



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, November 1, 2018 Meeting  
4:48pm-5:44pm in Bache Auditorium, Malott Hall

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:48 pm.
- b. Roll Call
  - i. *Present:* J. Anderson [0], D. Barbaria [0], J. Dominguez [0], A. Hailu [1], C. Huang [0], A. Jain [0], K. Kebbeh [1], N. Matolka [0], U. Mustafa [0], D. Nyakaru [0], E. Shapiro [0], J. Sim [0], M. Stefanko [1], F. Uribe-Rheinbolt [0], I. Wallace [0]
  - ii. *Absent:* V. Devatha [0], O. Din [2.5], O. Egharevba [2], N. Hernandez [0], S. Iruvanti [1], M. Peralta-Ochoa [2.5], M. Shovik [1], B. Weintraub [0]
  - iii. *Arrived After Roll Call:* S. Harshvardhan [1], S. Lim [0], G. Park [0.5], I. Pavlov [0.25], V. Xu [0.25]

### II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. There was a motion to approve the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>, October 18<sup>th</sup>, and October 25<sup>th</sup> minutes.
  - i. D. Barbaria dissented and asked if J. Anderson had read the minutes.
  - ii. J. Anderson replied in the affirmative.
  - iii. D. Barbaria **withdrew** his dissent.
- b. Motion to approve the minutes – **approved**.

### III. Open Microphone

- a. No members of the community were present at this meeting, and hence there were no speakers at the open microphone.

### IV. Announcements and Reports

- a. D. Barbaria said that Risley Kommittee [sic] had a special projects request of \$300 for a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War, and that they were given their request of \$300. He added that Cornell Cricket was given \$399 from special projects funding with another group providing \$601 of funding, due to an odd facet of the standing rules that would make it unadvisable to fund them \$400, and that the purpose of this is to spread awareness of the various Indian festivals that happen around this time.
- b. I. Wallace asked why they chose not to fund Cornell Cricket at \$399.99.
- c. J. Anderson asked that I. Wallace stop being facetious.
- d. F. Uribe-Rheinbolt asked a question.

- e. D. Barbaria said that such questions should be directed to V. Devatha, since he had the primary reasoning for funding this and he himself saw no reason to object. He added that he does not know the reason why this necessitated a special projects fund, but that he saw no reason to go against it.
- f. C. Huang made a statement.
- g. D. Barbaria moved to amend the agenda such that Resolution 16 would be added as a late-agenda item – **amended**.

## V. New Business & Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 16: Approving Special Projects Request for Big Red Thon
  - i. D. Barbaria said that this resolution was passed by the Appropriations Committee (henceforth AppsCom) following its meeting on Monday, since not enough members were in attendance at the meeting to achieve quorum. He added that this event is the Cornell chapter of the National Dance Marathon, which has been held for the past three years, and that the proceeds raised from this event benefit a children's hospital in Syracuse. He also said that this organization underwent a big change in regard to how they are funded this year, and because of that joined SAFC, but could not get enough funding for their event due to new group funding from SAFC being capped at \$500 per semester. He added that they were given \$2500 in funding by a different group.
  - ii. I. Wallace said that the resolution says that the organization requested \$6340, and asked what other amounts AppsCom voted on in this regard.
  - iii. D. Barbaria said that they did not vote on any other amounts, and that since the vote was conducted by email, the only amount voted on was the amount from the proposal by the Executive Committee (henceforth Exec) from Tuesday night. He added that people who did not reply to the email were counted as abstentions, hence the six abstentions noted on the resolution.
  - iv. J. Anderson asked how Exec decided on the amount sent out.
  - v. D. Barbaria said that they wanted the event to happen, and so they wanted to give the organization money for every expense that is not food, namely the rentals, t-shirts, and so on.
  - vi. F. Uribe-Rheinbolt said that he would propose that the organization be funded slightly less than the proposed amount in the resolution.
  - vii. D. Barbaria moved to make this resolution Business of the Day – **approved**.
  - viii. J. Dominguez asked how much money is left in the special projects fund budget, and said that it is his understanding is that a lot of the money being given would be going to necessary things at the event, rather than events such as laser tag.
  - ix. D. Barbaria said that it depends on what the organization has and hasn't already funded, and that counting the two allocations that were not objected to earlier in the meeting, \$2648 of the \$7500 for this semester has been allocated. He added that if this resolution passed as-is, thereby giving \$2040 to Big Red Thon, that would leave the special projects fund with \$2812 with one month left in the semester.
  - x. J. Dominguez asked whether or not the amount of money stated is solely for the fall semester.

