



Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Agenda of the October 30th, 2018 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

401 Physical Sciences Building

- I. Call to Order (Chair)
 - a. Call to Order
 - i. M. Battaglia called that meeting to order at 4:32pm
 - b. Roll Call
 - i. *Present:* I. Allen, J. Anderson, D. Barbaria, K. Barth, M. Battaglia, R. Bensel, L. Copman, D. Geisler, M. Hatch, R. Howarth, L. Kenney, E. Loew, T. Onabajoy, J. Pea, A. Viswanathan, E. Winarto
 - ii. *Absent:* D. Hiner, C. Van Loan, C. Wiggers
 - c. Welcome and Introduction
 - i. M. Battaglia welcomed Jeff Pea to the University Assembly.
 - ii. Jeff Pea, a representative of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, introduced himself to the Assembly.
 - d. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - i. There were no late additions to the agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. 10-16-18 Minutes
 - i. R. Bensel motioned to postpone the approval of the minutes to the next meeting of the University Assembly.
 1. The motion was **adopted** by unanimous consent.
- III. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - i. J. Anderson said that at the last meeting, the Student Assembly passed a resolution affirming support for transgender and non-binary students.
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. E. Winarto said that this past weekend, Cornell hosted the Ivy Summit, which was successful. She said there will be celebration at the Big Red Barn for the anniversary of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly.
 - c. Employee Assembly
 - i. K. Barth said that the Employee Assembly is working to recognize the individuals who heroically stepped in and acted in the events on North Campus, where a student attacked other students.

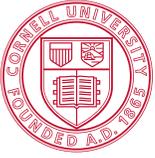
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Cornell University University Assembly

d. Faculty Senate

- i. R. Bensel said that there is an ongoing discussion about class times. He said two prominent reforms are: 1) allowing undergraduate classes to be scheduled after 4:30pm, which he said might be complex; and 2) abolishing 50-minute classes, which he said he thinks will pass. He said that if anyone has any strong opinions on either of the reforms, they should address them to the Faculty Senate.
- ii. D. Geisler asked when these reforms will be made public.
- iii. R. Bensel said that it would be in the Spring, but the action on the reforms is in far in the future.
- iv. D. Barbaria asked if there is a specific committee pushing this reform.
- v. R. Bensel said that he doesn't think a committee has been appointed.
- vi. T. Onabajo asked for clarification on the abolishing of classes.
- vii. R. Bensel said that only 50-minute classes would be abolished on the designated days.
- viii. J. Pea asked about the administrative aspects of changing class times.
- ix. R. Bensel said that the 50-minute classes are actually disturbing the structure of the class day, and he said that the basic impetus of this reform is to reduce conflict.
- x. A. Viswanathan asked who or what body has the final say on this reform.
- xi. R. Bensel said that the provost would make the final decision.
- xii. R. Howarth said that this reform seems disruptive to the teaching structure in the field of biology, and there would need to be massive restructuring of departments.
- xiii. R. Bensel said that, on the Faculty Senate, the faculty from the biology and language departments expressed objection of the reform.
- xiv. M. Hatch said that he thinks the University Assembly can think seriously about objecting to this reform, especially because it is disrupting lecture timings, and this is something that affects the entire university.
- xv. A. Viswanathan said that it might be useful to conduct a survey to gather the opinions of respective constituents.
- xvi. M. Hatch said that a four-day week is not how to structure an academic week; he said it is idiotic.
- xvii. R. Bensel said that these reforms are not of his personal opinion. He said that there are going to be opinions, decisions, and thoughts from all across



Cornell University University Assembly

the university. He said that he is a little worried that he might have overstated what C. Van Loan is trying to do.

- xviii. D. Barbaria asked M. Battaglia if he could get a timeline from C. Van Loan on the process of moving forward with these reforms.
- xix. M. Battaglia said that he would speak with C. Van Loan to attempt to do so.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

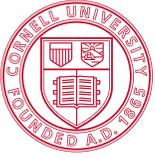
- i. J. Anderson said that the Executive Committee is looking at several entities and people to come to the Assembly to present. He said that the Executive Committee is working on the tobacco referendum, and the Budget Planning Committee, and more.
- ii. M. Hatch asked if the Campus Sustainability Office could present to the Assembly.
- iii. M. Battaglia said that Rick Burgess, Vice President for Facilities and Campus Services, presented to the Assembly earlier this year, and that he will forward along the information.

b. Codes and Judicial Committee

- i. D. Barbaria said that the Codes and Judicial Committee is continuing discussion on all of the recommendations given for amending the Campus Code of Conduct. He said that the committee does not look like it is going to have anything close to an actual recommendation by the end of the semester, in terms of language. He said that he'd love recommendations on how the committee can do better outreach. He said that there are only two meetings left for the fall semester.

c. Campus Welfare Committee

- i. T. Onabajo said that the Campus Welfare Committee has been looking into the childcare services that Cornell provides.
- ii. E. Winarto said that there is an advisory group called Students with Families that is organized, so it might be beneficial to collaborate with that group.
- iii. L. Copman said that she is perplexed that the Office of the Assemblies does not have the authority to send a campus-wide email, and that this should be taken care of and in writing to ensure that this does not occur in the future.
- iv. M. Battaglia said that the Office of the Assemblies has the email lists, but said that they can only use them for elections, but, he said, in accordance with the University Assembly's governing documents, the Assembly has the



Cornell University University Assembly

authority to send out a referendum, including a questionnaire, so he does not think there needs to be approval.

- d. Campus Infrastructure Committee
 - i. M. Hatch said that at the last meeting, there was a discussion of covered field facilities. He said that he is bringing these issues to the University Assembly to consider.
 - ii. R. Howarth asked if there was any discussion about the impact of greenhouse gases.
 - iii. M. Hatch said that there was no discussion whatsoever.
 - iv. M. Hatch said that the building would be steel with a strong plastic framework.

V. Liaison Reports

- i. There were no updates.

VI. J. Anderson made an announcement that the Public Service Center would be providing free rides to polling locations in the area on November 6.

VII. Late Additions to the Agenda

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting went into executive session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrill D. Malone

Clerk of the University Assembly