

Cornell University University Assembly

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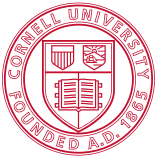
Minutes of the February 19, 2019 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

401 Physical Sciences Building

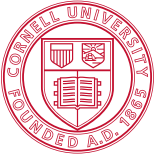
- I. Call to Order
 - a. Call to Order
 - i. M. Battaglia called the meeting to order at 4:36pm
 - ii. The Assembly did not have a quorum when the meeting was called to order.
 - iii. The Assembly reached a quorum at 4:44pm.
 - b. Roll Call
 - i. *Present:* I. Allen, J. Anderson, D. Barbaria, M. Battaglia, R. BenseL, L. Copman, V. Devatha, D. Hiner, L. Kenney, E. Loew, T. Onabajo, C. Van Loan, A. Viswanathan, E. Winarto
 - ii. *Absent:* K. Barth, D. Geisler, R. Howarth, J. Pea, C. Wiggers
 - iii. *Others Present:* L. Falkson, G. Giambattista, P. Hampton, T. Malone, C. Walcott, K. Zoner
 - c. Welcome and Introduction
 - i. M. Battaglia welcomed Charles Walcott, the University Ombudsman, L. Falkson Falkson, the Director of the Ombudsman Office, and Kathy Zoner, the Chief of the Cornell University Police Department.
 - d. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. 1-29-19 Minutes
 - i. There was no dissent. The minutes were **approved** by unanimous dissent.
- III. Presentation by University Ombudsman
 - a. C. Walcott said that the basic function of the office is to help people with problems, in one way or another. He said that Cornell is a complicated place, but that the Office has a good understanding of the different offices and resources available at Cornell.
 - b. He said that he and L. Falkson operate by the standards of the International Ombudsman Association (IOA), meaning that the Office is independent, confidential, and a neutral party, among other things.
 - c. L. Falkson said that the Office spends most of the time dealing with visitor issues. She said the Office is transparent about its annual report and that the report can be found on the website of the Office of the Ombudsman.

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



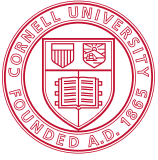
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- d. L. Falkson also gave an overview of the services offered by the Office of the Ombudsman, the operations of the Office, 2017-2018 report summary data, frequent visitor issues, the Office's new mediation program, and the Office's role as a change agent, among other things.
- e. C. Walcott and L. Falkson fielded questions from the Assembly.
- f. D. Barbaria asked how the decision is made with regard to exceptions of confidentiality.
- g. L. Falkson explained how the Office arrives at the decision to breach confidentiality, which, she said, happens as a last resort.
- h. K. Zoner said that, in her experience, her work with the Office of the Ombudsman has been great, and that she cannot recall when a situation has risen to the level of a complete breach of confidentiality.
- i. T. Onabajo asked about plans to expand the Office of the Ombudsman to increase diversification of the representation in the Office to make people more comfortable with going to the Office of the Ombudsman.
- j. L. Falkson said that that is something that the Office should think about more.
- k. J. Anderson asked about the problem area of academic actions.
- l. C. Walcott said that, with faculty members, sometimes one can win, other times, one loses. He said that it matters how a case is delivered to a faculty member. He said that he sometimes suggests that a student talks to his/her advisor, who may serve as an advocate. He said that it depends on the situation.
- m. R. Bensele asked about the number of visits per visitor and how the Office works with Cornell Tech.
- n. L. Falkson said that the Office does not keep numbers formally, however, she said that the number of students that the Office has worked with at Cornell Tech has been less than a dozen. She said that, with recurring visitors, they seem to be staff with employment-related issues.
- o. L. Kenney asked about other instances where the Office follows-up with individuals when someone waives confidentiality.
- p. L. Falkson said that the Office checks-in with the people who they believe were not doing well. She said that the Office serves a sort of conduit to help people help themselves.
- q. I. Allen asked if there is a place for advocacy within the process.
- r. C. Walcott said yes, he said, particularly, when someone is not being treated fairly.
- s. E. Winarto asked about the mediation project pilot.



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- t. L. Falkson said that it is pretty early in the referral process, but that there is a protocol.
 - u. L. Copman asked about the commonalities between cases dealing with fairness, and, if so, what is done to address those commonalities.
 - v. L. Falkson said that, the Office's position has been to reach out to a person with more authority in the area or division where multiple issues of fairness arise.
 - w. C. Walcott said that the Office practices upward feedback, but that it can be difficult. He said that he is impressed with the willingness of everyone in the University to honor requests to begin conversations regarding fairness in particular areas or departments of the University.
- IV. Assembly, Committee, and Liaison Reports
- a. Student Assembly
 - i. J. Anderson said that elections for the Assembly will begin in March, as well as the student-elected trustee position.
 - ii. He also discussed a recently-passed resolution looking at median grade reporting; he also discussed the new initiative, Swipe Out Hunger; he spoke about the hiatus of Anabel's Grocery; and he mentioned a new coalition on health services.
 - b. Campus Infrastructure Committee
 - i. L. Copman discussed the last Campus Infrastructure Committee meeting. She said that there will be an event held in the future.
 - c. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. D. Barbaria said that the committee will be finalizing its amendments to the University Hearing and Review Board application questions at the next meeting.
- V. New Business
- a. Resolution 2: Expressing Appreciation and Best Wishes for CUPD Chief Kathy Zoner
 - i. M. Battaglia said that the resolution was sponsored by him, and that the resolution thanks K. Zoner for her work in the Cornell University Police Department. He said that she has been working with the Codes and Judicial Committee for about 17 years and serving the University for much longer.
 - ii. D. Barbaria motioned **amend** the resolution on lines 14, 27, and 37. The motion was seconded. There was no dissent. The amendments were **adopted** by unanimous consent.
 - iii. M. Battaglia called the question on the resolution. There was no dissent.



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1. By a vote of 13-0-0, with the Chair voting in favor, the resolution was adopted unanimously.
- VI. Executive Session
 - a. The meeting moved into an Executive Session.
 - VII. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrill D. Malone
Clerk of the Assembly