



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, February 14, 2019 Meeting  
4:49pm-6:20pm in Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. V. Devatha called the meeting to order at 4:49 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
  - i. *Present:* M. Adeghe [0], J. Anderson [0], D. Barbaria [0], C. Benedict [0], U. Chukwukere [0], V. Devatha [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 [1], I. Pavlov [0.25], E. Shapiro [0], J. Sim [0], M. Smith [0], M. Stefanko [1], F. Uribe-Rheinbolt [0], B. Weintraub [0]
  - ii. *Absent:* G. Park [1.5], M. Shovik [2.25], K. Wondimu [0], V. Xu [0.75]
- c. There was a motion to include Resolution 18 in the agenda as Business of the Day – **approved**.

### II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. There was a motion to approve the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes – **approved**.

### III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

### IV. Announcements & Reports

- a. D. Barbaria said that on Monday, The Wardrobe presented to the Appropriations Committee for \$1,500 to be used either for expanding inventory or to buy a steamer, and that The Wardrobe is an organization that provides rental professional attire for those who need it but do not own it. He added that the Appropriations Committee approved this request, and that anyone on the assembly who wishes to overturn this decision can do so at this time.

### V. Presentations

- a. Anabel's Grocery
  - i. Michael Cornette said that he is the project manager of Anabel's Grocery (henceforth Anabel's), and that he is at the meeting to give updates on what Anabel's is doing in spring of 2019. He added that the operation itself has been put on pause for internal review. He went through his presentation.
  - ii. D. Barbaria asked what kind of response M. Cornette expected or would like to receive from the SA. He added that they are not in a position to consult,

and asked what they need from shared governance and the student body to be more effective and to reopen.

- iii. M. Cornette said that Anabel's would not exist without the SA, and that it would be irresponsible of Anabel's not to take the time to do this now and see how they can succeed in the long run. He added that funding at this time would mainly be for the purpose of having non-volunteer staff in the store, such that some of the onus would be taken off of the student team who can devote more time to strategy rather than focusing on the day-to-day operations. He also said that he wanted to provide an update and get a pulse of the student body, and that they need to take time even if it is a bad look for Anabel's, such that it can eventually be present for the student body in perpetuity.
- iv. D. Barbaria asked how long Anabel's is expected to be closed.
- v. M. Cornette said that he is not sure, but that it seemed rushed when Anabel's first opened in Spring 2017, and that the graduating seniors of that year really wanted to see the store open. He added that in many regards, a lot of the thinking that should have happened at that time did not happen, and that they do not have a set timeline right now.
- vi. D. Barbaria asked what the longest expected time for Anabel's to be closed would be.
- vii. M. Cornette said that he wouldn't expect for Anabel's to be closed for longer than until the beginning of Fall 2019, and that he would like to open before the end of the semester to pilot a lot of programs, but that he does not want to give a specific date.
- viii. O. Din asked if Anabel's applied for byline funding during the last byline cycle. He also asked if it would be possible to get a copy of Anabel's' current financials, and said that this is a difficult conversation to have without context.
- ix. M. Cornette said that the problems that Anabel's has are not quite financial, and that they are operating a store and making enough money to operate, but that they felt like they were not meeting their mission to the best of their ability. He added that, as a nonprofit, they want to make a profit so it can be put back into the store, but their financials are weak right now, and that the point of affordability is huge.
- x. O. Din asked if there are any specific metrics or benchmarks that they are looking for.
- xi. M. Cornette said that they are currently doing focus groups about different issues in the food system, and that eventually they will start looking at policies and procedures and putting them to their advisory board.
- xii. J. Anderson asked what data was present regarding food insecure student using Anabel's before the pause.
- xiii. M. Cornette said that the amount of students that met the criteria to get the food subsidy was not many, and that it's difficult to actually know who is food insecure. He added that Anabel's doesn't know who is or isn't food insecure on campus aside from those students who come into the store.
- xiv. J. Anderson asked what the current criteria is and if it is subject to change.
- xv. M. Cornette said that it is not subject to change over the pause, and that they have a form that can be filled out using USDA guidelines. He added that the

subsidy fund has changed over time, and that it currently has \$50,000 in it. He also said that one thing that was put into place was the Anabel's Essentials line which were sold at cost rather than for profit, using the subsidy fund to cover the difference.

