CLS Student Senate Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, September 11, 2007 @ 9:00 P.M.

I. Introductions

II. Those present introduced themselves (see attendance spreadsheet for details)

III. Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure
   a. Awesome role play
   b. Snapping – signals agreement with the previous comment
   c. Try to let a speaker finish his/her thought before interjecting with a point of information or point of procedure, even though for these, as for seconding a motion, you need not be recognized
   d. Question – does Tope have to recognize someone before they speak? Yes, unless it is one of the above exceptions or calling to question.

IV. Budget Guidelines Approval
   a. Max introduces budget guidelines – they are similar to last year’s, with two substantive changes
      I. Section 4, subsection 4 now states that publicity for events sponsored even in part for Senate contain language to the effect that the budget committee may subject a group to higher scrutiny for future events if they do not advertise properly
II. Subsection 7 says that if there are surpluses or event cancellations, the budget committee may increase its scrutiny on a group should a group not notify the committee of any surplus or cancellation

b. Q&A

I. One question is why we need the “Senate helped fund this” language at all

   I. MMM answers that it is so people know student group isn’t funding it privately; it makes people feel good that their SAF is going to good purpose

II. Shawndra – how is budget committee going to police this?

   I. MMM – committee members, Senators will be vigilant

III. Simrin – how will groups know about these changes?

   Informational problems may exist in this whole process

   I. MMM – it will be sent to student body after approved; also, new leaders are and will be informed about the changes

IV. Aden – does the phrase assume Senate wholly funds an event?

   I. MMM – good question – MMM would be friendly to an amendment that clarified whole or partial nature of funding

V. Ashley – if student group gets core funding, do they have to advertise for events?

   I. MMM – this language applies only to event funding

VI. David – can we compel groups to let Senate know of their events in advance so we can put them in the CLS Black Letter?
I. Craig says it is required if you reserve a room

c. JKJ moves to amend to reflect the “in part” language – the new language reads “in whole or in part”

   I. Amendment is seconded
   II. Q&A -- none
   III. Debate on the amendment

   I. Simrin – thinks that the “penalties” for changing events are bureaucratic and unrealistic.
   II. Max D. – let’s make the language simpler
   III. Yael – suggests taking out “this event”
   IV. Rajiv – the language is not too cumbersome
   V. Max D. moves to amend the amendment to strike “in whole”

      I. Debate – MMM calls the question; call to question on amendment to amendment

      I. Passes

   VI. Call to question on the amendment; vote on the amendment: amendment passes 35-7

d. Francesco moves to amend end of section 1 to require groups to specify the funding source of any budgetary appeal; amendment is not seconded

e. Debate on the resolution itself (guideline approval)

      I. Simrin does not think we need the language at all
II. David moves to amend the language to “this event supported by funds from the Student Activity Fee”

I. Q&A on the amendment

II. Debate on the amendment
   
   I. Spiwak – thinks the original language should remain
   
   II. Rajiv – sponsored indicates financial support, which is accurate

III. Vote on the amendment: amendment fails

III. David moves to amend to require “at least 10 point font”

I. Amendment fails

f. Vote on the resolution: resolution passes as amended

V. Debt Discussion

a. Question – what are steps and precautions that will be taken to avoid a similar problem occurring again?
   
   I. Max is working with Senate committee to make sure that internal Senate funds are dispersed appropriately

b. Question – is this debt negatively affecting this year’s graduation, and can any committee chair sign contracts with outside organizations?

   I. It should not, as long as the graduation committee sells enough tickets, which help cover the cost of the event

   II. No, committee chairs are not to sign contracts with outside organizations
c. Question – how is the debt being compensated for?
   I. It is coming out of Senate internal funds, which would cover Senate events. In addition, the SAF increase helps to offset it.

d. Question – why not balance the debt between Senate and student organization moneys?
   I. It should all come from the Senate funds because the debt is the Senate’s fault. Student groups should not suffer because of Senate internal mistakes.

e. Are there procedural hurdles in place to prevent similar problems?
   I. Yes, there is now more oversight.

f. What was the exact amount of shortfall?
   I. $32,322.40

g. Is there a way to better publicize exactly what happened, including the specific amount of debt?
   I. There may be; a forum may be the appropriate way to let the student body know what happened and ask questions
   II. Alumni Relations and Student Services advised against constructing a detailed narrative with names and/or offices

h. Tope wants to know what Senators want in another e-mail:
   I. Numbers of money? No
   II. Other things, like procedural safeguards? Yes

i. Yael moves to overrule the chair, which passes, and moves to ask the e-board to hold a forum to discuss the debt
I. Motion passes

I. Debate

   I. David moves to amend to state that a forum shall be held for the student body on the matter of debt

   II. Motion to call the question passes

   III. Vote on this motion: amendment passes

   II. Vote on the motion itself: motion passes. A forum shall be held for the student body on the matter of debt! An e-mail will go out announcing the forum.

j. Rajiv moves for an email, at e-board’s discretion, that announces the dollar amount, the source of the shortfall, time of repayment, impact of student group funding, etc.

I. Motion fails

VI. Announcements

   a. Committee assignments will be circulated on the yahoo group, and committee chairs will be getting in touch shortly

   b. We need a housing committee chair. If interested, please e-mail senate@law.columbia.edu.

   c. BBQ was a success

   d. Senate dinner will be coming up in the next few weeks, details forthcoming

VII. Adjourn