



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, November 2, 2017 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:45pm
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. *Present:* T. Ball, D. Barbaria, A. Chowdhury, O. Corn, R. Cornell, V. Devatha, O. Din, O. Egharevba, H. Hassan, R. Herz, M. Indimine, G. Kaufman, J. Kim, S. Lim, L. Lipschutz, T. Magloire, A Martinez, S. Park, M. Peralta-Ochoa, J. Pollard, S. Romero Zavala, J. Sanon, C. Schott, E. Shapiro, J. Sim, D. Tokunboh, M. Valdez, I. Wallace
 - ii. *Absent:* None

II. Open Microphone

- a. J. Kim said that no members of the Student Assembly were allowed to speak during Open Microphone.
- b. Rep. from Cornell Cinema shared her experience with the cinema and the impact it has had on her.
- c. J. Kim said Open Microphone is only open to discussions not involving Cornell Cinema, as there would be a discussion during Byline Reports.
- d. A sophomore from the College of Engineering said that she would like to see a playground built on the Engineering Quad because it is hard for engineering students to find outlets and ways to refuel themselves.

III. Announcements & Reports

- a. Dining Chair - Dining Update from Emma Bankier
 - i. SA Dining Services Committee Chair E. Bankier said that Willard Straight Dining would be opening up on Monday, November 6, 2017. Work is being done to secure more reusables in the dining halls, create menus on the GET app, and work on a nutritional system for students. She also said that student athletes have expressed their wish for Trillium to be open later.
- b. Motion to amend agenda – ~~withdrawn~~
- c. Rep Pollard – SAIFC, Consensual Relationships Policy, CSP Steering Committee updates
 - i. J. Pollard said that the application for membership to the Campus Infrastructure Committee will close soon. The Campus Sustainability and Infrastructure plan will be rewritten for the next five years, and that there will be a chance to share input on November 9, 2017 from 9am to 12pm at the workshop in Baker Portico.
- d. Rep Wallace – Queer Program Housing Update
 - i. I. Wallace said that the Diversity and Inclusion Committee is currently working on a program.

- e. Rep Valdez – Financial Aid Review Committee
 - i. M. Valdez said that the Financial Aid Review Committee will be hosting an event with the Office of Financial Aid, where there will be an FAQ section. She encouraged everyone to attend the event in Mallot 253 on Thursday next week.
- f. VP of External Affairs Park – Student Assembly Community Forum
 - i. S. Park reminded everyone of the upcoming community forum on Thursday, November 14, 2017. It is mandatory each SA member bring three community members. All community members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The SA website will be up soon, and the Assembly needs to have a discussion about that agenda (if any) that will be pushed by the website.
- g. V. Devatha motioned to move Resolution 18: Expanding the CRP to top of the agenda - **passed** by unanimous consent.
- h. Resolution 18: Expanding the Collegiate Readership Program to include the Wall street Journal
 - i. V. Devatha said this resolution was to use the funds originally intended for the now-cancelled USA Today subscription to partner with the WSJ. The undergraduate-wide subscription of the WSJ would cost \$1.75/student/year.
 - ii. R. Herz asked why the CRP was not brought to the Appropriations Committee
 - 1. G. Kaufman said that the Appropriations Committee has been busy.
 - 2. D. Barbaria said it was delegated by G. Kaufman to V. Devatha.
 - iii. D. Barbaria made a motion to move this to business of the day
 - iv. S. Park made a motion to **call the question** – **passed** with a vote of 27-0-1.

IV. Byline Reports

- a. International Students Union
 - i. G. Kaufman said the Appropriations Committee recommendation was to increase funding to \$0.80/student.
 - ii. Motion to approve – funding **approved** by a vote of 27-0-1
- b. Multicultural Greek Letter Council
 - i. G. Kaufman said the MGLC is currently funded at \$0.50/student and the Appropriations Committee recommends an increase to \$0.67/student, which is a 33% increase.
 - ii. Motion to approve – funding **approved** by a vote of 27-0-1
- c. Slope Media
 - i. G. Kaufman said Slope Media is currently funded at \$0.86/student and the Appropriations Committee recommends a decrease to \$0.50/student. The organization had a large surplus and has not submitted a request for an appeal.
 - ii. Motion to approve – funding **approved** by a vote of 26-1-0
- d. Haven
 - i. G. Kaufman said they will not be voting on this today. Haven requested an increase from \$3.50 to \$3.80.
 - ii. **Tabled** by unanimous consent
- e. EARS
 - i. G. Kaufman said the Appropriations Committee unanimously decided to give the Empathy, Assistance and Referral Service the full amount of funding it requested, along with an offer to increase funding if needed.
 - ii. **Tabled** by unanimous consent.
- f. Cornell Cinema