- xvi. F. Uribe-Rheinbolt asked how much cheaper the unsubsidized groceries were compared to other competition, and asked how many students used Anabel's. He also asked a question regarding the implications of student dependency on Anabel's during the pause.
- xvii. M. Cornette said that he is hoping that students are able to find other means, and that he doesn't think that too many students were completely dependent on Anabel's. He added that at this time, he does not believe that the impact of the pause has been massive, and that he would welcome people to come and voice concerns. He also said that at the beginning of the semester, they did an analysis at other grocery stores in the area, and that most things were around the same price, but that places like Wegmans or Tops get discounts on the groceries they purchase, so they would pay \$0.19 per pound of bananas whereas Anabel's would pay \$0.40 or \$0.50 per pound. He added that they historically served 500 to 1000 students per week.
- xxviii. F. Uribe-Rheinbolt said that he knows that people in co-ops have experience with local sellers, and that if M. Cornette is looking for more information on local producers, the co-ops could be a good resource.
- xix. J. Dominguez asked how many staff Anabel's has at this time.
- xx. M. Cornette said that the only staff at this time are students in AEM 3385, which does not include himself.
- xxi. J. Dominguez said that if they get the finances, the student records, and the staff, it would give them a better ability to provide oversight. He asked what the average hours worked per week was for a staff member before suspending operations.
- xxii. M. Cornette said that they were required to work two hours per week, which didn't include any extra work such as covering shifts or working on the programming team. He added that with such extra work included, it would end up as five to ten hours per week depending on role, position, and week. He also said that leadership team members devoted a lot more time, which was probably closer to ten to twenty hours per week before factoring in meetings.
- xxiii. J. Dominguez asked if issues were caused because there wasn't enough money to pay staff.
- xxiv. M. Cornette said that this was not an issue, since staff are not paid.
- xxv. N. Matolka asked M. Cornette to elaborate more on their suppliers.
- xxvi. M. Cornette said that they currently have three suppliers, and their criteria is finding people they can buy from at low enough prices for certain items. He added that their produce supplier is local, and that he would like to expand to more suppliers, local or otherwise. He also said that they might be able to order wholesale from GreenStar, and that there are options with Cornell Dining, but that they have not been able to pursue these options.
- xxvii. B. Weintraub asked if M. Cornette could explain the relationship with Cornell Dining and Student & Campus Life.

- xxviii. M. Cornette said that Cornell Dining has been a huge support, and that they would have liked to possibly become a part of Cornell Dining, but the 4c committee didn't allow that.
- xxix. C. Huang asked if they are using the pause to look at ways to be more affordable.
- xxx. M. Cornette replied in the affirmative, and said that it would be irresponsible and counter to their mission for them not to.
- xxxi. C. Huang asked what ways they are looking at executing this.
- xxxii. M. Cornette said that one way would be to expand their supplier list to not only get a wider breadth of products, but also looking to see if they're more affordable elsewhere.

## **VI. Oath of Office**

- a. M. Adeghe, C. Benedict, and U. Chukwukere were sworn in using the Oath of Office at 5:33 pm.

## **VII. Business of the Day I**

- a. Resolution 18: Reinstating the Publication of Median Grades
  - i. O. Egharevba moved to amend the resolution – **amended**.
    - 1. This amendment adds the following clause on line 48: “Be it further resolved, that such investigation shall include, but is not limited to the following: median grade reports since 2011 and feedback from faculty, undergraduate and graduate/professional students,”
  - ii. O. Egharevba moved to amend the resolution, such that the word “encourages” in line 45 would be replaced with the words “calls on” – **amended**.
  - iii. There was a motion to vote.
    - 1. There was a dissent.
    - 2. The motion to vote was **withdrawn**.
  - iv. E. Shapiro asked if O. Egharevba has spoken to any administrators in regard to this resolution since last week.
  - v. O. Egharevba replied in the negative, and said that this will happen soon.
  - vi. E. Shapiro asked if these conversations should happen before this resolution is passed.
  - vii. O. Egharevba moved to vote.
  - viii. J. Anderson said that this resolution doesn't recommend anything, and that it just asks for a collection and dissemination of information.
  - ix. V. Devatha denied the motion to vote, and asked what the amendments made today do for the resolution. He added that he understands that he has set temporal guidelines, but that this doesn't set any content guidelines.
  - x. D. Barbaria said that it does set content guidelines.
  - xi. V. Devatha said that this is more of a time-related thing, and that the intent of this is for the Faculty Senate (henceforth FS) to look at the possibility of reinstating them. He asked what information O. Egharevba would want them to deliver other than raw data.
  - xii. O. Egharevba said that he would like to see a final report or something of that nature.

