Minutes
General Body Meeting Fall 2011
September 15, 2011

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT SENATE
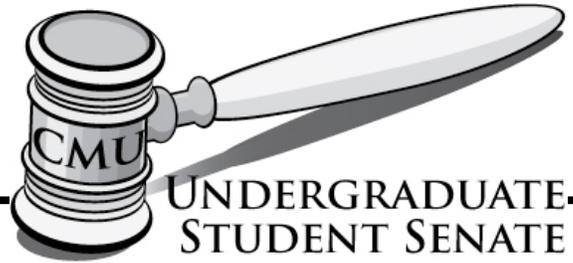
Senators Present:
SCS: Daniel Pomeroy, Amy Quispe (0.5p),
CIT: Alyssa Danesh (1 absence), Anshul Dhankher (.5 absence), Ashley Dickson, Willy Elmore, Jake Flitter, Kyra Gould (1 absence), Christopher Jarrett, Abigail Ondeck, Sohini Roy (0.5 absence), Mala Shah (0.5 absence), Bryan Spencer, Joshua Yee (1 absence)
HSS: Nancy Brown, Aaron Chiu (0.5 absence), Jennifer Li (0.5 absence), Andres Velez (0.5 absence), Seth Vargo, Bryan Wade (1.5 absence), Will Weiner,
BHA/BSA/SHS: Joseph Vukovich, Andrew Biar (0.5 absence)
TSB: Rishi Patel (0.5 absence)
CFA: Jonathan Mark (0.5 absence),
MCS: Neha Chaurasia (0.5 absence), Fermin Liang (1 absence), Ashley Reeder (0.5 absence), Stephen Tjader
Senators Absent: Peter Liang (1.5 absence), Joseph Ventricelli (3 absence)

5:01 – Approval of Agenda

- Motion to Approve Minutes. Voice Vote. Motion passed.
- Motion to Approve Agenda. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5:04 – Audience Participation

- None

5:05 – Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs**
  o Working on SIO and mobile scheduling
  o Academic surveys and comments received are being viewed
  o We are working on Interpretation and Argument and devising perhaps two sections
  o [Andy] Would it be mandatory to take Interpretation and Argument if you got an AP 5?
    ▪ No. You can pass out of it
  o [Jon Mark] Computing head wants to better the program
- **Business Affairs**
  o Lot of new initiatives
  o Magazines for UC black chairs area will be rolling out in a few weeks

- o Dining services to put frames in dining areas
  - o Game room issues from last week is being worked on
  - o Bike sharing system is in discussion for next semester
  - o Next meeting on Monday at 4:30 in UC
- **Campus life**
  - o Replacing stapler in West Wing
  - o Looking to replace water fountain in Skibo Gym
  - o Promoting campus gear
  - o Next meeting on Tuesday at 5:00
- **Communications**
  - o Working for a new Senate Logo
    - ▪ Looking at discussing with CFA
  - o Working on improving the Gavel
  - o Getting sunglasses for Senate
  - o Next meeting on Tuesdays at 7:30
- **Finance**
  - o Met with one group this week
  - o Putting together a sample budget as a guide for future groups we are going to meet up with. This is to streamline process
- **Internal Development**
  - o Retreat was a success
  - o New ideas coming to Senate
  - o Next meeting on Monday at 7:30
- **Chair Report**
  - o Discussed Fence last week, but we are still in discussion
  - o Will update on the Fence issue next week after another meeting
  - o Availabilities in some colleges for vacancies

5:15 – Ex-Officio Kim Abel, Director Housing and Dining Services

- I'm glad that I am here so early in the year so that you can get involved
- Our vision is to engage residential environments that reflects the standards and talents of the Carnegie Mellon community
- Our mission is to provide the **fundamental** services, food and shelter, and we view this as a **privilege**
- Our relationship with Senate has been ongoing and wonderful
  - o Bringing in student opinion has been instrumental in forming our dining and housing experiences
  - o Senate has been integral to our development
- There are lots of ways to get involved. These are initiatives for this year:
  - o Neighborhood project
    - ▪ What is it we need as a neighborhood?
    - ▪ What is it that we want to include?
    - ▪ How does the physical environment impact our lives? And how to be make pathways to connect ourselves?
  - o Digital communication study

