

Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Student Senate

Minutes: 14th General Body Meeting Fall 2009 – November 19, 2009

5:03 Call to Order and First Roll Call

Senators Present: Natalie Morris (SCS), Thomas Tuttle (SCS, .5 absence), Eric Wu (SCS, 1.5 absence), William Zhang (SCS, 1 proxy, .5 absence), Rohan Agashe (CIT, 1 absence), Brandon Chock (CIT), Jake Flittner (CIT, 1.5 absence), Matthew Hwang (CIT, 1.5 absence), Abhi Jain (CIT, 1 absence), Bryan Lewis (CIT, .5 absence), Diane Lee (CIT, 1.5 absence, .5 proxy), Matthew Kuhn (CIT, 2.5 absence), Robert Piston Jr. (CIT), Jessica Santana (CIT, 1 absence), Keshav Raghavan (CIT, 2 proxy, 3 absence), Sonali Shah (CIT, 1 proxy, 4 absence), Jonathan Mark (CFA), Jarrett Adams (HSS, 1 absence), Yael Bushoy (HSS, 1.5 proxy, 2 absence), Ben Gutermen (HSS), Nikhil Iyer (HSS, .5 absence), Meghan Nahass (HSS, 1 proxy, 2 absence), Nicholas Ferrell (BHA/BSA/SHS, 2 absence), Varun Deshpande (MCS, 1 absence), Starsha Kolodziej (MCS, 1.5 absence), Michael Yang (MCS, 1.5 absence), Stacey Lu (CFA, 1.5 absence), Jon Mark (CFA, 4.5 absence), Akshay Udiavar (CFA, 3 absence), Toro Adeyemi (TSB, 2 absence), Stephanie Schneider (TSB, 2 proxy, 2 absence)

Senators Absent: Eduardo J. Benatuil (HSS, 1.5 proxy, 2.5 absence), Bassem Mikhael (BHA/BSA/SHS, 1 proxy, 3 absence), Abdul Torffick (CIT, 3 absence),

5:04 Approval of Agenda from 11/5/09

5:04 Audience Participation

5:05 Committee Reports

Academic Affairs (Ben Gutermen)

- GenEd committee will be meeting weekly next semester.
- Continuing on with same initiatives.

Business Affairs (Jake Fittner)

- Working on Health Services—will work in it more next semester
- Making a strategic outline for next semester.
- Printing kiosks
- Transparency in finances.

Campus Life (Jarrett Adams)

- T-shirts came in from gear sale.

Communications (Toro Adeyemi)

- Working on making poster to raise awareness on Tuition Tax—have it on Forbes so people can see it when they drive by.
- *Gavel* will be printed on the 30th

Internal Development (Eric Wu)

- Profiles are pending.

Finance (Robert Piston)

- Postpone finance presentation.
- Have bylaws for next semester.

Chair (Aaron Gross)

5:15 Ex Officio Report—Rotimi Abimbola, Student Body President

Transportation Fee/Loop Bus Referendum Language

- Need a sustainable funding source.

- Need a \$2-3 increase to support the loop bus.
- Initiative began from previous student body president.
- Based after Duquesne's loop bus.
- Last year was the pilot phase, but is now keeping it this year.
- Need feedback.
- Also given the loop bus presentation toward GSA—they believe it's geared more towards first year students.
- The transportation fee will increase by \$4 next year. The \$2-3 increase from the loop bus is in addition to the \$2 increase.
- Could cut ridership or could cut ridership hours. Also want breakdown on grad vs. undergrad.
- Want to get the word out—PR
- Still not perfect—still shaping it.

