



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, February 22, 2018 Meeting
4:46pm-6:02pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:46 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. *Present*: D. Barbaria [0], O. Corn [0], R. Cornell [2.5], V. Devatha [1], O. Egharevba [0], N. Hernandez [0], R. Herz [5], S. Iruvanti [0], G. Kaufman [0], J. Kim [0], S. Lim [0], D. Nyakaru [0], S. Park [1.5], G. Park [0], M. Peralta-Ochoa [1], C. Schott [1.25], E. Shapiro [1], J. Sim [1], D. Tokunboh [2.75], M. Valadez [1], I. Wallace [1]
 - ii. *Absent*: T. Ball (*excused*) [0.5], A. Chowdhury (*unexcused*) [2], O. Din (*excused*) [2], H. Hassan (*unexcused*) [3], M. Indimine (*excused*) [1.5], L. Lipschutz (*unexcused*) [4.75], S. Romero Zavala (*unexcused*) [2]

II. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

III. Approval of the Minutes:

- a. February 15th Minutes
 - i. Motion to amend the roll call such that “Nathalia Hernandez” reads “N. Hernandez” – **amended** unanimously.
 - ii. Motion to approve the minutes – **approved**.
- b. There was a motion on the floor – **approved**.

IV. Announcements & Reports

- a. VP Valadez – D&I Summit
 - i. M. Valadez spoke about the Cornell Diversity and Inclusion Summit, and said that she is currently in the process of reaching out to organizations currently implementing new and innovative ways to promote diversity and inclusion in their organizations. She also said that all byline organizations will be invited to the Summit, and that she expects an attendance of 100 people.
 1. The Summit will be held on Sunday, March 18th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- b. Dining Committee
 - i. D. Barbaria announced in the stead of the unavailable Dining Committee chair that Trillum has implemented extra operating hours.
 1. Trillum’s hours from Monday to Thursday will now be 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

- c. University Assembly Campus Infrastructure Committee
 - i. C. Schott announced that the Campus Infrastructure Committee is seeking new members, and spoke about certain initiatives that the Committee is taking.
 - ii. V. Devatha referenced C. Schott's comment regarding the taxing of plastic water bottles and asked what the money raised by such a tax would be going toward.
 - iii. C. Schott said that this is currently in discussion.
- d. C. Schott – International Students
 - i. C. Schott spoke about an initiative that enables international students to extend their work authorization in the United States by two extra years following graduation.
 - 1. This allows international students to be authorized to work in the United States for three years following graduation, instead of one.

V. New Business

- a. Resolution 31: Adding a Veteran's Ex-Officio Representative to the Student Assembly
 - i. V. Devatha said that Resolution 31 is a bylaw amendment, and that the Student Assembly would be unable to pass this resolution until next week.
 - ii. There was a motion to amend the title of the resolution to "Adding a Veteran's Ex-Officio Representative to the Student Assembly" – amended unanimously.
 - 1. The title previously read "Reinstating the Financial Aid Review Committee as a Byline-Funded Organization for the 2020-2022 Cycle".
 - iii. Luke Opyd, president of the Cornell University Veterans Association (henceforth CUVA) said that there are currently 23 undergraduate veterans at Cornell University, and that Cornell's provost has committed to admitting 100 veterans by Fall 2020. He noted that an ex-officio representative would represent few members of the undergraduate body now, but would represent more in the future.
 - iv. G. Kaufman said that he supports the efforts of veterans on campus, but noted that he does not believe that there are enough veterans on campus to warrant a Student Assembly seat, and that allowing this resolution to pass would make it difficult not to give a seat to any organization that requested one.
 - v. L. Opyd said that the issue at hand transcends the amount of student veterans on campus. He said that veterans seek proportional representation on campus relative to their national representation, and that the introduction of this seat would set a precedent and tell the University that this issue is something to address.
 - 1. The national proportion of veterans in the United States is 6%.
 - vi. V. Devatha added that the whole idea of this resolution is that the underrepresentation of veterans is something to address, and that the veteran community cannot voice their opinions and concerns in the Student Assembly as it stands.

