



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, January 31, 2019 Meeting
4:45pm-5:50pm in Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. *Present:* J. Anderson [0], D. Barbaria [0], O. Din [2.5], J. Dominguez [0], O. Egharevba [2], S. Harshvardhan [2], C. Huang [0], S. Iruvanti [1], A. Jain [0], K. Kebbeh [1], S. Lim [0.5], N. Matolka [0], U. Mustafa [0], G. Park [1.5], I. Pavlov [0.25], E. Shapiro [0], M. Shovik [1.25], J. Sim [0], M. Smith [0], M. Stefanko [1], F. Uribe-Rheinbolt [0], B. Weintraub [0]
 - ii. *Absent:* None.
 - iii. *Arrived After Roll Call:* V. Devatha [0], V. Xu [0.75]

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. November 29th
 - i. Motion to approve the November 29th minutes – **approved**.
 - ii. Motion to amend the January 24th minutes such that the “2007” census is referred to as the “2010” census – **amended**.
 - iii. Motion to approve the January 24th minutes – **approved**.

III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

IV. Presentations

- a. 25Live
 - i. Andrew Slusar, Barbara Romano, and Casey Washburn went through a presentation on the 25Live system.
 - ii. S. Iruvanti asked if it would be possible for students to be given temporary access to buildings for the hours they sign up for in the system. He added that, as a TA, he has sometimes had to hold impromptu office hours in a suboptimal space since a building was closed.
 - iii. C. Washburn said that that question was difficult to answer as a blanket statement, and that the requirements would be different between colleges and between buildings. She added that she thinks that there can be more conversations ahead regarding building access, and that an afterhours request could be approved, but then the question changes to how that information can be reliably received by the building coordinator and other relevant parties.

- iv. D. Barbaria said that, regarding the issue of pizza boxes being left behind, pizza will continue to be consumed, but part of the problem is that recycling bins are not of adequate dimensions for pizza boxes to be thrown out in. He asked if there is anyone that would be able to remedy that and provide pizza box-sized disposal receptacles.
- v. B. Romano said that there will be conversations in the future, and that she knows that some groups will take the boxes out to the dumpster. She added that this process is about trying to educate student groups.
- vi. D. Barbaria said that the dumpster location should be advertised in each building if the dumpster is the best disposal option.
- vii. C. Huang asked if every requestability exception will automatically be filed or if it will be on a case-by-case basis.
- viii. C. Washburn said that the process for that has not yet been designed, but that they wanted people to know that, if they had a reasonable case to present, there will be an avenue for that.
- ix. C. Huang asked if an organization that ends up with a zero-star rating on the organizational grading system will get locked out of requesting spaces forever, or if there will be a route out of that.
- x. C. Washburn said that this system is also a work in progress, and that a no-bookings status is possible, but that they have not yet determined how long that would be in place for, or if there can be actions taken to get that rating removed. She added that they want to make sure it's a fair process and that a lot of thought goes into that process.
- xi. J. Sim said that they have talked about appointing student testers to provide feedback, and asked how many students the presenters were thinking of and what form they would be serving in. He added that once that information is available, the SA will be able to staff it.
- xii. A. Slusar said that their testing will be taking place between now and May, and that they want to get the systems in fairly good shape that is reflective of the business processes. He added that they would probably want the student input to happen around April, but that they will share the exact date with the assembly once it is determined.
- xiii. J. Sim asked if considerations are being made in regard to accessibility.
- xiv. A. Slusar said that the system has been tested for accessibility and some deficits have been found. He added that their supplier has given them a roadmap to fix these deficits.
- xv. J. Sim said that the assembly can and should appoint people to the testing process that come from diverse backgrounds.
- xvi. I. Pavlov asked if the presenters would consider having the organizational rating reset every year, and said that problems sometime rest on leadership which can change from year to year. She added that it can be unnecessarily tough on an organization to be made responsible for past actions that they are not responsible for.
- xvii. C. Washburn said that everything is on the table at this point.
- xviii. V. Devatha asked if there would be an appeals process for ratings.
- xix. C. Washburn said that they are very much in the infancy of this process, but that she would expect that to be the case.

V. Oath of Office

- a. M. Smith was sworn in using the Oath of Office at 5:28 pm.

VI. Announcements and Reports

- a. Spring Meet and Greet
 - i. C. Huang said that she and I. Pavlov will be holding a meet and greet for spring transfers and admits tomorrow in the Memorial Room from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and that she thinks it would be great if a few SA members could come out and meet the FYSA's and spring transfers.
 - ii. O. Din asked if they need help finding transfers.
 - iii. I. Pavlov said that that would be appreciated.
- b. Spring Special Elections
 - i. Shashank Vura said that the special elections schedule has been finalized, and asked the assembly to encourage anyone who might be interested in these positions to run.
 - 1. An information session will occur on February 4th.
 - 2. Petitions will be due on February 6th.
 - 3. The elections will occur from February 12th through February 14th.
 - 4. The positions available are one LGBTQ Student representative, one First-Gen Student representative, and two Minority Student representatives.
 - ii. D. Barbaria asked who these positions are elected by and for.
 - iii. S. Vura said that the whole undergraduate body can run for and elect these positions.
- c. ClubFest
 - i. S. Lim said that SA voting members should sign up for at least one slot for ClubFest on Sunday, and to let her know if they cannot make it.