- xi. D. Barbaria replied in the affirmative, and said that more funds than the aforementioned \$7500 can be used for this semester, since there is \$15,000 for the academic year.
  - 1. This figure of \$15,000 is assuming that none of the money has been allocated, and reflects the total available at the beginning of the semester before any special projects requests have been approved and any money allocated.
- xii. E. Shapiro asked a question.
- xiii. D. Barbaria said that the organization made it clear that they were requesting \$6340 on Monday, and that they already had \$5145 in funding, and that they now have an additional sum.
- xiv. C. Huang asked whether or not this would mean that Big Red Thon would only have \$1195 left to pay.
- xv. J. Anderson asked D. Barbaria to write up the relevant mathematics on the chalkboard.
- xvi. D. Barbaria obliged.
  - 1. The total cost of the event is reported at \$8985.
  - 2. The total request was \$3840.
  - 3. The amount of funding being given in Resolution 16 at this time is \$2040.
  - 4. The amount already possessed by Big Red Thon is \$5145.
  - 5. The amount remaining to be paid following the passing of this resolution in its current form would be \$1805.
- xvii. D. Barbaria said that the organization originally came to AppsCom with a much larger request, and it sounded like they were able to get funding from another source, and so they were asked to check on alternative funding sources and return following that. He added that they did come back with a smaller request, and that AppsCom does not give funding for no reason.
- xviii. J. Anderson said that Exec also took into account that there were funding sources that Big Red Thon had not yet fully explored, and so they gave them sources to work on the remaining \$1805.
- xix. V. Xu said that she knows that the School of Hotel Administration is offering two trips to New York City on November 10<sup>th</sup>, and asked whether this would impact student participation.
- xx. J. Anderson asked how many students would be involved in this trip.
- xxi. V. Xu said that she did not know.
- xxii. D. Barbaria said that the impact would likely be minimal because participants had to sign up prior to the event.
- xxiii. N. Matolka said that his original thought in the meeting was that he wanted the event to happen, and that a lot of the extra money here would go to making the event more exciting, which is not his concern. He added that since they have now secured the \$2500, he would be okay with lowering the amount of funding given since the event will happen.
- xxiv. M. Stefanko asked how they are generating revenue.
- xxv. D. Barbaria said that all of the ticket money is being given to charity, and that all of the things they have to pay for themselves is paid for through their funding sources.

- xxvi. M. Stefanko said that he has not seen any advertising for this event, and that it is the first time he has heard of it despite it being nine days away.
- xxvii. J. Anderson asked that assembly members not whisper to each other since the acoustics in this room pick up the sound much better than in the Memorial Room.
- xxviii. M. Stefanko asked whether the goal is to make sure that the event is held or to make sure that the event is successful.
- xxix. D. Barbaria said that the event will not be successful if it can't happen, and that 250 students is not a large number of undergrads.
- xxx. I. Wallace said that the event raised over \$21,000 for charity last year, and that this is a successful event. He added that the students here are not the primary benefactors, and that he would not lower the funding since the assembly has the money to spare and should put it to a good cause.
- xxxi. D. Barbaria asked if anyone who was at the AppsCom meeting would like to explain how Big Red Thon gets the money for charity.
- xxxii. C. Huang said that ticket sales are a small portion, and that fundraising happens at the event.
- xxxiii. G. Park said that she thinks that the assembly should lower the cost, and that the organization has added a lot of expensive events. She added that she does not think that the presence of laser tag or a photobooth would affect the quality of dancing, and that \$2040 is a bit much.
- xxxiv. S. Lim said that she does not think that is the point, and that she believes they just want to make a big and amazing event. She added that the organization has had a lot of fundraisers, and that they are working hard and trying to find all avenues. She also said that she does not think that this amount of funding is too crazy at all.
- xxxv. Matthew Battaglia said that the resolution says that the organization received SAFC funding, and that he was curious as to how this was possible since SAFC cannot fund things for which the primary purpose is charitable.
- xxxvi. D. Barbaria said that these might be long-term concerns for SAFC if they continue funding them, and that he is still very confused about the funding model. He added that the thing that would be problematic is that 100% of ticket sales go to charity.
- xxxvii. E. Shapiro said that after what he believes to be the necessary costs for the event, the organization would have \$415 left in their budget. He added that the extraneous events such as the photobooth and giant Jenga would be \$865, and that this is the amount that he recommends funding them at.
- xxxviii. J. Anderson asked if this recommendation was a formal motion for amendment.
- xxxix. E. Shapiro replied in the negative, and said that the assembly should just discuss it.
  - xl. J. Anderson asked E. Shapiro to do the math in this regard on the chalkboard.
  - xli. J. Dominguez said that he is torn, and that while he agrees with S. Lim's sentiment regarding the size and scope of the event, he also agrees with N. Matolka and G. Park's sentiment that things such as laser tag are unnecessary. He added that it seems like there is a lot of unnecessary but cool events that they do not have the money for.

