Minutes

General Body Meeting Fall 2011
November 3, 2011

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT SENATE
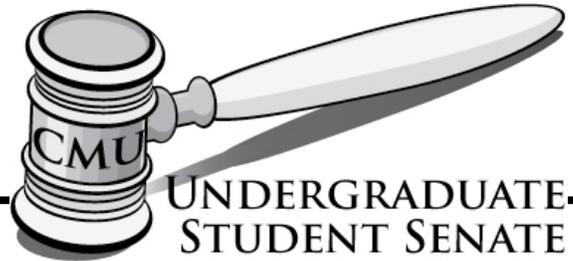
Senators Present:
SCS: Peter Liang (1.5 absence), Daniel Pomeroy, Amy Quispe (0.5p),
CIT: Alyssa Danesh (1.5 absence), AnshulDhankher (.5 absence), Ashley Dickson, Willy Elmore, Jake Flitter, Kyra Gould (1 absence), Abigail Ondeck, Sohini Roy (0.5 absence), Bryan Spencer (1.5 absence), Joshua Yee (2 absence)
HSS: Jennifer Li (0.5 absence), Mike ShinSeth Vargo, Bryan Wade (2.0 absence), Will Weiner,
BHA/BSA/SHS: Andrew Biar (0.5 absence)
TSB: Dixon Liang (1 absence),Rishi Patel (0.5 absence)
CFA: Jonathan Mark (2.5 absence), Travis Rozich, Nikhil Sambamurthy
MCS: NehaChaurasia (0.5 absence), Fermin Liang (1 absence), Ashley Reeder (1 absence), Rafael Segal (0.5 absence), Stephen Tjader
Senators Absent: Nancy Brown (1 absence), Aaron Chiu (1.5 absence), Christopher Jarrett (1 absence), Mala Shah (1.5 absence), Andres Velez (1.5 absence), Joseph Vukovich (1 absence),

5:03– Approval of Agenda

> **Motion to approve agenda. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed.**

5:05 – Audience Participation

- Ashley Reeder: I would like to MCS senator after please

5:05 – Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs**
    - o This and next week, please bring some feedback about advising
    - o Working to change policy or provide metric for three exams on the same day; deciding which professor gives the make-up
- **Business Affairs**
    - o Bike sharing system is being discussed with GSA, and we are continuing research; this will be good since we need more manpower
    - o Library reserves is going to be a pilot project through MCS
    - o Bryan is working to get music in the UC Game Room
    - o Revamping the space between the mailroom and the bank in the UC
    - o Getting signs for sharing tables in cafes
- **Campus life**
    - o We're still working on the same projects

- o The head of FMS, and he wants to reduce people-bike incidents
- o Dr. Cohen said that they are going to improve Skibo Gym
- o Questions:
  - ▪ [Member-at-large] The head of FMS emailed me about the bike racks – I will forward the email
- **Communications**
  - o Hot chocolate hasn't happened yet, but that will hopefully happen at the campus gear sale this week
  - o Senate Logo is almost done
  - o We're going to get a new table cloth and banner
  - o I had Andy working on signs for the Doherty printer
  - o [Amy] Is the usage for the Doherty printer tracked?
    - ▪ Yes. Traffic has increased.
- **Finance**
  - o There will be more allocations next week
- **Internal Development**
  - o Look at the Senate sheet: it's being updated well
  - o Will be tracking use of Track Sheet to improve its usage
- **Chair Report**
  - o It's possible for Senate to raise activities fee for just undergraduate students; I will be plotting out the model through research
  - o Gina and Dr. Cohen meeting with Jason for club sports went well; the results are promising
  - o We've been spending on pace, and the actual amount we've allocated more than in the previous two years, contrary to what Jake said last week.
  - o Financial responsibility discussions have been important
  - o We took a big hit due to ArtPass, and we are spending well