VII. Business of the Day I

- a. Resolution 23: Providing Cornellians with Disabilities Better Representation by Establishing an Organizational Liaison to the Student Assembly
 - i. J. Dominguez said that this was discussed last week, and no changes have been made in that time.
 - ii. Conan Gillis said that he would like to thank the assembly for continuing this resolution, and that in response to comments made by V. Devatha last week, he has met with the CUDA e-board, who will be making the necessary changes to their bylaws in accordance with this resolution, assuming it is approved.
 - iii. D. Barbaria moved to amend the resolution such that "Internal Policy" would read "Bylaws" – amended.
 - iv. Motion to approve Resolution 23 – approved 23-0-0.
 - v. J. Sim moved to amend the agenda such that Resolution 25 would be presented before Resolution 24 – approved.

VIII. New Business & Business of the Day II

- a. Resolution 25: Expressing Student Assembly Support for Climate Change Literacy in Solidarity with the University and Employee Assemblies
 - i. Mitchell Lee introduced himself and presented the resolution.

1. M. Lee is associated with the President's Sustainable Campus Committee, the Climate Action Advisory Group, and the Cornell Environmental Collaborative.
- ii. J. Sim said that the UA and EA have already passed similar resolutions, and have given the SA flak for not doing the same. He added that it is important that the SA do this to show their commitment to sustainability.
- iii. G. Park said that the UA and EA versions of this resolution were passed over a year ago, and that this is long overdue. She added that they want to base future initiatives off of this resolution, and asked assembly members to let her know if they have any questions.
- iv. D. Barbaria asked M. Lee to repeat what groups he is part of.
- v. M. Lee obliged, and said that there is currently discussion regarding a potential merger of these three groups.
- vi. D. Barbaria asked if he is concerned that the merging of these groups will decrease student input.
- vii. M. Lee replied in the negative, and said that there is student input across all three of these committees, as well as the other shared governance assemblies.
- viii. There was a motion to move the resolution to Business of the Day.
 1. D. Barbaria dissented, saying that this is not standard practice unless it's urgent or the end of the semester.
 2. J. Sim said that this is a noncontentious resolution and has signatories present, and should therefore be moved to Business of the Day now.
 3. D. Barbaria maintained his dissent.
- ix. Motion to move to Business of the Day – **approved**.
- x. Adam Klier asked whether or not this resolution functioned as a statement of intent.
- xi. M. Lee replied in the affirmative.
- xii. F. Uribe-Rheinbolt asked if the proponents of the resolution have any data regarding climate change literacy on campus.
- xiii. G. Park said that the climate change literacy rate is hard to gauge, but that there is generally an agreement that there needs to be an increase, particularly among the student generation. She added that she did some research to try and add some tangible numbers to it, but it is hard to find any specific data.
- xiv. M. Lee said that judging that is difficult, and that there is no specific data for Cornell or for other universities, but that the Campus Sustainability Office does survey incoming students about the importance of sustainability. He added that the Campus Sustainability Office might have data in some form, but it would not precisely answer F. Uribe-Rheinbolt's question.
- xv. I. Pavlov asked if the proponents of the resolution would consider making a presentation for the Campus Planning Committee, and said that there is a lot of dissidence between the student view and the administration's action in this regard right now.
- xvi. V. Xu asked if the proponents of the resolution have any specific projects in mind to increase student sustainability and climate change literacy.
- xvii. G. Park said that they had a seminar regarding increasing climate change literacy on campus, and that they want to do something in a public space that is visible, but would not be an event to be attended.

- xviii. M. Lee said that he also works in conjunction with other groups on campus, and that their events are centered around sustainability and climate change. He added that he has worked with the Atkinson Center to incorporate students into their research more, and that it might be as simple as spreading the word that there are climate change classes and a climate change minor. He also said that students can easily fulfill requirements in any college with a climate change literacy class.
- xix. G. Park said that anyone with creative ideas in this regard should reach out to any of the proponents so they can work together.
- xx. J. Sim said that they generally want to see more collaboration between the Environmental Committee and ECO and other sustainability organizations, and that he will help make sure that that happens. He added that he will also ensure that there is language in the bylaws to facilitate that.
- xxi. J. Dominguez moved to amend the resolution such that “Sense Of the Body” would now read “Sense-of-the-Body,” “Envrionmental” would read “Environmental,” and “curricular” would read “extracurricular”.
 - 1. M. Lee said that the section regarding “curricular” was in reference to classes.
 - 2. J. Dominguez asked if that clause was referring to the curriculum.
 - 3. Multiple assembly members replied in the affirmative.
- xxii. Motion to amend the resolution in regard to “Sense Of the Body” and “Envrionmental” – amended.
- xxiii. Motion to vote – approved 25-0-0.
- b. Resolution 24: Updating the Non-Discrimination Clause
 - i. J. Anderson said that this resolution is a charter amendment, and that nothing can be done with it at this meeting. He then introduced the resolution.
 - ii. J. Dominguez asked if J. Anderson could explain the domestic violence victim status clause.
 - iii. J. Anderson said that it is reflective of current New York State law, and that he would assume they were being discriminated against in public settings. He added that it could possibly apply at Cornell, but it’s mostly in regard to current New York State law, and is therefore important to include here.
 - iv. Motion to table – tabled.

IX. Adjournment

- a. V. Devatha adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 5:50 pm.

X. Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly