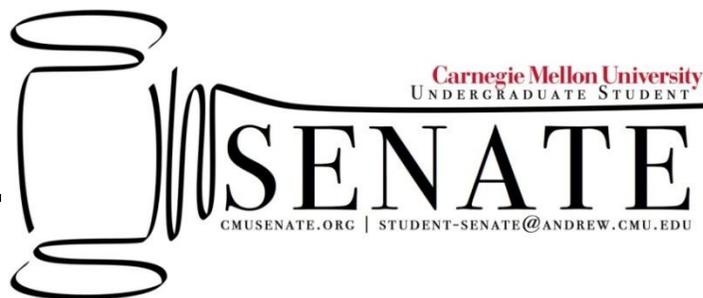


# Minutes

General Body Meeting Spring 2012  
February 16, 2012

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	Senators Present	Senators Absent
<b>CIT</b>	Anshul Dhankher Mala Shah (2 absences) Sohini Roy William Elmore (0.5 absence) Ashley Dickson (3 absences) Joshua Yee (0.5 absence) Brian Ferri Mariah Ondeck (1 absence)	Alyssa Danesh (1.5 absences) David Zhou (1.5 absences)
<b>MCS</b>	Rafael Segal (0.5 absence) Lukas Ronner Ashley Reeder (2.5 absences)	Neha Chaurasia (2 absences)
<b>CFA</b>	Nikhil Sambamurthy Travis Rozich	Jonathan Mark (2.5 absences) Brian Kim (1.5 absences)
<b>TSB</b>	Rishi Patel (1.5 absences)	
<b>HSS</b>	William Weiner Bryan Wade (0.5 absence) Nancy Brown (1 absences) Seth Vargo (0.5 absence) Mike Shin Jalen Poteat Jack Butler (0.5)	
<b>SHS</b>	Joseph Vukovich	
<b>SCS</b>	Daniel Pomeroy (1.5 absence) Joseph Choi (0.5 absence)	Amy Quispe (3.5 absences)

## 5:06 – Approval of Agenda

- Motion to Approve Agenda and Minutes. Seconded by Amy. Voice Vote. Motion Passed

## 5:07 – Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs**
  - [Bianka] Renamed University Lecture Series to “Live at CMU” and individual events will be called “<speaker name> at CMU” which sounds more friendly
  - [Bianka] Andrew and I are meeting with professional development and academic affairs on Monday – we’ll update everyone on details as we find out but good things are happening

- **Business Affairs**
  - [Anshul] Met last week regarding biking services. A walkthrough will be directed for bike racks funded by GSA. A bike sharing system is in the works and we may be collaborating with the B-cycle bike sharing company
  - [Anshul] We have online and hard-copy surveys ready for 2<sup>nd</sup> floor UC space issues
  - [Anshul] HSAC last week was talking about moving to different insurance companies
  - [Anshul] Dan has created a survey for senators who attend different SAC meetings. It's very comprehensive system to get reports from SAC meetings
- **Campus Life**
  - [Rishi] We bought earplugs for Hunt Library. Going to brand them and place them in Hunt
  - [Rishi] UC Center is on board for game room changes – an allocation will come next week
  - [Rishi] Jalen and Mala are working on \$5 T-shirts and setting up a design competition soon
- **Communications**
  - [Vivek] Gavel is launching tomorrow,
  - [Vivek] Brian is working on the tablecloth. We're going with plaid
  - [Vivek] Joshua is working on banners to hang on Doherty and also for orgs that receive our allocations
  - [Vivek] Shalini is working on T-shirts.
  - [Vivek] Seth is working on the website and adding new senators.
  - [Vivek] Rafael is working on signs for the meeting.
  - [Vivek] Andy is working on the plaque for the Doherty printer
- **Finance**
  - [Mike] 2 allocations today
- **Internal Development**
  - [Ashley R] Mentees – make sure to contact your mentors
  - [Ashley R] Good job everyone on updating the spreadsheet. I've added a status bar. Keep it updated
- **Chair Report**
  - [Will W] Excomm is canceling Senate Week – we don't think it's necessary for a whole week, maybe a giant BBQ or Carnival cooldown the week after Carnival
  - [Will W] Town Hall last Tuesday regarding port authority.
  - [Seth] We seem to be only targeting students, but with meetings at CulinArt everyone seems interested
  - [Will W] We would like to talk to faculty heads
  - [Lukas] is there a plan to spread the initiative to other campuses?