- vii. O. Corn asked why this resolution seeks a non-voting position for the representation of veterans. She also echoed Varun's sentiment and said that she found G. Kaufman's previous comments to be problematic.
- viii. V. Devatha said that veterans on campus face particular struggles that other members of the student body do not, and that veterans face many barriers to inclusivity.
- ix. O. Corn reiterated her previous question.
- x. V. Devatha said that an at-large position would allow anyone on campus to run for the position, and with only 23 veterans on campus at this time, such a position would run the risk of a non-veteran running for and winning the position. He explained that an ex-officio position would be a liaison, and that CUVA would be designating its own liaison to the Student Assembly.
- xi. L. Opyd concurred with V. Devatha's explanation.
- xii. D. Barbaria noted that the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning makes up 3% of the undergraduate body, but 9% of the Student Assembly body. He also asked if there is anything that the Assembly could do to ensure that the liaison position is sent every year.
- xiii. L. Opyd said that he is unfamiliar with the workings of the Student Assembly, but that this position would hopefully run indefinitely.
- xiv. D. Barbaria asked if there is anything that the Student Assembly could do to ensure that CUVA's request for a liaison gets done every year.
- xv. L. Opyd said that CUVA holds elections every year, and that there would hopefully be some type of turnover in which the current administrators of both parties indoctrinate their successors and establish contact before the start of the next school year.
- xvi. D. Barbaria said that if this resolution is passed, it would be appreciated if CUVA amended their bylaws to ensure the continued existence of a Student Assembly liaison.
- xvii. L. Opyd said that he plans on doing this.
- xviii. M. Valadez said that she is glad that this resolution has come to the floor and stated her disagreement with G. Kaufman's earlier statement. She also motioned to strike line 24 of the resolution – amended with a majority.
 - 1. The line of the resolution struck was line 24 in the earliest form of this document; following the amendment made in subsection ii, the line to be struck was found on line 23.
- xix. Zachary Schmetterer voiced his support for the resolution.
- xx. D. Barbaria said that if this resolution is passed, then the timeline on which CUVA would select its liaison must match up with the timelines of organizations that undergo a similar process.
- xxi. J. Sim recommended that a seat be created for students coming back from a long leave of absence, such as Korean or Israeli students that must fulfill military requirements in their home countries, since this would encompass a larger portion of the student body.
- xxii. V. Devatha said that he understands J. Sim's idea, but that his proposal is an unconventional seat, and that there are so many unconventional backgrounds in this regard that would theoretically be encompassed by this seat that it would be hard for each of them to be represented by one position.

- xxiii. J. Sim said that if this resolution passes, then his aforementioned seat should definitely be considered.
- xxiv. L. Opyd clarified that CUVA is not strictly for veterans of the United States' military or the militaries of her allies, and that international students who served in the militaries of their respective countries are included.
- xxv. J. Kim asked whether or not there are any international students in CUVA.
- xxvi. L. Opyd said that there are not.
- xxvii. V. Devatha said that the idea of this ex-officio seat would be to facilitate CUVA and veteran students' ability to forge connections on campus.
- xxviii. C. Schott said that he could help L. Opyd get in contact with international veterans by virtue of his status as international students liaison.
- xxix. Joseph Anderson stated his disagreement with G. Kaufman's earlier statements.
- xxx. N. Hernandez voiced her support for the resolution.
- xxxi. M. Peralta-Ochoa said that he hopes that the Student Assembly will take further steps following this resolution to represent more identities that are not currently represented, and questioned the ability of those of a white, middle-class background to understand the diverse perspectives and backgrounds at hand.
- xxxii. J. Kim asked M. Peralta-Ochoa to refrain from personal attacks against other Assembly members in the future.
- xxxiii. J. Anderson motioned to table the resolution.
- xxxiv. J. Kim said that there are more speakers on the speaker's list.
- xxxv. O. Egharevba said that he does not believe that this resolution is the best route for veterans to try and gain more representation on campus.
- xxxvi. V. Devatha said that the former Assembly representative for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences was a veteran, but that in his capacity as the representative of CALS, he had to represent CALS students' issues, rather than veteran students' issues.
- xxxvii. G. Kaufman said that he understands that the Assembly is not perfectly representative, but that 23 students is only 0.16% of the student body. He also said that his concerns are not of a slippery slope, but that of logical consistency.
- xxxviii. V. Devatha reiterated his previous point that since there are so few veterans on campus today, having an at-large position to serve this need runs the risk of having a student run and win who knows nothing about veterans or the issues they face.
- xxxix. G. Kaufman said that this is a risk for any voting member seat.
 - xl. J. Anderson said that when the seat for LGBTQ+ liaison was initially introduced, there were some students who ran for the position with the intent to have the seat removed from the Student Assembly. He said that the introduction of an ex-officio seat is a good step to remove this possibility.
 - xli. The resolution was **tabled**.

