



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Friday, December 1, 2017 Meeting  
5:30pm-8:00pm in 401 Physical Sciences Building

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 5:41pm.
- b. Roll Call:
  - i. *Present:* T. Ball, D. Barbaria, O. Corn, V. Devatha, O. Egharevba, M. Indimine, G. Kaufman, J. Kim, S. Lim, L. Lipschutz, S. Park, J. Pollard, S. Romero Zavala, J. Sanon, C. Schott, J. Sim, D. Tokunboh, M. Valdez
  - ii. *Absent:* A. Chowdhury, R. Cornell (excused), O. Din (excused), H. Hassan, R. Herz, T. Magloire, A. Martinez, M. Peralta-Ochoa, E. Shapiro, I. Wallace

### II. Open Microphone

- a. Motion to amend the agenda and move Byline Reports before the Approval of Minutes – **withdrawn**

### III. Approval of Minutess

- a. August 24, 2017
- b. September 21, 2017
- c. September 28, 2017
- d. October 5, 2017
- e. J. Kim said by unanimous consent all minutes listed above are **approved**.

### IV. Byline Reports – G. Kaufman

- a. Outdoor Odyssey
  - i. Currently funded at \$1.25. The Appropriations Committee recommends an increase of \$0.50 to \$1.75.
  - ii. Motion to approve recommendation – **passed** with a vote of 16-0-1.
- b. Alternative Breaks
  - i. Currently funded at \$1.50. The Appropriations Committee recommends an increase to \$2.00.
  - ii. Motion to approve recommendation – **passed** with a vote of 16-0-1.
- c. Club Insurance
  - i. Currently funded at \$5.10 and requested to stay at that amount. This is not a person but rather the insurance the SA makes for all clubs in case of disaster.
  - ii. Motion to approve recommendation – **passed** with a vote of 16-0-1.
- d. Slope Day Programming Board
  - i. G. Kaufman said this organization has been funded at \$18 for over a decade. This is the first Appropriations Committee to increase funding for better concerts, something that the student body appreciates.
  - ii. Motion to approve the decision – dissent from V. Devatha
  - iii. G. Kaufman said this has been on the agenda for two weeks.

- iv. V. Devatha said in the future, he hopes they ask for a similar amount or an even larger amount, because it is a very different level of performers with a larger increase. It is a step system, not a linear line. This will take a large step in funding and he encourages them to apply for this jump in the future.
  - v. O. Corn said the Appropriations Committee decided on \$19 because they had an issue with the tickets. Ticket prices for those who are not at Cornell should be increased a little to offset the costs.
  - vi. S. Park said a lot of this increase is not actually going to the performer, but things they have been asking for. If the SA wants to give them enough money to spend on the performer, it has to give them \$20.
  - vii. G. Kaufman said the programming board is not appealing the funding.
  - viii. Motion to approve the decision – dissent from M. Valadez
  - ix. Motion to approve recommendation at \$19/student – passed with a vote of 16-0-1.
- e. Senior Days
- i. G. Kaufman was concerned that the University Business Service Center charged a \$30,000 expense to Senior Days' account for a different byline funded organization. The SA needs to work out why this expense is being reported, because Senior Days is being asked to pay. They do have a plan to fill this cost, but they should not have to.
  - ii. Motion to approve recommendation – passed with a vote of 16-0-1.
- f. CU Tonight Commission
- i. CU Tonight Commission has a large surplus and is working to spend more. They can continue to do the same level of programming with a slightly lower activity fee allocation. The commission is not appealing the decision.
  - ii. Motion to approve recommendation – passed with a vote of 16-0-1.
- g. SAFC
- i. G. Kaufman asked to table SAFC until after the Student Assembly, because the amount allocated is in part a function of what is allocated to other organizations.
  - ii. Motion to amend the agenda – tabled by unanimous consent.
- h. Athletics & Physical Education
- i. Currently funded at \$10.30 and requested an inflationary increase to \$10.57. Their marketing budget has been inappropriately used to prioritize men sports over women sports. They responded by saying they invest the marketing budget in the most business efficient manner. The Appropriations Committee encouraged them to prioritize women's sports and so they recommend a decrease for now, but perhaps in two years when they have a plan, they can get their funding back.
  - ii. S. Romero-Zavala said they seemed to spend on advertising without a strategy. In their packet, all the sports listed were male. When the Appropriations committee made recommendations, their feedback was completely ignoring the point, so she believes this is a qualifying decrease.
  - iii. V. Devatha made a motion to approve – revoked
  - iv. G. Kaufman said athletics isn't charging for women sports and would like their marketing outreach to be focused on women sports.
  - v. Motion to approve recommendation – passed with a vote of 16-0-1.
- i. Cornell Concert Commission
- i. G. Kaufman said this is the first time in over a decade the Appropriations Committee has voted to increase funding. They are sitting on a large surplus