- [Will W] We outlined a plan at the PGSC meeting for schools to spread the word to their student bodies – I'll be checking in with them early next week
- [Seth] Can we put signs on store windows
- [Will] yes maybe even bus stops

## 5:28 – Special Allocations

- **Bhangra**

- **Finance**

- [Mike] Event in the West Coast – very exciting and gets the CMU name out to West Coast. We observed a \$1500 gap in expenses vs. income instead of the \$3000 that was initially requested. We have decided to recommend \$750 for travel expenses.

- **Bhangra**

- [Bhangra] About 30+ teams that applied for the competition. We're one of the 5 that were selected – very prestigious and we're the only east coast team to be selected at Warrior Bhangra

- **Questions:**

- [Bhangra] Is it possible to ask for more than \$750?
- [Bianka] How much do you really need?
  - We received \$1500 from JFC. We initially requested \$3000 to subsidize members to pay as little as possible so around \$150. We only need to pay for hotel/transportation costs for entire weekend
  - [Joe] \$200 per member was discussed during finance committee. I don't think it's an unreasonable amount
  - [Mike] What we thought was that each of the 15 members would pay \$200 and with the \$1500 from JFC, \$2500 would be leftover for senate and fundraising – so we came up with gap of \$1500 accounting for fundraising
  - [Bhangra] We thought fundraising would be more like \$500
- [Seth] Where are you taking the JFC budget from?
  - [Bhangra] We initially requested this money for travel expenses to Boston since we usually go there, but this competition is more prestigious
- [Willie] Without fundraising the gap is \$2500
- [Ashley r] Have you done any fundraising events?
  - [Bhangra] Not yet but we've solidified a Bhangra Workshop – charging \$20 for 4 classes which will probably be successful. We have other ideas like T-shirts, keychains, bake sales with many designs ready so the fundraising process is very well underway
- [Seth] What's the date of the competition?
  - [Bhangra] March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 2

- [Bhangra] There's also a possibility of winning \$2000 if we win, \$1000 for 2<sup>nd</sup> – other small awards like congeniality awards
- **Discussion**
  - [Bianka] I used to be in Bhangra and I know how hard they work. This event publicizes CMU Bhangra and I'm all for allocating \$750 if not more
  - [Seth] if you were to win the money – what would you do with it?
    - [Bhangra] Purchase new uniforms. We've grown from a 12-member team to 29. A lot goes into costume maintenance. We have to call India, Skype with tailors from India and have it shipped here
  - [Ashley R] I support the \$750 and see the value of this trip. Have you applied to DoSA and GSA? They're a major source of funding
    - [Bhangra] We were waiting for the results of this meeting so we can apply to DoSA/GSA accordingly. Senate should be the major funding source since it's more relevant since for this competition, we're only bringing 1 graduate student
  - [Jack] I'm on the Bhangra team. The Bhangra community is huge. I'm in full support of this allocation – just going to competition itself will bring a lot of attention
  - [Joe] To clarify the budget: \$1500 from JFC, \$200 per member, an estimated \$500 between DoSA and GSA – the rest is on Senate and fundraising
  - [Rishi] Would any members not go if it's too much money?
    - [Bhangra] Yes, some may not go
  - [Steven] If only 1 graduate student is going, I highly doubt GSA will fund it
  - [Willie] How many grad students?
    - [Bhangra] We are only sending one so that the undergrads get more exposure, this also makes our organization sustainable
  - [Ashley R] I would like to move forward with the \$750 - maybe come back to us if the gap is too large
  - [Mike] We think you should get money from DoSA, we also thought 3-4 graduate students were going as this was the number given to the finance committee
    - [Bhangra] Yes, but now we've confirmed that only 1 graduate student is going
  - Call to Question. Motion to allocate \$750 to Bhangra. 19-0-3. Passed
- **SIFE**
  - **Finance**
    - [Mike] This is for Project Panama Project which is part of SIFE. The problem we have is that SIFE doesn't allocate funds to each project within their organization so the budget is not broken up into parts