VI. Business of the Day:

- a. Resolution 28: Puerto Rico Debt and Disclosure Amendment

- i. Z. Schmetterer said that he seeks a re-vote on Resolution 28 so that he can introduce an amendment based on new information received last week following the initial vote.
 - ii. Gina Giambattista requested that Z. Schmetterer email the language of the resolution to the Student Assembly listserv.
 - iii. Z. Schmetterer said that he would do so, and motioned to reconsider Resolution 28 – **passed**.
 - iv. Z. Schmetterer motioned to strike lines 48 through 50, and to insert text starting on line 48 that reads “Be it further resolved, the Cornell Board of Trustees Investment Committee create distressed government debt investment guidelines for the Office of University Investments to effectively review existing investments and partnerships as well as guide subsequent investments in order to prevent and mitigate exploitative creditor relationships such as a situation of coerced repayment above the market terms offered to all investors;” – **amended** 22-0-1.
 - v. Motion to vote – **approved** 18-1-2.
- b. Resolution 29: Community Sponsorship Access
 - i. V. Devatha explained before debate on Resolution 29 began that the reconsideration of Resolution 28 was only necessary because of a conversation had immediately after the resolution’s initial passing. He asked that Assembly members use the time for questions to actually question the resolution being discussed, rather than to simply voice support for a resolution, since the latter wastes time that could be used more productively. He said that the Assembly will soon begin to recognize, at the discretion of the Chair, when someone is out of order in this regard.
 - ii. D. Barbaria added that all Assembly members have the ability to yield their time to the Chair, and that if a member has nothing new to add to the conversation, no one is forcing them to speak. He also motioned to table Resolution 29 – **tabled**.
 - iii. D. Barbaria said that historically, only Student Assembly members have been able to sponsor resolutions, but that this has changed in the past few years. He said that the current bylaws do not reflect these changes and have no statement regarding who can and cannot sponsor a resolution, and that this resolution seeks to address these concerns. He said that this will be discussed further next week when O. Din returns.
- c. Resolution 30: FARC Byline
 - i. M. Valadez said that this resolution gives a formal recommendation to the Appropriations Committee as to what the Committee should do when reviewing Appendix B. She said that the resolution suggests waiving the requirement of 1500 signatures for an organization formerly on byline funding to reapply. She explained that this resolution is necessary due to the history of the Student Assembly in regard to the Financial Aid Review Committee (henceforth FARC), and that it is important for FARC to return to byline funding.
 - 1. Toward the end of the 2000s, FARC willingly removed itself from byline funding due to the economic crisis of the time.

- ii. J. Anderson said that this resolution needs to find a specific way to stay with the Assembly due to its lack of an executive archivist, and asked if this is addressed in the resolution.
- iii. M. Valadez said that this will be discussed when Appendix B is written this semester.
- iv. S. Iruvanti expressed confusion regarding a clause of the resolution.
- v. M. Valadez said that the Appropriations Committee is not bound to this resolution, but that FARC intends to suggest that they follow their recommendations.
- vi. G. Kaufman apologized on behalf of his predecessors for being unable to follow through with the aim of this resolution, but said that this does not need to be a resolution. He explained that even if all other members of the Appropriations Committee do not agree with him in this regard, it would still be up to the Student Assembly to vote on their decision.
- vii. C. Schott suggested amending the resolution to acknowledge G. Kaufman's comments.
- viii. G. Kaufman said that if he does not follow through on his promise to waive the signature requirement, then they are welcome to motion to add any desired or necessary language, and that if the Assembly will pass this resolution, then they'll pass that. He motioned to table the resolution indefinitely because of this.
 - 1. V. Devatha dissented, stating that he does not trust the organizational capacity of the Appropriations Committee to follow through on this, especially considering G. Kaufman's delay in reaching out to the Cornell Cinema.
- ix. G. Kaufman maintained his motion to table indefinitely – failed 5-11-2.
 - 1. J. Kim acknowledged that fewer members than were in attendance voted on this motion, and asked where they were at that time.
- x. H. Hassan yielded his time to the chair.
- xi. There was a motion to vote – passed 16-1-4.