as Barton was closed for renovations last year and they didn't have to spend that much money.

- ii. Motion to approve recommendation – **passed** with a vote of 16-0-1.
- j. Collegiate Readership Program
  - i. G. Kaufman said he did not chair this meeting. The CRP currently has a surplus of \$135,000 and it will be used in the next two years to continue subscriptions for the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times. The prices said now are essentially negotiated, so with a \$1 activity fee allocation, there could be a level of flexibility. This is run out of the SA account.
  - ii. D. Barbaria moved to asked the assembly to request G. Kaufman write a report by the end of next semester explaining to the incoming VP of Finance how to handle this program.
    - 1. G. Kaufman said he will be doing this for all the organizations.
  - iii. Motion to approve by unanimous consent – **withdrawn**
  - iv. V. Devatha said the NYT still has physical distribution locations and they have to discuss in the future where they want those to be.
  - v. Motion to approve by unanimous consent – **withdrawn**
  - vi. Motion to approve recommendation – **passed** with a vote of 16-0-1.
- k. Student Assembly
  - i. G. Kaufman said he did not chair this meeting.
  - ii. G. Kaufman said it is inappropriate for the SA to byline fund itself. It has a huge surplus and the SA has electoral incentives to spend the money.
  - iii. Motion to approve – dissent and **withdrawn**
  - iv. G. Kaufman said a motion to overturn this decision is a motion for the SA to use a byline setting funding process to give itself too much money.
  - v. M. Valadez said she has an issue with cutting the SA down to \$0. There have been conversations about how to allocate this and she has had conversations about giving the SA a few dollars for the financial aid review.
  - vi. G. Kaufman said the SA would still be giving its surplus to itself to spend on other projects.
  - vii. M. Valadez said she has no political incentive as she is a senior and graduating.
  - viii. J. Sanon said a lot of community groups need this money and pushed for \$0.50.
  - ix. T. Cabbell yielded to M. Indimine.
  - x. M. Indimine said pushed for funding the SA to give to FARC.
  - xi. Motion to vote to overturn – revoked
  - xii. G. Kaufman said the SA has about \$53,000 in the rollover account and \$54,000 in special projects (surplus) from the Collegiate Readership Program. They normally spend \$20,000 of the \$30,000 they give themselves.
  - xiii. Motion to vote to vote – dissent from M. Valadez
  - xiv. V. Devatha made a motion to overturn – dissent and revoked
  - xv. O. Corn said the Appropriations Committee is consistently stringent with other organizations, but is allowing the SA to walk away with a surplus of over \$100,000.
  - xvi. V. Devatha pushed for the money going directly to the Students Helping Students Fund to avoid politicizing. The SA took so much money from this organization in the past that they haven't supported that amount moving forward. They should fund the max \$1.90 and put it towards the Students Helping Students fund.