5:25 – SCS Caucus Report

- Amy Quispe
  - o Last week we had an SCS Caucus, and we wanted to know what CS students want
  - o There's a philosophy behind what the students want from there
  - o Main thing students were concerned about were classes
    - ▪ Multi-Semester courses are not very good
    - ▪ They want more minis and special classes
    - ▪ They feel that they are not preparing for the real world, like the new languages, e.g. iOS
    - ▪ SML is a language that was developed at CMU, and it predominantly taught, but it's not really applicable like JAVA
    - ▪ Someone proposed C@CM2 for CS students
    - ▪ Everything is being offered at the same time, and students are unhappy about it

- Some people talked about giving large exams after the drop deadline
- The senior honors thesis into Masters thesis was another suggestion
- Physical access to rooms problems in upper classrooms of GHC; school-wide access system should be available
- Clusters get locked at some point in the night, and there are no quiet clusters which would benefit students of all majors
- There are no interview rooms past business hours, and this is a problem since we get interviewed by a lot of companies in earlier time zones
- Extending the library hours to 24 hours
- Newell-Simon slope is really ugly
- Having classes in Gates would be good for CS
- No WiFi under the Pausch Bridge
- Color printer in Wean (?)
  - Yes, there's one there now
- More communication with Student Senate
- SCS events were also suggested
- Many people think Orientation is broken
- Annual battery recycling was brought up
- IS students are not getting proper representation for their department
- I will not be here next week, but I would like to stop by your committee meetings and talk to you about these

- Questions:
  - [Stephan] Didn't they just transition away from JAVA?
    - Yes, but it was poor before, and there are no required courses for JAVA
  - [Stephan] Do people want more or less forced interaction?
    - Those interactions aren't working currently, and people think networking may be more effective
  - [Alyssa] I think that if you could send this document to all of us to review again
  - [Seth] One of the reasons I left CS was because I felt that it was 10 years behind, but one of the reason I left was because of the hipster languages that they don't use
  - [Kyra] We should follow our rules for postering and not post in the bathrooms
  - [Rafael] What's that about KGB not being able to recruit?
    - KGB can't recruit effectively during orientation

5:43 – Special Allocations

- **ASLC**
  - Finance:

- ASLC was a part of ASA, and they have broken off; as a consequence, not JFC funded
- They've asked for funding for speaker fees, etc.
- We recommended to fund the travel fees
- They've been successful in the past
- They're hoping to get AB to cover some of the costs

o ASLC:
  - We've been doing this for three years

o Questions:
  - Fermin: How much did we fund them last year?
    - Less than what we are funding now. Last year, they funded $650, but they had a JFC budget last year with ASA
  - Rishi: Could you explain the event more?
    - We're trying to get Asian organizations to collaborate on this event; we want to bring inspirational speakers that are mostly Asian Americans
    - There are some alumni that are coming back to talk
    - There are some grad students as well
  - Willy: Do you know which organizations are contributing?
    - A lot of them have contributed
  - Bianka: Last year, you had a big-name concert, and that attracted a lot of attention. How are you expecting to do that again this year?
    - Last year's publicity has helped us a lot
  - Andy: Is this like an all day event?
    - We're going to start on Friday evening, and we're going from noon until six on Saturday
    - There will also be workshops
  - Seth: Why did you split from ASA, and did you ask them co-sponsor event?
    - We split from ASA so that the conference could grow, since we only got $3700 from JFC funding; ASA is in the red because of booth last year, and so they can't fund us
  - Ashley Reeder: How much are you expecting people from organizations that have funded you?
    - [POI] Kyra: It's directly proportional to the $8 fee.

o Discussion:
  - Anshul: When is the event?
    - Nov. 11
    - How have you been publicizing?
      o We ordered a banner, and we will be tabling; we have been postering and we put up a website
  - Mike: I think this is geared towards Asian Students, but it's not limited to anyone; campus is going to benefit

