



## Cornell University Student Assembly

### **Cornell University Student Assembly**

Agenda of the Thursday, February 8, 2018 Meeting  
4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

**II. Open Microphone**

**III. New Business:**

- a. Resolution 28: Puerto Rico Debt and Disclosure

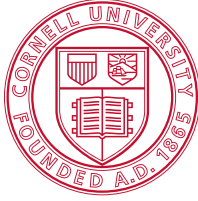
**IV. Announcements and Reports**

- a. GPSA, FS, EA, UA Liaison Reports
- b. Other Liaison Reports
- c. Representative Reports

**V. Adjournment**

**VI. Executive Session**

- a. Appointment of Undergraduate to the UA Codes and Judicial Committee



## Cornell University Student Assembly

### Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, February 1, 2018 Meeting  
4:45pm-6:00pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

#### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
  - i. *Present:* T. Ball [0], D. Barbaria [0], A. Chowdhury [1], O. Corn [0], V. Devatha [1], O. Din [2], O. Egharevba [0], H. Hassan [2.75], R. Herz [5], S. Iruvanti [0], G. Kaufman [0], J. Kim [0], L. Lipschutz [4.25], D. Nyakaru [0], S. Park [1.5], G. Park [0], C. Schott [1.25], E. Shapiro [1], J. Sim[1], D. Tokunboh [2.5], M. Valadez [1], I. Wallace [1]
  - ii. *Absent:* R. Cornell [unexcused][1.5], M. Indimine [excused][1.5], S. Lim [excused] [0], M. Peralta-Ochoa [excused][1], S. Romero Zavala [excused][0]

#### II. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

#### III. Announcements and Reports I

- a. V. Devatha: Liaison Update
  - i. For accountability reasons, the Student Assembly will begin to have all of its liaisons begin to provide updates during meetings.
  - ii. Liaison reports should be conducted two weeks following their respective meetings.
    1. V. Devatha specifically mentioned the liaisons to the Employee Assembly, the University Assembly, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and the Faculty Senate.
  - iii. There will be a meeting next Sunday for all liaison positions.
  - iv. If it is found that a person in this position has not been satisfactorily completing their liaison duties, action will be taken.
- b. S. Park: Newsletter Update

- i. The newsletter will be sent out early next week; anyone who wishes to advertise something in the newsletter should get in touch with S. Park by the end of the day.
- c. S. Park: Clubfest Update
  - i. S. Park requested that Student Assembly members sign up for a slot to work at Clubfest (Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4 PM). She also requested that anyone who wants particular initiatives or committees advertised at Clubfest to notify her by the end of the day.
- d. C. Schott: International community
  - i. New opportunities and benefits are being offered to international students, including walk-in mental health counseling sessions. He also spoke about the introduction of career workshops geared toward international students, with information on things such as work authorization.

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

- a. The representatives of Minds Matter had not yet arrived at this point, and the Student Assembly therefore moved onto Business of the Day until the representatives arrived.
- b. Resolution 25: Changing NYT Physical Distribution Locations
  - i. V. Devatha said that the New York Times (henceforth NYT) can be distributed at six locations on campus, and that the Student Assembly has only been doing so at five up to this point.
  - ii. V. Devatha said that six locations were decided on for distribution of the NYT.
    - 1. Noyes Community Center on West Campus
    - 2. Robert Purcell Community Center on North Campus
    - 3. Willard Straight Hall on Central Campus
    - 4. Statler Hall on Central Campus
    - 5. Klarman Hall on Central Campus
    - 6. Mann Library on the Agricultural Quad
  - iii. A member asked if there was consideration of putting a distribution location on the Engineering Quad.
  - iv. V. Devatha acknowledged that Duffield Hall is a current location for NYT distribution, but that the proposed Central Campus locations were decided on due to the optimal flow of student traffic in those areas.
  - v. A member asked whether or not there would be advertising to spread awareness of the new distribution locations.
  - vi. V. Devatha replied in the affirmative.