5:18 Questions

- (Ferrell) If people vote no, will it be stopped immediately?
 - The referendum is an indicator to give to the board of trustees. Of students day no, we so have resources to run it for another year and continue to pilot it.
- (Ferrell) Constituents like the service, but think that service should be cut or uses other services on campus to fund the service.
- (Piston) Ridership compared to the waterfront shuttle?
- (Tuttle) Argument shouldn't be paid for with the fee is absurd—it's the equivalent to one bus fare. Also would be cool to have a central website so that people can see what buses go where.
 - Create a schedule to transfer from loop bus and port authority bus.
 - Trying to get better time estimates so that people are not waiting around.
- (Adams) What is the fee increase?
 - \$2-3. If we cut services, it could be \$1.
- (Adams) That is reasonable. Need better marketing for the loop bus—not the “party bus.”
- Want to get a cost estimate on cost per student per ride.
- (Ann) Any opportunity to get Chatham or Pitt involved?
 - Just didn't really work out.
- (Ferrell) Don't personally feel that the increase is a big deal. Some constituents are angered that it's funded by a surplus—students think this will create another surplus.
 - We think the fee will provide something beneficial to the campus community.
- GSA is not opposed to the referendum; they just want to see particular issues addressed.
- (Mark) I don't think many freshmen are aware of the loop or waterfront bus—inform freshmen house fellows.
- Make loop bus cards.
- (Schneider) Reiterate the website—be very convenient for figuring out times.

5:35 New Business from Committee

5:35 09-10 043: Special Allocation of \$2528 to Activities Board for NACA Conference

- Sending four members to NACA conference.
- Have done this in the past but have stopped putting it into their JFC budget.
- Great way to make connections and book people for cheaper.

- Ann is new advisor and thinks this is a good way to bring back to AB and the campus community.
- Next year would in

5:33 Questions

- (Wu) How much would you be paying out-of-pocket?
 - It's a very expensive conference. It's about \$1,000 per person.
 - This is based on what has been done in the past.
- (Flittner) How many people are attending?
 - 4 students and Ann.

5:36 Discussion

- (Adeyemi) Normally, other organizations pay for some of their traveling out of pocket.
- (Wu) I agree with Toro.
- (Ferrell) We're paying for registration fee and half of the travel.
- (Piston) Need to look at the value it'll bring back to campus.
- (Schneider) Will be saving the camps community so much and will benefit the community.
- (Ferrell) No paying for food. Will still probably have to come up with their own amount.
- (Adams) Funding is based on the group's mission in their trip. The impact after this trip is profound.
- (Abimbola) AB is an arm of senate. We are all trying to create initiatives that enhance the student experience and this is what it's about.
- (Alex) A lot of people ask why don't we bring in larger names? This is a way to bring in those people.
- (Flittner) This one is unexpected—not in their JFC budget. They're getting funded from other sources. We always ask "what are you bringing back to campus?" and they're bringing back a lot to campus.

5:43 Move to vote. 21-1-4. Passed. \$2528 to Activities Board for NACA Conference

5:43 09-10 044: Special Allocation of \$155 to ISU for World Aids Canvas

- Have event for World Aids Day.
- Will fun paint and canvas.
- Trying to find a sponsor to buy the canvas.
- Kids Positive
- Will be in the UC by the black chairs.

5:44 Questions

- (Schneider) Sponsor?
- (Lu) It's cheaper to make your own canvas.
- What is the whole budget?
- (Lu) How big is the canvas and what kind of paint are you using?
 - 9 by 9 for each canvas, don't know what kind of paint.
- (Adams) How can you justify the cost of the supplies?
- They have already been bought.

5:47 Discussion

- (Adeyemi) Who will buy this? Have you looked into potential buyers?
- Yes, and we will also have students donate money on campus.
- (Morris) Have a contingency plan in case no one buys your canvas?
- We're also asking the campus to donate.
- (Nahass) Ok with funding the event but start putting it into the JFC budget.

- (Ferrell) The reps are definitely going to fundraise.
- (Flittner) I like it. Still a good idea regardless if they get people to buy it—it's a campus activity to bring people together.