- Member-at-Large: You could expand your demographic to get wider exposure, and there could be more venues that you could grow to
- Willy: I don't think that speakers being Asian American inhibits anyone from coming
- Rishi: Why is finance not funding the full amount?
  - We didn't feel comfortable funding a general amount to this event, and we are contributing to the what is critical to the event, i.e. the speakers.
- **Motion to Vote. Hand Vote. 17-2-5. Passed. $1738.80 to ASLC.**

- **Bhangra**
  - Finance:
    - Bhangra in the Burgh came to us for funding
    - They are JFC funded, and they do lots of fundraising
    - We've recommended to fund $2685 of $6820 requested
  - Bhangra:
    - Since it's opening weekend for Pitt, and there's a Steelers game, we've been having trouble getting hotels and busses
    - DoSA hasn't funded us as much this year, and so we've been having trouble getting things in line that we had used their funding for
    - We are also not a homecoming event, so we lost the funding that came with that
  - Questions:
    - Bianka: I know we had busses last year – are we using the same bus company?
      - We had one bus last year, and the bus company is charging us per trip now
      - We also had individual drivers ferrying people over from hotels last year on their teams and on our end
      - Bianka: We allowed the teams to park in the CMU last year. Is that still the case?
        - Yes, we will compensate them for the night of.
    - Neha: What have you guys done for fundraising?
      - We've gotten lots of outside sponsorship
      - We spent the entire summer spending out 300 letters to corporations to get sponsorship
      - We had people had fundraise in the summer
    - Mike: How many people are you expecting? What are you charging for tickets?
      - We get 2500
      - We added a new category for tickets
      - We will also start a grant for CMU, and students, faculty, and staff can get access to that money for service

- Andy: When did you find out from DoSA that you weren't funded like last year?
  - Last week
- Anshul: Was the non-homecoming funding loss anticipated last year?
  - Yes, we knew that since April
  - We also lost effective funding since venues on campus were donated by time
- Seth: There's a discrepancy with JFC funding for the banner and your current request?
  - Yes, we were refunded part of the JFC funding because FMS tore the banner.
  - [Follow-up]: How many ZipCars do you get, and for what do you use it?
    - We sell food items on the day of, and we need to get back and forth from Costco
    - We also need to drive judges to and from the airport
- Rafael: There's a $6000 for prize money?
  - The incentive for teams to come and compete comes for prize money
- Discussions:
  - **[Fermin] Move to vote. Seconded by Bianka. Hand Vote. 9-11-3. Failed.**
  - Bianka: I worked with Bhangra in the Burgh last year, and was on a team in Freshman Year, and this is a fantastic event. When we treat the teams well, then the teams can say good things for us.
  - Andy: When I think of big events, I think Bhangra is a big event; their sound and lighting was very unexpected.
  - Neha: The number of CMU students at this event, this event will probably will have the most CMU student attendance of any event.
  - Bryan: We shouldn't move to vote right after getting into discussion.
  - Stephan: We funded more last year, and I don't think we should fund less.
    - Kyra: We don't have the comparison for funding, since they got new sources this year
  - Rishi: This is a huge event, and things are bound to go wrong at some level with something so big
  - **Seth: Motion to raise to $4302.50. Seconded by Anshul.**
    - Discussion:
      - Rafael: I like that idea. This is why we have special allocations