- Looking at how students communicate today
- We got rid of phone lines, and there's money to invest as a result of that
  - Dining Services Advisory Council
    - Dietary issues, ethnic varieties
  - Resnik Patio
    - Patio next to Carnegie Mellon Café
    - Utilize the amphitheater
  - Front Door Initiative
    - How do we make residential environments more welcoming when you walk in?
  - Margret Morrison Façade
    - Fixing white "stuff" on the façade
  - Custodial RFP
    - There are contractual inadequacies that we would like to change
  - Assignments RFP
    - We do the assignments by hand, and it is a cumbersome process
    - We have software that will allow students to interact well
  - Access RFI
    - We are reaching the lifespan of the door-key systems that we are using
    - We are looking at the new technologies as we look to replace the hardware
- Questions:
  - [Guest] Can non-senators get on the committees?
    - Yes
  - [Jon Mark] Please don't tell Kim Abel that food is bad or things like that you can report to Plaid
  - [Anshul] How are we going to address the separation between underclassmen and upperclassmen?
    - I hope that some of that conversation will come out when we talk, because we are just starting the initiatives now
    - This isn't just Housing that is involved; there will be a lot of student councils involved
  - [Seth] Can you give us an update on DineX? I've heard about issues like Eat N Park not accepting DineX.
    - We are not going to expand the DineX off-campus
    - PlaidCash is a program that is more ubiquitous off campus
    - The vendor may choose to no longer participate, but I haven't heard about Eat N Park
  - [Anshul] Could you talk about PlaidCash a little more?
    - It's not part of Housing and Dining, but I think debit cards are just as useful; PlaidCash is more parent driven

- o [Jon Mark] With the room door for the Access RFI, what are they doing the update for? And are they for all buildings?
  - The door changes will be to the residence
  - We will have to replace the hardware, and that expense will be as significant when compared to if we update to a new system
  - System is not integrated at the moment because the system is outdated: this is a concern for safety
  - We cannot hardwire them all
- o [Seth] Do we need a whole new system for room selection? We have so many modules currently. Would we integrate the modules?
  - The S3 system for administration cannot be used for Housing and Dining
  - SIO is not dynamic since it will lead you to somewhere else
  - You can go to your computer instead of Resnik
- o [Seth] SIO is complex as it is.
  - We are engaged, and trying to streamline information
- o [Will Weiner] It would be nice to integrate all the student room cards with residential room cards
  - We can't put more than one room on a card currently
- o [Neha] I wanted to know about people who live in Oakland and feel disconnected.
  - That's why Oakland is considered to be a neighborhood, and we are working on it.
    - One example would be dining area in Residence on Fifth
    - People would do bids on that dining area after zoning gets through
- o [Jon Mark] It would be nice to peepholes in all the doors
  - Noted.
- o [Rishi] Are all the vending machines going to take DineX soon?
  - It will probably be next year. It takes money to put in lines for the use.
- We are looking for Director of Dining Services and Technology Services currently

5:51 – Ratification of Senate Budget

- We under-spent in every group last year
- Non-event based groups have budgets reduced as a result
- We will probably spend more for food
- Server cost is not $625, but $312.50. Amended.
- We've added to our reserves
- **Motion to approve budget by Will Weiner.**
- Discussion:
  - o [Bryan] Why did we increase the budget by a thousand and two hundred dollars for some group?
    - That was an error, I trimmed down on that

- o [Jon Mark] Is it alright that CTO is on Senate?
  - ▪ [Jake] Application Engineer is paid for by GSA, and Seth's work is transparent
  - ▪ [Jon Mark] I'm just worried about the precedents about senators being paid
    - • [Kaycee] He was not hired because he's a senator, and he was elected senator after
- o **[Kyra] Call to Question. Hand Vote. 21-0-1. Budget passed.**

6:02 – New Business from Committee

- Special Allocation of $2155 for Mock Trial
  - o Finance:
    - ▪ Mock Trial came because they did not get JFC budget this year like they got last year
    - ▪ They have been having issues with transition
    - ▪ They asked for $8000, and they do have viable fundraising ideas.
    - ▪ We recommended $2155 to give them materials and registrations for their four conferences since they should pay for transportation and lodging should be fundraised elsewhere.
  - o Mock Trial:
    - ▪ We are the only competitive speaking group on campus, and we have gone to national competitions for the last two years
    - ▪ This is a one time request
    - ▪ To get money from alumni groups takes about 18 months
    - ▪ We've scaled back on our three teams and reduced our competitions
  - o Questions:
    - ▪ [Jon Mark] How many people are in this group?
      - • Each team has 9 people and 12 people for the less-competitive team
    - ▪ [Bryan] Where did you get the 18 month for alumni gifts?
      - • Director of Large Gifts at Alumni office
    - ▪ [Anshul] What happened at JFC funding last year?
      - • The new exec board was really young and dropped the ball
      - • [Follow-up] What kind of fundraising ideas do you have?
        - o Alumni
        - o Law alumni network has a get together, and we may get funding there
        - o We are looking to local attorneys as well
    - ▪ [Seth] Are you entirely undergraduates? How does your group benefit the entire CMU community?
      - • Yes.