- xiii. V. Devatha said that he understands that, and asked what such data is supposed to show.
- xiv. O. Egharevba said that it is supposed to set the parameters of what they want.
- xv. M. Adeghe asked if this resolution is asking for this to be reinstated.
- xvi. V. Devatha replied in the negative, saying that it is asking for the FS to look into it. He asked what information would convince the administration one way or the other, and asked what he is trying to direct by investigation.
- xvii. O. Egharevba asked if V. Devatha would be more comfortable if this were amended to include something with a final report.
- xviii. J. Dominguez moved to table the resolution, and said that it seems that this is a large issue that needs more thought to be put into it, and that he thinks that many people are on different pages here.
- xix. O. Egharevba said that he would dissent to that, and that this was tabled last week, after which time he got feedback, and that he would now like to move forward with this.
- xx. V. Devatha said that he is striking down J. Dominguez's motion to table.
- xxi. J. Dominguez asked if O. Egharevba is waiting for an administration reponse, or if he just hasn't reached out yet. He also asked if Dean of Faculty Charles Van Loan approved this.
- xxii. O. Egharevba said that Dean Van Loan wanted the resolution to be toned down, and that this is why the resolution calls for an investigation now.
- xxiii. J. Dominguez asked if faculty are just unenthusiastic about this, and said that he doesn't want to send them something that they won't investigate because they don't care.
- xxiv. Discussion continued in this regard.
- xxv. V. Devatha said that he doesn't think that the right steps have been taken yet, and that O. Egharevba needs to reach out and develop more concrete ideas of what information he wants to be derived from the data analysis, rather than just the fact that the data has been analyzed.
- xxvi. J. Sim said that the FS would publish a report and have an academic study on the issue when they have the empirical evidence. He added that he agrees with parts of this resolution, but that as long as they have current empirical evidence, it is unlikely that they would open an investigation. He also said that if O. Egharevba can pinpoint specific parts, that would help the FS, and that with the empirical evidence being there, an investigation probably won't yield different results.
- xxvii. O. Egharevba said that the investigation in question was from 2007, before the technology to publish median grades on transcripts existed. He added that he wants them to do a new study in this vein now that such technology does exist.
- xxviii. J. Sim said that these are things that should go into resolved clauses, and that at this time, the FS doesn't have the motivation to look into this, and that they should therefore pinpoint what they want them to look for.
- xxix. O. Egharevba said that he is open to offline suggestions in this regard.
- xxx. M. Adeghe made a statement.
- xxxi. E. Shapiro said that they should specify exactly what they want them to investigate.

- xxxii. D. Barbaria said that he is not sure that they should table this, and asked what Dean Van Loan wanted exactly in this regard. He also asked what the motivation for the resolution is right now, and if it is necessary.
- xxxiii. O. Egharevba said that he wanted the body's support as a whole.
- xxxiv. D. Barbaria asked if he needs the SA to pass this.
- xxxv. O. Egharevba said that it would be ideal.
- xxxvi. D. Barbaria asked if Dean Van Loan wants this to be passed before the FS does anything.
- xxxvii. O. Egharevba said that he is not sure.
- xxxviii. D. Barbaria said that he is uncertain about this, and that he does not know what tabling the resolution will do, and said that they can take five minutes to think of language for new amendments.
- xxxix. V. Devatha moved for a seven minute recess to think of language for the resolution – **moved into recess**.
- xl. V. Devatha moved to amend the resolution – **amended**.
  - 1. The amendment would add the following clause, after the clause that was added earlier in the meeting to line 48: "Be it finally resolved, that said investigation include the following: how enrollment would be impacted, correlation between student satisfaction and median grades, how overall median grade trends have shifted since the cease of publication of median grades in 2011, and how other schools have been impacted by public median grades".
- xli. Motion to vote on Resolution 18 – **approved** 17-2-1.
  - 1. As a Sense-of-the-Body resolution, community members were allowed to vote on this resolution as well to add two votes to the total count.
- xlii. J. Anderson moved to consider Resolution 27 before Resolution 26 – **approved**.

## VIII. New Business & Business of the Day II

- a. Resolution 27: Approval of the CUTonight Commission
  - i. K. Kebbeh said that the goal of this is to approve the new constitution, and went through the new language of the constitution.
  - ii. V. Devatha asked why they specified one event per funding cycle.
  - iii. E. Shapiro said that it is by organization.
  - iv. There was a motion to vote.
  - v. D. Barbaria said that they are doing this because CUTonight is a byline organization, and that the SA in general has oversight over any changes to organizational procedures of byline organizations. He added that they are responsible for making sure the organization is the best it can be, and that this is a very important role that they play.
  - vi. V. Devatha said that this resolution is currently New Business, and not Business of the Day.
  - vii. K. Kebbeh moved to move the resolution to Business of the Day – **approved**.
  - viii. Motion to vote on Resolution 27 – **approved** 17-0-1.
- b. Resolution 26: Thank You Letter to Kathy Zoner for Her Years of Service
  - i. J. Dominguez presented the resolution.

- ii. There was a motion to move the resolution to Business of the Day – approved.
- iii. Motion to vote on Resolution 26 – approved 15-0-3.
  1. As a Sense-of-the-Body resolution, community members were allowed to vote on this resolution as well to add two votes to the total count.

**IX. Adjournment**

- a. V. Devatha adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 6:20 pm.

**X. Executive Session**

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John Hannan*  
Clerk of the Assembly