- vii. The resolution passed 20-0-1.
- c. Resolution 26: Allocating the 2018-2020 Student Assembly Activity Fee
  - i. V. Devatha said that the Summer Experience Grant has been seeing many applications recently, and that the Financial Aid Review Committee (henceforth FARC) would like to augment the amount of money in the budget.
    - 1. An internal debate was had toward the end of last semester to either defund completely or to allocate \$0.87 toward the Summer Experience Grant, resulting in an allocation of \$0.87.
  - ii. M. Valadez said that FARC previously lost \$320,000 in endowment when they gave to Anabel's Grocery two years ago, but the Summer Experience Grant has seen a significant rise in applications between last year and this year.
    - 1. This has resulted in an acceptance rate of less than 10%.
  - iii. M. Valadez clarified that this resolution only allocates these funds for the 2018-19 and 2019-2020 application seasons.
  - iv. V. Devatha clarified that this resolution is an internal policy action, and is recommending the Appropriations Committee to incorporate this change at the end of the semester.
  - v. V. Devatha encouraged younger members of the Student Assembly to acknowledge the work being done now, as future funding will be up to younger members, since older members will have graduated by the time this issue comes up again.
  - vi. G. Kaufman clarified that this resolution recommends that the Appropriations Committee take all of the money that the Student Activity Fee allocates to the Student Assembly and use it to fund the Summer Experience Grant. He also explained that the only reason this resolution is possible is because there were only 15 members present at the meeting to recommend allocations of the Student Activity Fee to the Student Assembly, and a unanimous decision was necessary.
    - 1. G. Kaufman recommends that the Assembly vote positively for this resolution, since it is what they did decide on, but he also wants members to be aware as to why this has happened.
  - vii. M. Valadez explained that FARC was formerly on byline funding, but voluntarily removed itself during the 2008 economic crisis. She also said that this resolution is a step toward getting FARC back on byline funding.

1. While it was on byline funding, FARC received \$1.00 per student.
- viii. C. Schott spoke against G. Kaufman's earlier notion that this money is being wasted, and explained that the Summer Experience Grant is beneficial to many students, including himself.
- ix. The resolution **passed** 20-0-1.

## **V. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Motion to approve the minutes of the November 16<sup>th</sup> and the January 25<sup>th</sup> Student Assembly meetings – **approved** 21-0-1

## **VI. Announcements and Reports II**

- a. T. Ball announced that Anabel's Grocery has reopened, and requested that members tell their constituents to visit.

## **VII. Presentations**

- a. Cornell Minds Matter
  - i. Carúmey Stevens '19 and Matt Jirsa '19 presenting.
  - ii. C. Stevens explained the four focuses of the mission statement of Cornell Minds Matter (henceforth CMM)
    1. Help Cornell student de-stress.
    2. Decrease stigma around mental health on campus.
    3. Promote self-care in students.
    4. Act as a liaison between students, staff, Student Assembly, faculty, and the like.
  - iii. V. Devatha mentioned the Student Assembly's desire to partner with CMM, and asked what progress has been made toward their task force and independent review.
  - iv. M. Jirsa said that progress has been slow due to the illness of his partner, but they have a policy recommendation outline and seek broad representation in students in regard to organizations, years, backgrounds, and the like. He also mentioned that the review is a difficult process which might take upward of a year due to the intensive research and interviews necessary to achieve results.
  - v. V. Devatha asked if the task force is focused on review.
  - vi. M. Jirsa responded in the affirmative.
  - vii. S. Park said that she would like to connect CMM with the Health and Wellness committee, since Health and Wellness has a broader scope in CMM's field, and since the task force is meant to review particular policies.

- viii. M. Jirsa said he would be welcome to such a collaboration.
- ix. G. Kaufman asked CMM to request more money, since he would like to give them more funding, but they must first request more funding.
  - 1. CMM currently receives about \$2.00 per student.
- x. C. Stevens mentioned that CMM needs to expand and rework their budget, but thanked G. Kaufman.
- xi. H. Hassan asked where CMM events are currently being published.
- xii. C. Stevens said that their events are widely published through emails, such as the Denice Cassaro emails, and that CMM is trying to increase awareness of their events.
- xiii. S. Iruvanti asked whether or not CMM has considered partnering with CAPS.
- xiv. C. Stevens explained that since CMM is a student organization, they would prefer to keep to being a student organization, and that partnering with an organization such as CAPS would possibly spread stigma around Cornell Health to CMM, which they seek to avoid.
- xv. S. Iruvanti asked M. Jirsa to explain an earlier comment that the JED Foundation Review is not independent.
- xvi. M. Jirsa explained that he made a generalization, and that there have been views that the Foundation is not independent, and that certain individuals (including one faculty member at Cornell) have a stake in the organization.
- xvii. M. Jirsa reiterated the importance of student perspective in the task force, and that CMM is not being funded to conduct this review; the aim of the review is to bring about change.
- xviii. J. Anderson said that collaboration with the University Assembly would be beneficial and welcome.
- xix. G. Park asked whether there have been any efforts in the past by CMM to host events outside of Central Campus for students who can't get there easily, such as students in the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning.
- xx. C. Stevens said that CMM tries to hold events in multiple different locations, and has expanded in regard to event locations in the past. She also said that further expansion has definitely been considered.

