

# Cornell University Employee Assembly

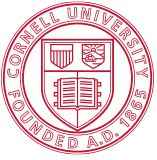
## Cornell Employee Assembly

Minutes of the December 21, 2016 Meeting

12:15 PM – 1:30 PM

401 Physical Sciences

- I. Call to Order
  - a. U. Smith called the meeting to order at 12:15.
  - b. *Members Present:* [List First Initial
  - c. *Members Absent:*
  - d. *Also Present:*
- II. Housing Master Plan and Addressing Capital Needs (Vice President R. Lombardi and Provost M. Kotlikoff)
  - a. Provost M. Kotlikoff said that there has been discussion about how do we think forward about address our student housing program and launching a capital program around student housing, including how the program is funded without exacerbating deferred maintenance on other buildings.
    - i. There is sophomore demand that exceeds capacity, which forces sophomores into Collegetown.
  - b. Vice President R. Lombardi said that we guaranteed housing for first and second year as well as transfers but we do not have enough housing to meet this, they are sound principles we need to get to the point of fulfilling them.
    - i. Vice President R. Lombardi said about 800 non first year students live on North campus, which does not fit public perception because most think first years only live on North.
    - ii. Vice President R. Lombardi said more students want a community experience, want to give more students the opportunity to do so beyond first year on campus.
    - iii. Vice President R. Lombardi said that the first two years should be on campus, up to us to provide more of that experience for them and then junior and sophomore year more off campus.
    - iv. Vice President R. Lombardi said we need to address deferred maintenance because we cannot displace any current housing capacity to build new facilities as there is not enough space.
  - c. Vice President R. Lombardi said that we have looked into areas we can build and have divided areas into ones that are easier to build on versus ones that are harder to build, ultimately points to north campus as the most developable space.

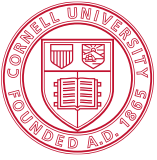


## Cornell University Employee Assembly

- d. Provost M. Kotlikoff said that there is an academic case for having more freshman students on this campus, but currently there is not enough space for these students in terms of budget as well as space.
  - i. Provost M. Kotlikoff said that there is no path to solving the budget, space and facilities problem for more first years through the systems that we currently have and therefore we need a responsible and creative solution that balances these without picking one objective over another.
  - ii. Provost M. Kotlikoff said that we are looking to increase freshman class by 250-275 students but we need to do a better job on our class sizes and gateway courses.
  - iii. Provost M. Kotlikoff said that we have two years before we would increase the class size and we need to use that time to make sure we do not exacerbate the housing and capacity problem.
  - iv. Provost M. Kotlikoff said that the main issue to address is class size and we have an opportunity to address some of our rankings as well in terms of expenditures per student.
- e. Provost M. Kotlikoff said there have been numerous meetings across campus about this plan, including the board of trustees and there is a consensus that we need to solve these problems, the how we do it is not solved but the what needs to be done is agreed on.
- f. H. Hall asked what is the future for the low-rises.
  - i. Vice President R. Lombardi said that they do not look the best but infrastructure wise they are in better shape and are not in the first phase of fixes.
- g. H. Hall said that if you add triples to the building, you have more people in the building but the same amount of staff and therefore there needs to be an increase in staff to provide the same level of service.
  - i. Provost M. Kotlikoff said that this is taken into account in the new financial model for adding new students, it
- h. U. Smith said that if there are further questions, please email them to him and they will compile them to send to the Provost and Vice President.

### III. Resolution IV

- a. J. Kruser said that he has not met anyone that is opposed to the idea of what we are trying to accomplish with increased accessibility to the web at Cornell, the only difference is how do we accomplish this.
  - i. J. Kruser said that some concerns are gathering all the resources that we need before we do this, but he thinks that the policy should be set as a goal



## Cornell University Employee Assembly

and use it to inform the process and assess the resources that we need to continually achieve this goal.

- ii. J. Kruser said that this cannot be solved overnight and that this is a goal and a change that will take time but that this is a good place to start.
- iii. J. Kruser said that another concern is that guidelines should be created instead of a policy but he said that our goals need to be really clear as a university and that we need to start making progress now for the next several years and a policy would support that.

b. J. Kruser said that he would like to add an amendment that the assessment of resources would be an ongoing process and an individual or persons will monitor this.

- i. U. Smith made a motion to add this amendment to the resolution for consideration of the resolution.

1. Amendment **passes** 14-0-0.

c. U. Smith said there is a motion to **call resolution to question**.

- i. Motion **passes** 15-0-0

#### IV. Resolution V: Endorsing the Ithaca Plan

a. J. Kruser said that whole purpose behind this increasing the focus on making drug addiction a medical issue and decriminalizing the process.

b. G. Giambattista asked for clarification on whether or not this is considered state or federal in line 73.

- i. U. Smith said it will be considered by the state legislature.

c. U. Smith moved **to table** the resolution until the mayor or other sponsors of the committee can attend a meeting.

- i. Motion **passed** unanimously.

#### V. Resolution VII

a. U. Smith said that this resolution is asking to see what benefits are offered and whether or not they are gendered in nature, this is not a request for change, just a resolution requesting for more information about why the benefits are written the way they are.

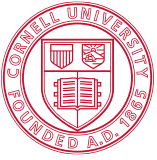
- i. Michelle asked if this is supporting fact finding as opposed to what other options exist.

ii. U. Smith said that we do not know what any of the solutions are at this point, we just want to see what the benefits are and see if it can be made equitable across genders, not specifically for the LGBTQ community.

b. U. Smith **calls the question** to vote on the resolution.

c. J. Kruser calls the motion to vote.

- i. Motion **passes** 17-0-0.



## Cornell University Employee Assembly

### VI. Resolution VIII: Sanctuary Campus

- a. U. Smith said that we are introducing this resolution in making Cornell a sanctuary campus.
  - i. Only change that is made in line 21, another “whereas” has been added stating the the University Assembly has passed their resolution making the University a sanctuary campus.
  - ii. Amendments wanted to bring this into the perspective of employee or staff, you do not necessarily know if you have an undocumented student working with you and want staff to be comfortable knowing how to help and direct the student to the appropriate resources and provide timely support.
- b. G. Giambattista asked if there are undocumented staff persons.
  - i. Staff persons no, but student employees maybe because they can be both employee and student.
- c. The resolution said that it will support the petition but that the petition is a lot more than just the sanctuary campus.
  - i. The petition and resolution are not breaking the law but creating a scenario where the funding could continue.
- d. The sanctuary campus is a sentiment that legally means little if Immigration officers do come onto campus.
- e. U. Smith said that this resolution is only being introduced now and to please take time to talk to constituents and come with questions at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda Robinson  
Clerk of the Assembly