lead by Connie Yang
 - Ideas can be discussed with Connie and this committee
 - Full start-up after break

5:32 PM- Finance Allocation: CMU Chabad Dinner

- Asking for funding to support united Chabad Dinner
- Joint dinner with Pitt and other university communities
- Recommended \$1260.00
- 90 CMU students in attendance
- Majority of CMU students were undergraduate students
- Attendance was non-restrictive
- Advertised through website and posters
- Concern about potential of funding costs for grad students with undergrad money
 - Not clear numbers, but also would be deciding against funding undergrads with small caution towards funding grad students
- 20-3-2 Pass

5:41 PM- Ex-Officio: Gina Casalegno and Anita Barkin regarding Smoking Policy

- Smoking Policy for campus has been under review by diverse committee

- Attempting to reduce factors such as second-hand smoke exposure and dangerous habit-forming
- Clear trend among our contemporaries in direction of smoke or tobacco-free policy
- Basis of discussion on HealthyU self-report survey
 - 85% undergraduate students reported no nicotine consumption in past 30 days
- Additional concerns to make policy consistent with CMU environmental concern
- Eliminates cost of maintenance and cleanup regarding tobacco products
- Consensus of committee: Recommend that CMU should become a Tobacco-free campus
 - Included implementation timeline
 - Under review now by various governing bodies and seeking support to move forward with this policy on a campus-wide level
- Discussion
 - Can respond to these thoughts in survey
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Tobacco-Free-Campus>
 - What kind of resources would be available for those who quit as a result of this policy?
 - Not an expectation
 - Replacement products and services can be provided through campus resources
 - Would incorporate all products such as cigarettes, pipes, chew, etc.
 - Why smoke-free rather than smoke-free?
 - Committee discussed this, but emphasizing that all tobacco products have been linked to negative health effects
 - Concern regarding international community and large percentage of smokers being part of this community
 - Smoking locations are being limited on an international scale, and world-wide trend is in smoke-free direction
 - May not be able to say confidently that international students make up a significantly larger part of smoking population
 - Designated smoking areas may not be meeting the needs of the community
 - Emphasis on setting cultural example for small children on campus (Children's School and Cyert Center)
 - Smoke-free environment is more conducive to quitting behaviors
 - Want to preserve and respect rights of individuals as much as possible while condoning healthy behavior
 - Would this have an effect on Faculty and Staff?
 - Not in a large part, but will be working with services (e.g. culinary and ISS staff) to pay them due attention in this process
 - These services were represented on committee, and they have been informed that there may be some actions taken in this direction

- Safety issue of changed locations for smokers
 - Given space around us, with public access, this may not be as large of an issue
 - Still mindful of this potential issue, but this will be addressed
- How might this policy be enforced?
 - Hopefully whole campus would contribute
 - CMU Police would be involved
 - Good question to discuss: How would this policy be presented to students?

6:11 PM- Points of Discussion

- ID Events
 - Dancer's Symposium- December 6th
 - Tisbert- November 21st and 22nd
 - Holiday Party- December 5th
 - "I'm not a funny person" –Vaasavi Unnava

6:18- Announcements

- Light-up Night Tomorrow- CL has shuttles, invite people
- Bowling Saturday 22nd 3:00 PM