## **VIII. Business of the Day II**

- a. Resolution 27: Establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee for Investigating Net-Print System Reform
- i. J. Sim has been working with the Residential Student Congress (henceforth RSC), and seeks to make Net-Print at Cornell more accessible, easier for students to receive refunds for misprints, and more environmentally sustainable.
  - ii. S. Park asked why J. Sim intends to create a task force instead of just a resolution to bring about change, since the work involved seems holistic and would only require a recommendation to the administration.
  - iii. J. Sim said the RSC has already started working on the task force, and that its scope is large and requires a great deal of research. He also said that investigating Net-Print is a complicated process, and a task force can bring about change more effectively than a resolution could.
  - iv. O. Egharevba asked a question regarding some conflicting language in Appendix B of Resolution 27, and asked whether the priority for task force membership was to keep the total at 12 or under, or to have at least one member from all fourteen stated criteria.
  - v. J. Sim specified that the “less than 12” criterion was correct, as he does not want the task force to grow too large.
    1. He further explained that it would be optimal if each college and residential area was represented, but that it would not be absolutely necessary.
  - vi. V. Devatha explained that this resolution was initially brought up last semester, and that it was important to vote on it quickly, so as to be able to do an aggressive marketing campaign.
    1. This marketing campaign would extend to advertising at Clubfest.
  - vii. There was a motion to vote.
    1. M. Valadez dissented.
  - viii. R. Herz voiced her concern about the committee potentially only meeting once every month, and recommended to J. Sim that there be more meetings so as to accomplish more.
  - ix. Motion to amend line 58 to read “at least twice every month” where it had previously read “at least once every month” – **amended** 20-0-1.
  - x. A member motioned to vote.
    1. A member dissented.

- xi. A member said that it takes time to staff a committee, and recommended that the task force be put under an already-staffed committee, such as the Technology Infrastructure Committee (henceforth TIC) or the Academic Policy Committee (henceforth APC).
- xii. J. Kim asked whether or not the RSC was already in support of the formation of the task force.
- xiii. J. Sim answered in the affirmative.
- xiv. J. Kim asked whether or not staffing is foreseen as an issue.
- xv. J. Sim said that quality and interest was more important than quantity in regard to staffing the task force.
- xvi. A member motioned to vote.
  - 1. A member dissented.
  - 2. J. Kim stated his intent to allow all speakers remaining on the speakers list to be recognized.
- xvii. D. Barbaria asked whether M. Indimine wanted him to email the committee chairs following the meeting to probe interest.
- xviii. M. Indimine answered in the affirmative.
- xix. D. Barbaria recommended striking the college criteria from the task force membership requirements, since the housing requirements are already present, and too many requirements might restrict interest in staffing the task force.
- xx. J. Sim said that he does see those concerns, but that some colleges at Cornell do offer free printing, and that some students therefore might be concerned that any changes recommended by the task force might take these benefits away.
- xxi. D. Barbaria asked whether or not J. Sim sees the criteria specified in Section 2 of Appendix B as strict requirements.
- xxii. J. Sim said that he is open to change regarding the language of Appendix B.
- xxiii. A member said that a task force of 12 is very large, and recommended J. Sim to make sure the task force is being managed well. He also said that he did not read the requirements in Section 2 of Appendix B to be as loose as J. Sim has explained that they are.
- xxiv. A member of the RSC said that the RSC has between 35 and 50 members, and that staffing should therefore not be an issue.
- xxv. There was a question from the floor.
- xxvi. R. Herz voiced her concerns that the task force is too bureaucratic and unnecessary since the RSC has already begun undertaking the



- Net-Print review. She also voiced her concerns regarding whether or not people will necessarily be trying to get on the task force.
- xxvii. C. Schott recommended eliminating the college requirement, citing his experience that students in the College of Arts and Sciences print more than the College of Engineering.
  - xxviii. A community member said that she was unsure whether or not her question was already asked and answered, but asked why J. Sim intends to introduce a task force rather than writing a resolution.
  - xxix. J. Sim said that he wanted to approach the Net-Print issue in a more comprehensive manner, and that a task force would be the most optimal way to go about this.
  - xxx. J. Kim stated his opinion that there are many goals regarding change to Net-Print, some of which require surveys of both students and administrators, and that the task force is therefore necessary.
  - xxxi. O. Egharevba stated his belief that other members were overthinking the concerns of bureaucracy, and reasoned that at least some people were interested in bringing change to Net-Print since they answered a survey.
    - 1. Answers to the survey in question are located in Appendix A.
  - xxxii. The resolution **passed** 18-1-2.
  - xxxiii. J. Kim commended J. Sim for the time and effort put into this resolution.