- xvii. G. Kaufman said \$1.90 is too high. If the SA puts fiscal discipline on itself, it could probably reduce its operating budget to \$10,000 and use the extra \$10,000 to put towards the Students Helping Students Fund.
- xxviii. M. Valadez said FARC was told it could get back on byline funding without having to collect the 15,000 signatures. However, the VPF at the time said they could not and by the time she reached out to G. Kaufman, it was already too late.
- xix. D. Barbaria said FARC is fully stable. If more money is put in, it could potentially do more, but it is not a necessity.
- xx. J. Kim said because there is so much yielding, he is limiting speakers to one minute.
- xxi. G. Kaufman said if to increase the endowment, they could byline fund it. The university's endowment return is about \$0.07 on every dollar, which is not a good use of our funding.
- xxii. Motion to vote – dissent from J. Sanon said she has a different view
- xxiii. Motion to overturn with the understanding that all the money would go towards the Summer Experience grant rather than the Students Helping Students endowment to avoid the \$0.07 on a dollar – dissent from SA representative who does not feel comfortable with that
- xxiv. J. Kim made a motion to vote to close discussion and vote to overturn – **failed**
- xxv. M. Indimine yields to J. Sanon.
- xxvi. J. Sanon says it is not a surplus up in the air. FARC is severely underfunded as well as a bunch of other organizations and programs.
- xxvii. D. Barbaria said he has been upset since the money has been removed from FARC. However, he does not trust this process.
- xxviii. Motion to vote to vote on recommendation – **passed** with a vote of 9-5-1.
- xxix. S. Romero-Zavala said she does not want to rush this because it is important. They should hear some numbers and justifications.
- xxx. C. Schott, as someone who benefitted from the Summer Experience grant, did not support putting the grant in the same bucket as any student activity.
- xxxi. Motion to overturn funding decision – dissent from V. Devatha
- xxxii. V. Devatha motions to overturn and fund at \$0.72. They could utilize \$10,000 from the special projects fund to go towards the Summer Experience Grant. They could use \$10,000 from the \$0.72 in addition to also go towards the grant.
- xxxiii. Motion to vote on \$0.72 – dissent on the basis of how future student assemblies will comply with this.
- xxxiv. Motion to vote to vote – **passed** with a vote of 10-5-1.
- xxxv. Motion to vote to overturn to \$0.72 – **failed** with a vote of 9-6-1.
- xxxvi. G. Kaufman made a motion to fund at \$0.50 – **failed** with a vote of 7-8-1.
- xxxvii. O. Corn made a motion to fund at \$0.61 – dissent on the basis it is an arbitrary number
- xxxviii. Motion to vote to vote on \$0.61 – **withdrawn**
- xxxix. G. Kaufman suggested funding an amount such that SAFC would be at an even number, which would be \$0.69.
- 1. J. Kim called for a three-minute recess so SA members could have time to calculate the exact number.
  - i. G. Kaufman said because the total activity fee has to be a whole number, they increase SAFC at the end of the year to make it a whole number. If they

were to give the SA \$0.87 and give SAFC \$0.50 this goes up to \$234.00 activity fee total.

- ii. Motion to vote on \$0.87 – passed with a vote of 15-0-0 with J. Kim voting in favor.
- m. SAFC
  - i. G. Kaufman said SAFC requested \$100 and the Appropriations Committee gave them a \$3.50/student increase. Because they went to \$0.87, they need \$0.50 for SAFC to make the total activity fee a full number.
  - ii. G. Kaufman made a motion to fund SAFC at \$98 – passed with a vote of 13-1-1.

## V. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 22: Spring 2018 Election Rules
  - i. Rules Attachment
  - ii. Motion to approve the election rules – passed with a vote of 13-0-1.
  - iii. D. Barbaria made a point of order to redo the election vote.
  - iv. Motion to approve the election rules – passed with a vote of 14-0-1.
- b. Motion to vote on total activity fee of \$234 – passed with a vote of 11-2-1.
  - i. D. Barbaria called for a division of the house and vote by standing.
- c. O. Corn made a motion to roll call vote – J. Kim did not recognize the motion as there was a motion already announced to vote by standing.
- d. Motion to vote on total activity fee of \$234 – passed with a vote of 12-2-1.
- e. Resolution 14: Increasing the Transparency of WCM-Q
  - i. J. Pollard motioned to make an amendment to add on line 28 “Be it finally resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the Vice President of University Relations”
  - ii. Add on line 25 “be made publically available on the WCM-Q Governance and Leadership website.”
- f. Motion to refer all the resolutions to the Executive Committee – passed with a vote of 10-4-1.
- g. Resolution 17: Declaring Support for Wind Development on Campus
- h. Resolution 19: Preventing the Use of University Resources for Political Purposes
- i. Resolution 24: Allocating Part of the Student Assembly Surplus

## VI. Adjournment

- a. J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 7:17pm.

## VII. Executive Session

- a. SAIFC Chair Nominations & Voting
- b. CRPC Nominations & Voting

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Catherine Tran*  
Clerks of the Assembly