

CMU Student Senate

UNOFFICIAL Minutes of December 2, 2004

5:39 pm Roll Call

Senators Present: Joe Arasin (SCS), Michelle Birchak (CIT, proxy), Ananya Bubna (TSB), Maureen Burns (CFA), Laura Drogowski (MCS), Andrew Gehling (CFA), Rachel Gougian (MCS, left early excused), Andrea Hamilton (BHA), Kirk Higgins (CIT, came late), Jonathan Lee (CIT), Nicolette Louissaint (CIT), Nasheena Porter (HSS), James Rogers (CIT), Samantha Rosenthal (CIT), Edward Ryan (MCS), Thomas Sabram (CIT), Nicholas Scocozzo (CIT), Akil Simon (CFA), Tanvir Suri (TSB), Wei Tang (SHS), Yew Choe Wong (CIT), Josh Yearsley (HSS)

Senators Absent: Adam Atkinson (H&SS, excused), Abigail Barnes (CIT), Andres Bermudez (HSS, excused), Trevor Clark (CFA), Kathryn Cooper (MCS), Aftyn Giles (CFA), Benjamin Hackett (HSS), Kevin Lee (HSS), Jean Lester (CFA), Jonathan Mendelson (SCS, excused), Sophia Nagornaya (HSS), Margaret Richards (SCS), Stephanie Rosenthal (SCS), Courtney Thompson (TSB)

Members at Large Present: Justin Berka (SHS), Hanish Dayal (CIT), Aaron Kao (CIT), Sean Weinstock (HSS)

Members at Large Absent: Jonathan Chin (HSS), James Hazelrig (CIT), Louisa Kinoshi (HSS), Brittany McCandless (HSS), Corrine Pascale (CIT), Haseeb Qureshi (HSS), Aaron Walker (CIT)

5:40 pm Approval of Minutes from 11/18

- Jonathan Chin's school is HSS, not CIT

5:42 pm Minutes approved by acclamation

5:42 pm Audience Participation (none)

5:43 pm Ex-officio Reports (none)

5:43 pm New Business From Committee (none)

5:43 pm New Business From the Floor (none)

5:43 pm Points of Discussion Part I

5:43 pm Point of Discussion about the Newspaper Fee Part I

- Papers would be newly available in Scaife Hall, Hunt Library, Wean Hall, and some residence halls. The papers would continue to be available in Doherty Hall, CFA, and Baker Hall.
- In order to get a paper in academic buildings, students would have to swipe their ID cards. Unsure as to whether there will be a limit as to the number of times an ID card can be swiped per day.
- Number of papers available would be able to fluctuate based on demand only a little. Only a certain number of dollars would be allotted for this, and so only so many papers can be bought.
- It is up to Senate to decide if there should be a vote every year as to whether to get newspapers for the upcoming year.
- The program would be cheaper if the grad students participated. As there would be more people paying a fee, even the increased number of newspapers needed would be cheaper.

5:51 pm Showing of the Two Videos made by Communications

5:56 pm First Video Shown

5:58 pm Second Video Shown

- The director's name is John, and he will be attending the next Senate meeting. There are three more clips, and they will be shown at some point. The videos tried to be both funny and to get a message across.

6:03 pm Points of Discussion Part II

6:03 pm Point of Discussion about the Newspaper Fee Part II

- Preliminarily, there is no way to differentiate between grads and undergrads in the program. Right now the idea is that there will be one campus-wide referendum that both student bodies can agree to. The idea will need to be passed by both student populations independently.

6:04 pm Questions Regarding this Point of Discussion (The Newspaper Fee)

- If the cost per semester were about \$4 and this was done with the grads, 15 senators would approve a referendum for this spring, and 1 would not.
- If the cost per semester were about \$6 and this was done without the grads, 15 senators would approve a referendum for this spring, and 4 would not.
- If the cost per semester were about \$4 and this was done with the grads, 16 senators think the Undergraduate Student Body would approve such a referendum, and 1 does not.

- If the cost per semester were about \$6 and this was done without the grads, 9 senators think the Undergraduate Student Body would approve such a referendum, and 6 do not.

6:10 pm Point of Discussion about the Newspaper Fee Part III

- Grads should be able to be excluded from getting newspapers if they choose not to take part in the program. It is anticipated that 20% of the campus would be considered a “reader” in the program.

6:11 pm Point of Discussion about the Communications Information Sessions

- Yesterday there was a Senate Info Session held at Cathedral Mansions. Senator turnout was extremely disappointing, as no senators showed up but the Communications chair.
- It is understood that most students are very busy this time of year, but the information session takes only 30 minutes. The communications committee realizes that there was not a lot of notice for this event, but communications is working very hard to increase contact with constituents. Having only one senator at the information session puts across a very bad image to the Student Body. Senators are shirking their jobs if they are not getting in touch with students.
- There is another information session in Fairfax at 9:00 tonight. Students will show up at 9:30 in the community room in the basement of Fairfax. If senators are not sure where that is, someone will be in the lobby to take them down to the basement.
- Lots of people are very busy at the end of the semester. It would be much better if Communications could hold these sessions during other parts of the year, as probably more people would be able to attend.
- Having a list of the dates of the info sessions would make a big difference in attendance.
- An e-mail should have come out a week previous to each event. A late notice was sent out, but as communications is trying to work with the RA's in each building to find good times, this should be expected. The future communications chair might have more time to plan. The impact these sessions create is really important.
- It might be helpful to have some kind of RSVP system where Senators tell Communications that they are coming, and then if they forget they called be called, e-mailed, etc.

6:19 pm Point of Discussion about Port Authority Transit

- There was a very rowdy meeting today, at which officials committed themselves to public transit, however their attitude was more along the lines of “If Harrisburg hasn’t done their job, why should we?” We need to be there constantly nudging them, showing them student letters, etc. to convince them of how important this is.
- The County does not have a matching allocation for the amount Harrisburg is willing to give in their budget at this time. They say they can change that in January once Harrisburg has committed more money. Meanwhile, it will be hard to ask Harrisburg for more money when Allegheny County hasn’t even matched Harrisburg’s original amount. Everyone should still get involved, as the battle clearly is not yet won.

6:24 pm Announcements

- Student Senate has been invited by the Co-op to a dinner on this Friday, December 3rd at 7pm. The Co-op is on 617 Neville.
- A free pizza information session will be held for Fairfax Apartments at 9:30pm in the Community Room in the basement. Again, please arrive at this event at 9:00 pm if you are interested.
- Due to not receiving any petitions, Senate still has a vacancy in CFA. Please spread the word that we are still looking for someone to fill the spot. Senate will consider the vacancy at the General Body meeting after receiving a valid CFA petition.
- Our next and final meeting will be on Thursday, December 9th at 5:30pm in the Posner Center Board Room. As a notice, that meeting will include final committee reports, ex-officio reports, and chair and standing committee chair elections.
- The pizza information session is at 9:30 in Fairfax, it would be great if people could come out and support Senate.
- If anyone who has a chance could come and talk to Andrea about voting for her class project, she would appreciate it.
- Tonight we are graced with the presence of honorary officer Vito Fiore who chaired Student Senate for one-and-a-half years.

6:25 pm Adjourn