- i. G. Kaufman said the Appropriations Committee unanimously rejected the request for \$8.50. However, the committee does support the Arts and is asking the administration to pick up the costs, as well as support in helping obtain funding from the administration.
- ii. G. Kaufman read a statement from Matthew Stefanko, previous Chair of the Appropriations Committee in AY 14-15 and AY 15-16 to express his support for the funding decision.
- iii. Cornell Cinema Director Mary Fessenden said there is erroneous information in the Appropriations Committee rationale. Regarding a statement M. Stefanko wrote in 2014, M. Fessenden suggested perhaps M. Stefanko is holding a grudge. She said nothing suggested funding should be cut, and there were no restrictions in the charter stating that small portions of staff wages couldn't be covered. There have been efforts to cut costs. She predicts that in two years, the Cinema is likely to be in a better place of funding and the university will not respond well to this action.
- iv. Community member Steven Torres said the Appropriations Committee misunderstandings are complex and far reaching, but can be corrected. S. Torres calls up bureaucratic apathy and asks the SA to work with them instead of against them.
- v. Kevin Fitzpatrick from the Appropriations Committee disagreed with the committee decision and said the process was not done correctly. Many members left before the discussion ended so the validity of the vote can be called into question.
- vi. G. Kaufman said he was not allowed to divulge the specifics of the voting. Some members left and sent their votes in. The vote was close. To work with the administration, he suggested getting every SA member to help and using all the resources the SA has to make sure the provost knows this is a priority.
- vii. M. Fessenden said there is no way the university will fund Cornell Cinema as it currently exists. It will need to be restructured and that takes time.
- viii. O. Corn said she voted to defund the Cinema. It is one of the most poorly run organizations she has ever seen and the student activity fee should not be used for staff wages.
- ix. Cornell Cinema student advisory board president Yuji Yang said they are working on providing better transparency and there will soon be replacement funding for the staff wages.
- g. S. Park made a motion to extend by a minute – passed
 - i. A Cornell Cinema house manager said having a safe free space on this campus is crucial, referring to a “game of chicken” as there is no evidence or will power to get the administration to sign on.
 - ii. Annie Lewandowski from the Dept. of Music testified to M. Fessenden's character. As a faculty member, A. Lewandowski knows how slow the funding process is.
 - iii. Jaewon Sim said the cinema has been an important part of student lives.
 - iv. G. Kaufman said the implications that the cinema will go away is not true.
- h. R. Herz made a motion to extend by a minute – dissent from V. Devatha
 - i. Paul Monaghan from the Appropriations Committee said every two years, the cinema asks for two more. Him and G. Kaufman reached out to audit the account, but G. Kaufman as Vice President of Finance was not even able to look into the account. There is no oversight to where the money goes.
- i. Motion to extend by a minute - passed

- i. Community member said it is clear the Cinema has mismanaged funds and it is unsustainable. The cinema is one of the most highly funded organizations. The burden should be on the administration and not the students.
- j. Motion to extend by a minute – **passed**
 - i. Community member asked the SA to listen to the people they represent.
 - ii. R. Herz asked what the average ticket price was per student.
 - iii. G. Kaufman said it depends on how it is calculated. If you take the total expenditures divided by the total tickets, it is \$27.90 plus \$5.50.
 - iv. R. Herz said older members, such as graduates, do frequent the Cinema as well.
- k. O. Egharevba made a motion to extend by a minute – **passed**
 - i. G. Kaufman said the Cinema has promised to draw the money for wages from a different account, but it can't be true economically.
- l. Motion to extend by a minute – Dissent from V. Devatha
- m. D. Barbaria made a motion to move M. Fessenden up on the speakers list – **passed**
 - i. M. Fessenden said it is not true that \$300,000 is being spent. It is actually \$27,000. The general activity fee guidelines do not prohibit use for staff wages and it has not been disproved. The Cinema has always been transparent in its funding.
- n. Motion to extend by a minute – **passed**
 - i. J. Sanon said she views the Cinema as a public good for Ithaca, so the university, as a tax-exempt institution, should fund the Cinema.
- o. V. Devatha made a motion to extend speaking time to 1 minute 30 seconds, and G. Kaufman would not be allowed to speak – dissent and **withdrawn**
 - i. Community member said the risk of the cinema closing outweigh the funding that will be given for another year.
 - ii. Community member questioned G. Kaufman's professionalism.

V. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 16: Median Grade Reporting
 - i. **Tabled** by unanimous consent

VI. New Business

- a. Resolution 17: Declaring Support for Wind Development on Campus
 - i. **Tabled** by unanimous consent
- b. Resolution 19: Preventing the Use of University Resources for Political Purposes
 - i. **Tabled** by unanimous consent

VII. Adjournment

- a. J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:44pm

VIII. Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,
Terrill Malone and Catherine Tran
 Clerks of the Assembly