VII. Additional Announcements and Reports

- a. University Assembly Representative
 - i. A member said that the Campus Infrastructure Committee is seeking new members, and yielded his remaining speaking time to J. Anderson, since the latter attended more of the meeting than him.
 - ii. J. Anderson said that the Committee did not meet this week, but that they will meet next week, and also said that the Committee had previously had a conversation regarding the reappointment of the Judicial Administrator.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. D. Barbaria said that the Codes and Judicial Committee met yesterday, and that they passed a small resolution. He also said that the first official meeting of the Hate Speech Working Group will be tomorrow in Mann Library at 1:00 PM.
- c. Residential Student Congress
 - i. J. Anderson said that Natalia wrote a resolution from the Latino Living Center for a uniform ice machine policy across all dorms.
- d. Campus Welfare Committee

- i. J. Anderson said that the Committee did not meet this Tuesday or last week, but that previously sponsored resolutions included a resolution regarding LGBTQ+ inclusion. He also referenced the upcoming tobacco referendum.
 - 1. This referendum, if passed, advocates for the President of the University to take steps toward making Cornell tobacco-free within the next two years.
- e. Campus Infrastructure Committee
 - i. I. Wallace said that the Committee will meet on Sunday, and that two resolutions being considered are one regarding the creation of a new crosswalk by Risley Hall, and one regarding gender-neutral bathrooms on campus.
- f. Transportation Hearing Advisory Board
 - i. L Lipschutz explained the function of the Transportation Hearing Advisory Board (henceforth THAB).
 - 1. If a Cornell student receives a parking ticket on campus and appeals the ticket three times, THAB makes the final decision regarding the status of the ticket.
 - ii. Z. Schmetterer expressed confusion regarding the varying designs and appearances of parking guideline signs on campus, and asked L. Lipschutz whether this problem could be addressed.
 - iii. L. Lipschutz said he would bring it up, and said that there are currently three positions open on THAB.
 - 1. At the time of meeting, THAB had one undergraduate and two graduate student slots open. THAB meets on the first Thursday of every month.
 - iv. D. Barbaria said that THAB is an appeals board, and that Z. Schmetterer's concerns would be best addressed elsewhere.
 - v. L. Lipschutz said that THAB does deal with issues regarding signage.
 - vi. V. Devatha asked if L. Lipschutz would pass these concerns on to the relevant party within THAB.
 - vii. L. Lipschutz responded in the affirmative.
- g. Residential Student Congress
 - i. Shivani Parikh said that there will be a housing forum hosted by Cornell Vice President Ryan Lombardi in the near future, and that the RSC is currently exploring the potential creation of a Living Learning Unit (henceforth LLU) for Asian students.
 - ii. J. Kim asked if the LLU is to be part of the new Housing Master Plan.
 - iii. S. Parikh said that the RSC is currently gauging interest.
 - iv. V. Devatha asked if there would be separate plans for South Asian students and for East Asian students, since the two groups are very culturally distinct from one another.
 - v. S. Parikh said that other universities have pan-Asian centers, and that she would be in support of visual representations within the LLU that would display that the center is not strictly for East Asians.
- h. Faculty Senate and its Subcommittees
 - i. C. Schott said that he has not yet heard about any Faculty Senate meetings.
 - ii. E. Shapiro echoed this sentiment.
 - iii. Z. Schmetterer said that he has received no communications.

- iv. C. Schott said that he formerly received Faculty Senate emails, but that these communications ceased in November of 2017.
- i. Consensual Relationship Policy Committee
 - i. S. Iruvanti reported that he asked D. Barbaria to remove him from the committee due to class conflicts.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

IX. Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hannan

Clerk of the Assembly