- xlii. C. Huang said that regarding M. Battaglia's question regarding charity, the money is going to durable goods that they would use to help put on future events. She added that she is not necessarily in favor of funding unnecessary things such as laser tag, but that they might have to depending on what commitments have already been made.
- xlili. I. Wallace asked if it was discussed how the security policy rules would affect their funding, and whether or not they would be able to apply for funding from CUTonight under normal circumstances.
- xliv. N. Matolka said that there was a security fee included in their budget report, and that there was a large fee increase.
- xlv. M. Stefanko asked if there is a way for the assembly to figure out if Big Red Thon has signed any contracts yet.
- xlvi. D. Barbaria said that he can reach out to them now.
- xlvii. M. Stefanko said that if the purpose is for the assembly to be providing some sort of entertainment for students and backing students to do something like this, then he is in favor of the current amount, but if the funding is specifically for charity and ensuring a successful event, then he is not in favor of the current amount since the event is nine days away.
- xlvi. A. Jain said that a lot of people and organizations are required to go to this event regardless of whether or not it is fun, and that everyone is signed up already.
- xlix. I. Wallace said that every student pays into a pool so that events such as this can be had, and that no event is going to have a majority of undergraduate students in attendance.
  - 1. E. Shapiro said that the organization has not reached out to as many sources of funding as he believes they could have, and that they currently have \$5145, with their necessary costs being \$4730. He added that the things that he thinks are unnecessary but helpful for making the event fun cost \$1290, leaving \$875 yet to be funded.
    - li. A member of the assembly asked where food costs were factored in there.
    - lii. E. Shapiro said that food costs were not factored in.
    - liii. M. Stefanko asked how much the food costs were.
    - liv. E. Shapiro said that the food costs would be \$1300.
    - lv. D. Barbaria asked if anyone knows anything in regard to people who attend the event but are not participants, particularly in regard to number of attendees.
    - lvi. There was no response.
    - lvii. J. Sim asked if the purview of the funding request would return to AppsCom if the amount of funding was dropped to \$875.
- lviii. D. Barbaria said that anything over \$1500 historically comes to the SA, and that it can be amended as the assembly sees fit.
- lix. I. Wallace moved to vote on the resolution.
  - 1. J. Dominguez dissented, and said that there needs to be more discussion on E. Shapiro's amendment.
  - 2. J. Anderson said that there hasn't been an amendment yet.
  - 3. E. Shapiro said that he would make an amendment.
  - 4. I. Wallace maintained his motion to vote.