- We take in as many people as possible, and we have a very diverse group of students that don't normally get public speaking opportunities
  - [Bryan] I think alumni gifts taking 18 months takes is for large gifts. I just spoke with Director of Alumni Affairs and he said about a month
  - [Willy] Do you have any other expenditures?
    - We are only asking for tournaments
  - **[Jon Mark] Motion to increase funding by $4955. Seconded.**
    - Discussion
      - [Seth] Where are the transportation costs coming from?
        - We are trying to work with our own cars, but we cannot drive in the winter, so we will need buses
      - [Anshul] Kyra: why didn't you fund transportation?
        - Their entire JFC budget in previous years was significantly lower than what they requested
        - It's really expensive to fund the transportation
        - This is their outlook for the year, and I think they will have success with fundraising and they can come back
      - [Stephan] I think the new number is more than 50% more than their JFC budget. I don't think we should do this
      - [Ashley Reeder] I think Kyra makes a good point about them making success with alumni and fundraising. They can come back if they need more money
      - [Anshul] I would vote against this motion.
      - **[Bryan Spencer] Call to Question. [Alyssa] Objection. Could I see the JFC budget?**
        - [Will Zhang] $3400 last year
      - [Mock Trial] We've had an anonymous donor the last few years that paid for transportation, but we are barred from asking them for more money
      - [Jake] This isn't the first time a club that came to us with this issue, and mock trial is a very expensive competition. The new leadership has good initiative; they are going to nationals.

- o [Seth] $9000 for transportation never showed up on your JFC budget in the past, and you should've put that in the budget
- o [Ashley Reeder] They are a very valid group, and they can come back if they have issues
- o [Kyra] I would highly discourage the body from increasing their budget so much
- o **[Fermin] Move to Vote. Hand Vote. 20-0-2. Passed.**
  - • **Motion to Vote. Hand Vote. 0-19-3**
- o Discussion
  - ▪ [Bryan Spencer] I think we should vote now.
  - ▪ [Will Zhang] What steps have you taken to reform your leadership?
    - • We have been splitting leadership to three people that are in different years
  - ▪ **[Seth] Call to Question. Hand Vote. 20-0-2. Passed. $2155 to Mock Trial.**

6:25 - Senate Retreat Report by Ashley Reeder and Anshul

- Activities allowed us to identify various traits and skills to bring back to senate:
  - o Set high goals this year – you may be surprised about how much you can do
  - o Try things and planning even if you're unsure: you will improve and figure it out
  - o Frustration is inevitable, but: if you hit a wall, you will get over it
    - ▪ [Will Weiner] Especially with Special Allocations
  - o Hard work in the beginning pays off: "getting over the hump"
  - o Find your niche and play to your strengths; compensate to each others' weaknesses
  - o Everyone's a leader; there is no rigid hierarchy
  - o Open communication encourages team work; push each other, but don't blame each other
    - ▪ Let people know about your needs
    - ▪ Look to the positives
  - o Don't let hard work go to waste; be proud of achievements
    - ▪ E.g. UC magazines took a lot of work, and it's being finished well
  - o Questions/comments:
    - ▪ [Alyssa] I had so much fun on the ropes course. Explore and meet a lot of people!

6:34 - Points of discussion

- [Seth] With respect to the server, we are looking to on-campus options, but nothing has been reached thus far.

6:35 – Announcements

- Hanna Post from Teach for America
    - o [Hands out cards] I would appreciate it if you could fill those out
    - o A local public high school in Pittsburgh and just a little over 50% graduate
        - ▪ Low-income students have low-quality schools and low-quality teachers
    - o Teach for America seeks to reduce this gap in quality of schools and teachers
    - o Teachers are placed in 35 different locations in the US; you get an award for paying off loans, and you also get salary and benefits
    - o There is on information session on September 29th on campus.
    - o Email: hpost@andrew.cmu.edu if you are interested and/or have questions
    - o Deadline is tomorrow, but you still have time
- Scotch and Soda Theater tomorrow, we are producing a show and tickets are $5.

6:42 – Adjourned

- **Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Voice Vote. Passed.**