5:50 Move to vote. Hand vote. 18-3-5. Passed. \$155 to ISU for World Aids Canvas

5:51 New Business from Committee

5:51 09-10 045: Resolution Calling for Opening of Upper Level Floors of the Gates-Hillman Complex

- Change a few grammatical errors.

5:53 Discussion

- (Morris) Spoke with Mark and they are talking about keeping it open later. Undergraduate students are very annoyed and we need to represent them.
- (Flittner) Regardless of what everyone else thinks, this shows everyone else
- (Wu) This closing doesn't completely prevent students from getting up there.
- (Schneider) Can we mention office hours?
- It's at the end of the second whereas.
- (Morris) Initial reason to close it was an incident of vandalism. Add clause that encourages students to respect the shared space.
- (Adams) Trying to cover the spaces between graduate and undergraduate student interaction. The collaborative spaces are all on the upper floors however when the Gates Center was advertised.
- (Wu) The probability for vandalism is reasonably high.
- (Tuttle) Disagree with the false advertising. Most of the spaces on 6-9 are office spaces. The primary problem is office hours. Most of the collaboration is actually on the lower floors. I would rather ask for longer hours.
- (Adams) Want to make the language so that they know that there isn't access to office hours. It's reasonable to assume we're not looking for 24 hour access.
- (Flittner) Like the way it reads right now—that it doesn't give a finite time. This is the first step. Needs to be more conversation to get finite times.
- (Zhang) I'm a TA and usually they're on lower floors.

6:03 Move to vote. Voice vote. Passed.

6:15 New Business from the Floor

6:20 Points of Discussion

Tuition Tax Updates

- (Schneider) Agree that there should be open forum in support of the other side.
- Agree. There was one email that supported the tax.
- (Flittner) It's the idea that we're offering the opportunity to have your voice heard. You don't pressure people to sign it.
- (Tuttle) What is the pro-tax argument?
- Fee charged by the city to your school—would not be covered by scholarships.
- Monday had a meeting with the presidents of Pitt, Robert Morris, Duquesne, Chatham—initiatives are to push forward letter writing, sign petitions, and make phone calls. Decided a protest was not a good idea. Don't want a bad image. Will meet again on the 30th
- Council meeting tomorrow at 1:30 PM. partnering with other student governments to get people to get there. Meeting at 12:35 at Forbes and Morewood.

- (Mark) Send email to School of Drama—only one person is in favor of the tax. Overwhelming amount of students against the tax.
- The emails are personalized.
- (Weiner) Hard to get people motivated. Getting people to take a step further than signing is much harder.
- (Morris) Some students are asking for copies of the petition. Classes are a great way to get signatures.
- (Mark) Fence is free.

College Caucus Updates and Reports

- (Morris) SCS: Poster. People came and complained. Main problem is with advising. Also thinks that they like/dislike about classes. CS students don't have enough resources to unburden themselves—need an outlet to whine and complain (sit in a circle and have play dough and cookies—CS anonymous).
- (Lu) CFA: Had meeting November 11. Was successful. Main problem is security in the CFA buildings—don't need to swipe cards for access. Also complain about studio access. Also need new equipment for all majors.

Student Health Services

- Not so imperative that we have a decision by December—administration will levy fee later.
- Dean Boyd wants us to make a proposal on Student Health Services. Business Affairs will work on this and gauge student opinion. Design a taskforce. This situation is much more open-ended. Need to figure out what's changing and what students want. Have a non-binding referendum on health services. Want to do more than just keep Health Services afloat. Could have service cuts or temporary copay until we make an informed decision.
- (Morris) Look at funding them from the student reserves.
- (Tuttle) We can ignore it, fund the X dollars and maybe some Y dollars for some extra stuff. Make sure we differentiate between the two choices.
- (Ferrell) We don't have to give them as much anymore
- Show commitment to students by supporting SHS. Don't want to create a bias.

Escort Service Task Force

- GSA is working with the chief of police.

6:33 Chair Nominations

6:45 Second Roll Call, Announcements, Adjourn