5. D. Barbaria said that the initial math was incorrect, and the amount in the resolution in its current form should be \$2540 to achieve the intended end, rather than \$2040.
6. I. Wallace **withdrew** his dissent.
  - lx. D. Barbaria said that if everything was funded except for food, Big Red Thon would be \$1305 short.
  - lxi. C. Huang asked why food is not being funded.
  - lxii. D. Barbaria asked if J. Anderson could explain why this is the case, since he does not quite understand the rationale.
  - lxiii. J. Anderson said that he was also in favor of funding food.
  - lxiv. N. Matolka moved to amend the resolution such that lines 4, 15, and 28 would now say \$2175 instead of \$2040, and that lines 31 and 32 would be struck with the intent of replacing them.
    1. The \$2175 derives from adding E. Shapiro's proposed funding amount of \$875 and the proposed food funding amount of \$1300.
  - lxv. C. Huang said that she thought that the original objection to funding Big Red Thon at \$2040 was that it is too high, and that she is confused as to why this amount is now being raised.
  - lxvi. U. Mustafa asked where the \$1300 projection for food is coming from.
  - lxvii. J. Anderson said that he is unsure but that it is probably from Cornell Catering.
  - lxviii. U. Mustafa said that it appears that this amount is a rough estimate.
  - lxix. N. Matolka said that he wasn't fully considering the food aspect, and that he does not believe that the assembly should ever fully fund anything, but that he does want this event to be healthy.
  - lxx. J. Dominguez asked if there are any other special projects requests for this semester, and whether or not any more are anticipated.
  - lxxi. D. Barbaria said that he only anticipates one, which would be an \$800 request that he has not yet been able to secure a time for a presentation for.
  - lxxii. E. Shapiro said that he does not think that the assembly has enough information to vote on this resolution today, and that he does not know where the numbers for food are coming from.
  - lxxiii. G. Park said that the event is nine days away.
  - lxxiv. D. Barbaria said that he believes that the director of the Office of the Assemblies would be able to touch on the quick transfer of money.
  - lxxv. Gina Giambattista asked whether or not this would be an internal transfer.
  - lxxvi. D. Barbaria replied in the affirmative.
  - lxxvii. G. Giambattista said that it would be possible for the funds to be transferred in time.
  - lxxviii. E. Shapiro said that he thinks that the assembly should ask them some questions.
  - lxxix. D. Barbaria moved to vote on N. Matolka's amendment since that is what the assembly would want to ask questions about – **amended** 18-0-2.
  - lxxx. D. Barbaria moved to amend the resolution such that lines 31 and 32 would now read "Be it further resolved, the Student Assembly requests that this funding go towards the Photo Booths, the Jenga, the Connect Four, the Rave Hour, and food expenses;" – **amended**.
  - lxxxi. J. Sim moved to table the resolution.

1. I. Wallace dissented, and said that waiting until next Thursday puts the whole event at risk.
  - lxxxii. Motion to table – fails 4-15-1.
  - lxxxiii. N. Matolka said that he acknowledges that some of the totals given in the budget are rough estimates, but that this event needs to happen.
  - lxxxiv. J. Sim said that the assembly should really take time to discuss this, and that the event not happening should not be a reason to pass this resolution.
  - lxxxv. D. Barbaria said that the assembly has the time to do it now, and that this is the assembly's job. He added that the language regarding the special projects fund is minimal and weird, but that he does not think that anything he will learn in the next week will make this look like a better or worse idea.
  - lxxxvi. E. Shapiro said that he somewhat agrees with D. Barbaria, but that he does not know if they have enough information yet, which makes him skeptical.
  - lxxxvii. J. Dominguez asked if the current amount includes laser tag.
  - lxxxviii. J. Anderson replied in the negative.
  - lxxxix. D. Nyakaru asked whether Big Red Thon requested the money for food or for other expenses.
    - xc. D. Barbaria said that they asked for \$3840 for all their remaining expenses.
    - xc. M. Stefanko said that if they have 400 participants and there are two meals for each of them, then that would be \$1.50 per student per meal, which is a normal and to-be-expected amount of money for a food budget.
    - xcii. J. Dominguez moved the previous question.
    - xciii. I. Wallace asked what this would imply.
    - xciv. J. Anderson said that it means that voting would happen at this time.
    - xcv. Motion to approve Resolution 16 – approved 17-0-3.
    - xcvi. D. Barbaria said that the process currently in place for special projects funding is highly flawed, and that if anyone has any ideas on how it can be fixed, it is the assembly's responsibility to fix it.

## VI. Adjournment

- a. J. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John Hannan*  
Clerk of the Assembly