- - - - - - - - o Anshul: How did splitting from Mayur affect your JFC?
            - We get it directly, but the funding hasn't changed much
          o Member-at-Large: This is the first event that I've seen that incorporates freshmen
          o **[Rishi] Move to Vote. Seconded by Fermin. Hand Vote. Judgment of Chair, majority. Passed.**
          o **Vote. 17-3-4. Passed. Allocation raised to $4302.50.**
      - **[Andy]: Move to Vote. Seconded by Rishi. Hand Vote. Judgment of Chair, majority. Passed.**
      - **Vote. Hand Vote. 17-2-5. Passed. $4302.50 to Bhangra.**
- **Stever:**
    o Finance:
      - Late night dance party in the UC in December
      - It will be a huge party for all of campus
      - This is the first year they're doing it
    o Stever:
      - We put this together, and we are doing heavy advertising.
    o Questions:
      - Jing-Jing: I was under the impression that AB was going to fund this as well. Was I wrong?
        - That was a last minute request, so we are not sure, and TBA is on the same night
        - Follow-up: If AB does fund some of this, would Senate get money back?
          o If they fund it, we can come back to Senate and reduce the allocation. If there are additional funds, we can improve the event even more.
      - Vivek: When are you going to out of viral marketing?
        - Two weeks before we will, we'll poster more
        - We're going to poster big posters in freshmen dorms
      - Rishi: How are you going to promote this and make sure people know?
        - We're doing very high advertising
      - Seth: What are you charging for this?
        - It's free for students with an ID and donations of two cans
        - Where did you get the number 500?
          o The capacity of Rangos Halls
      - Mike: Are you asking for funding from other freshmen houses?
        - This is a campus-wide event
      - Rishi: Are you using the majority of your house budget for this?

- No, but we're trying to impact the entire campus
        - Seth: Given the timing of this event, have you considered the need for campus police?
            - If the number on Facebook is really high in event, then we will request a cop.
            - Where will you get the money for the cop?
                - We're saving money in other areas, and that's where we'll get the money
        - Bryan: Have you thought about advertising with other people at the same time?
            - Yes, like AB tech.
    - Discussion:
        - Kyra: You may reach out to other RAs as well.
        - Vivek: I think you're accurate in your financial assessments
        - Anshul: I really like the idea of this event, with both freshmen and upperclassmen
        - **[Rishi]: Move to Vote. Seconded by Bryan Spencer. Hand Vote. 19-2-2. Passed.**
        - **Vote. Hand Vote. 20-0-3. Passed. $1000 to Stever.**

6:42 – Points of Discussion:

- **Ceilidh Follow up:**
    - I think many students were overwhelmed
    - Rishi: I think have a kick off event
    - Seth: I think the concept of putting everything together on one weekend was good, but very poorly executed
    - Anshul: People had too much work
    - Jing-Jing: Homecoming is usually the same as Halloween right? That's kind of doable, but that's difficult to do. There was too much to do
    - Bryan: I think there was a big issue with Halloween and coinciding events
    - Will Weiner: I think parents were happy that there were lots of things to do
    - Member-at-Large: Parents and Halloween is not a good combination; especially the parents' weekend is geared to freshmen students
    - Rafael: I had tests before and after, along with homework. The teachers just didn't care. That said, I like the number of events.
    - Will Weiner: It felt like the PR wasn't so good.
    - Kyra: I think this could've been better advertisement on Facebook; we came here for academics. Professors shouldn't have to move things for a homecoming event
    - Will Weiner: I think that professors do make exceptions for Carnival.
    - Seth: CulinArt was very understaffed and under-stocked.
    - Anshul: What about this during midsemester break?
        - [Majority murmuring] No.

- o Guest: The academics were overwhelming this weekend.
  - o Fermin: I think the name change was very confusing
  - o Member-at-Large: I didn't know about the events until I looked online. I think from a freshman perspective, I think we need to be better told where to get things.CulinArt definitely had an issue.
  - o Neha: There were a lot of classes that coincided with this, and they should've known since most classes run on 4 week test cycles. The school does know, but they have logistical issues.
  - o **Motion to end discussion. Seconded by Fermin. Voice Vote. Passed.**
- **Questions for CFO**
  - o CFO is coming next week. What would you like to know?
  - o Willy: More accessibility
  - o Seth: Since all the colleges manage their own money, what does she actually do?
  - o Kyra: Can she give us a bigger picture of external donations and the breakdowns?
  - o Anshul: We should have great attendance, and so we should spread the word.

7:02 – Second Roll Call

- **Motion to Adjourn. Seconded by Bryan Spencer. Voice Vote. Passed**