- **SIFE**
  - [SIFE] We go down to Panama and help the indigenous people who are starting businesses (e.g. small shops, farms) with business, accounting etc. We are also working with a NGO called Global Brigades. One comment to add is that the SIFE treasurer allocated \$900
  - [Mike] According to our analysis, SIFE should have been more responsible with their money and given you more for the trip.
  - [Will W] I heard from John that there was a certain amount allocated by JFC for this line item and the SIFE treasurer allocated less than that
  - [Mike] \$1642 should have been allocated to them but they're only getting \$900
- **Questions**
  - [Ashley R] What else is SIFE funding?
    - [SIFE] SIFE has many other projects and trips. Last year JFC allocated \$6000 for Project Panama but SIFE did not allocate any of it to us for our project
  - [Anshul] Should we allocate this since it's an internal issue with SIFE?
    - [Mike] our recommendation is based on JFC budget
  - [Lukas] Can you elaborate on the campus presentation?
    - [SIFE] We help the people in Panama and try to bring the experience back to campus by having an open discussion/presentation about the cultural impact
- **Discussion**
  - [Seth] This was fiscally irresponsible from SIFE and I don't feel comfortable giving you more money so SIFE can use that money to filter down to incorrect channels
  - [Ashley R] I'm having similar hesitations, what's your communication with the SIFE President
    - [SIFE] We have a weekly meeting every Monday with a lot of interaction
  - [Ashley R] Why aren't you getting the money you're supposed to get?
    - [SIFE] I've never heard of the \$1600 number. SIFE treasure told us we have \$900
  - [Willie] The finance committee's recommendation is based on the travel metric as if this SIFE internal issue didn't exist
  - [Vivek] When you need to purchase something, do you have to go through SIFE or a separate account
    - [SIFE] We have to go through the SIFE account unless we have cash from fundraising
  - [Vivek] SIFE leadership should come talk to us
  - [Mike] Point of information: budgettracker for SIFE has a separate section for Panama Project
  - [Casey] Did you include revenue that they're expected to bring in from Panama?

- [Mike] Yes
  - [SIFE] I'm assuming the difference is that you calculated percentage from the JFC budget while the SIFE treasurer did not
  - [Andrew S] This is a leadership issue with SIFE. We should talk with JFC to make sure things like this don't happen again next year. By underfunding them, we will send a message to SIFE but giving them no money will not do more. we should do what, shouldn't been shooting messenger, needs follow-up about community presentation, we don't know what the impact is, we need to know community impact
  - [Anshul] I don't feel comfortable putting these guys in a tough situation, I agree with the recommended allocation
  - [Lukas] If you take away community impact, this seems like a very similar situation to funding global medical brigades. I feel the reason we were considering GMB was due to unexpected cost and the reason to not fund them was because very few people were on the trip.
  - [Mike] We are being consistent by using the travel metric
  - [Nancy] It's pointless to punish them. Whether or not we decide to fund them, a message will be sent
  - [Seth] Move to decrease allocation to 0. No second
  - [Ashley D] It sounds like with this recommendation, we're not funding the discrepancy between SIFE treasury and JFC. We're ignoring the internal issue
  - [Mike] Yes, with this recommendation, we are pretending they got \$1600
  - [Willie] Move to vote. 14-4-3. Passed
  - Motion to allocate \$750 to SIFE. Roll Call Vote. 11-7-3. Not Passed.
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- [Seth] Motion to petition Will to audit SIFE. It's evident to me that SIFE is not following the JFC budget. It's our responsibility as Senate to send a message, make a formal motion and recommend an audit.
  - [Ashley R] for continuity's sake, we should adhere to the travel metric but we strayed from it
  - [Nancy] The money was confusing and it's evident that the financials are screwed up
  - [Ashley R] I think there's something to be said about not shooting messengers. There was definitely fiscal irresponsibility on behalf of SIFE but I feel we should have adhered to the travel metric
  - [Andrew S] By giving the money, we would have adhered to the travel metric and a message would have been sent by the audit anyway. By giving them \$0, we sent a significant message to SIFE but we also shot down 15 members.
  - [Bryan W] The numbers got so confusing in the end. This isn't the end-all for the group. It's important to know what we're voting on

- [Ashley D] Even if we gave our recommended amount, they would still be short \$700, I think message would have been sent, even if we gave the recommended amount
- [Vivek] If the finance recommendation was given, the message would have been sent and we could have motioned for an audit
- [Anshul] they can always come back to us
- [Mike] I'm seeing here that the funding gap is \$14,000, I don't know where they will get the money from
- [Ashley R] What they don't fundraise is from their own pockets
- [Jack] This gives them a chance to go back to SIFE – figure out what's happening with their money and gives them a chance to come back to us. I don't see a problem with what we did
- [Mala] This discussion is getting circular
- [Willie] Call to question. Voice Vote. Passed.

## **6:12 – Points of Discussion**

- **Port Authority Cuts**

- [Will W] There was a hearing at the Convention Center. I'm chatting with Gina to get a bus down there to have student representation. The next step is to figure out a date to get a hearing in Harrisburg where the state government is located. CMU governmental relations are trying to figure out which week to go. All of us are involved in organizations; we have at least 800 or so signatures for the petition. I'll send some emails to you guys.
- [Carlos] It broke 1100 signatures last night
- [Rishi] Maybe send an email to all org leaders through orgtracker?
- [Will W] Yes I'll talk to will Zhang about it
- [Vivek] this is one of those things where we should push from every angle possible
- [Will W.] I'll follow up with other schools, try to get Pitt and Duquesne into the bus trip. One thing Carlos and I have talked about is that this is a state-wide thing. Cuts affect the whole state with transportation cuts. I'll be communicating with the Faculty Senate.
- [Andrew s] Penn state is huge, and maybe Upenn as well
- [Ashley R] We probably all have contacts at Penn State, spread the word to your friends
- [Lukas] I have a lot of contacts in Upenn that I can get on board with this
- [Rishi] What about GSA?
- [Will W.] They've been doing well and have nice momentum going.

- **Community Impact**

- [Andrew S] I'd like to address community impact regarding events that we allocate money towards – I don't think someone giving a powerpoint on a weekday warrants

thousands of dollars worth of allocations. We need to follow-up. We need to reinforce the idea that groups need to bring something substantial back to campus

- [Anshul] Maybe a larger spring break trip showcase?
- [Casey] The International Festival during Ceilidh weekend is a whole time period where Spring Break trip groups bring back experiences to the community
- [Brian W] The big issue with special allocations is that it seems to be money for personal travel
- [Andrew S] What is the role that spring break trips play during Ceilidh Weekend
- [Casey] It's a formal presentation and part of the schedule of events for the weekend
- [Steven] Just a side comment, I see where exactly the SIFE treasurer came up with \$900 for the Panama Project
- [Anshul] going back to spring break, I know there's a Ceilidh Weekend but I'm envisioning something larger with more impact – something closer to the students
- [Jack] I agree with Anshul that other things are happening for Ceilidh Weekend and it doesn't impact CMU as a whole as much as it can
- [Andrew S] I feel like should be more to the special allocation system in general We can make this a better system with a better name for senate, set a precedent that if you want money from Senate you really need to work to get it
- [Will W] I can see the validity of these Spring Break trips - getting our names out internationally, it's a big draw and it also depends on how you define impact
- [Ashley D] For travel metrics I think it mostly benefits students
- [Will W] Another way to think of it, the student activities fee came from the travel metric since it's also for the individual student, not necessarily for community impact
- [Andrew S] I think for Bhangra, you can see their impact on campus, but I'm not sure about SIFE. I feel like right now, there's so much money flying around. I feel like it's not complicated enough. There's a lot of motivation/collaboration on-campus. I think if SIFE came to us knowing they were going to get money
- [Will W] It goes back to my point that it's the students money since it's from the student activities fee. In our bylaws it doesn't say allocations need community impact. 90% of student activities fees goes to JFC, 10% goes to Senate so we're essentially supplementary funding for JFC
- [Rafael] Maybe one way to we deal with this is to have finance committee require community impact before it's brought to the general body
- [Will] community impact is not a requirement, it's a criteria, I would argue both allocations today both clearly benefit the campus
- [Lukas] Given what I hear, people come to us expecting money and there are certain things required of them. Part of that requirement is an understandable and airtight budget

- [Dan] I agree with Schwartz. I don't think that you are entitled to the student activities fee, I'm not comfortable with the travel metric. I'm not saying we should get rid of it but I do think in the future we should try and understand the impact a group will have when we give an allocation. The budget should be happening at the finance committee level.
- [Carlos] We shouldn't expect some return for the money we're giving off. It's the Senate' job to reallocate this to the students. If you make it formal/more complicated – this may make it easier to circumvent the system
- [Willie] I agree with Carlos, if you read the bylaws, having a great campus impact is one of the criteria but also CMU Bhangra came with unexpected cost also another criteria. Non-recognized groups come to us as well
- [Andrew S] When I said more complicated, I didn't mean more criteria. There are 6,000 undergrads on-campus. What I'm saying is there should be more importance on community impact. We're running into the red, there's obviously more demand than supply. If there's more demand for special allocations budget, we should be asking more of people who are asking for our money
- [Jack] There should be a decent community impact since it's just 10% of student activities. I don't think it's fair to the community if it only benefits a small group
- [Dan] I suggest we have a Robert's Rules go-through. Some people were confused about how JFC funnels down

### **6:38 – Announcements**

- [Will W] Hot chocolate this Friday
- [Will W] Student information exchange computing services feb 29<sup>th</sup> 3:30-6
- [Anshul] CIT senators – sign up for late-night
- [Mike]for economics majors, etiquette dinner
- [Rafael] skiing trip this weekend
- [Will W] Scotch n Soda play this weekend, Friday at 8, Saturday at 1 and 4:30

### **6:40 – Adjourn**