## **IX. Adjournment**

- a. J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 5:53 pm.

## **X. Executive Session**

Respectfully Submitted,  
*John Hannan*  
Clerk of the Assembly



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	(02/08/2018)
Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

## S.A. Resolution #28

### Mandating Cornell's Commitment to the Economic Justice of Puerto Rico and the Operational Transparency of its Investments

ABSTRACT: This resolution recommends that Cornell University investigate its holdings and divest from any and all Puerto Rican debt obligations. Additionally, Cornell should create a fair investment policy in regard to government debt as well as disclose its investment partnerships in yearly tax filings.

#### **Sponsored by: Zachary Schmetterer '18**

**Whereas**, a letter signed by 28 organizations was sent to President Pollack on October 16, 2017 regarding the university's endowment holdings in Seth Klarman's Baupost Group, which owns \$911.6 million worth of Puerto Rican debt bonds;

**Whereas**, in said letter, Hedge Clippers and its partner organizations outlined that Baupost purchased large portions of Puerto Rico's debt at a steep discount and demands that the island enact "extreme austerity measures" in order to repay its creditors in full;

**Whereas**, the Intercept and CNBC found that Baupost purchased \$469 million senior and \$442 junior COFINA bonds through shell company Decagon Holdings LLC to shield the hedge fund from public scrutiny;

**Whereas**, Cornell University has not publicly disclosed its holdings in the Baupost Group, and the Office of the University Treasurer "is bound by confidentiality agreements with its investment managers that prevent Cornell from publicly disclosing a manager's investment strategy or investment holdings" as of December 22, 2017;

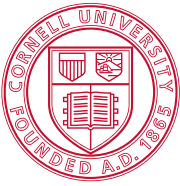
**Whereas**, the University Tax Office fails to disclose any of Cornell's investment partnerships relating to "investment income information provided by the endowment's investment managers" on its Form 990 and Form 990-T;

**Whereas**, Cornell's disclosure policies represent a significant departure from that of peer institutions such as Harvard, Yale, and Princeton; for instance, Princeton's 2015 Form 990 clearly lists the University's partnerships and investments in funds managed by the Baupost Group;

**Whereas**, Cornell has previously shown its commitment to the welfare of Puerto Rico and its people with its offer of a free semester of study to 62 students from Universidad de Puerto Rico;

**Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University makes a strong commitment to economic justice and operational transparency as well as execute the following remedies;

**Be it further resolved**, that Cornell University conduct a due diligence investigation of its holdings with the Baupost Group and divest from any and all Puerto Rican debt obligations;



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**Be it further resolved,** the Office of University Investments evaluate the holdings with other investment partnerships for Puerto Rican debt and likewise divest from such investments;

**Be it further resolved,** the Office of University Investments create a new policy preventing affiliated investment partnerships from coercing the repayment on government debt above the market terms offered to all investors;

**Be it finally resolved,** Cornell University's Office of the University Treasurer, University Tax Office, and all other relevant entities explicitly list investment partnerships in their yearly tax filings in terms of both the initial investment amount, the fund's name, and affiliation.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Zachary Schmetterer '18  
*Parliamentarian, Student Assembly*  
*Ex-President Cornell Roosevelt Institute*

Rahul Mukherjee '20  
*President, Cornell Impact Investing*

Christopher Arcé '19  
*Co-President, Puerto Rican Students Association*  
*Vice-President, Cornell Welcomes Refugees*  
*Executive Board, Christian Union*

Aman Banerji  
*Senior Program Associate, Roosevelt Institute*

Elizabeth Parisian  
*Hedge Clippers*

Ademali Sengali  
*Columbia University, Roosevelt Institute*

Michael Charles '16  
*Former President, American Indian Science and Engineering Society*

Shivani Parikh '19  
*President, South Asian Council*  
*Presidential Task Force, Campus Response Sub-Committee Member*

Anne Riley '18  
*Treasurer, Cornell Welcomes Refugees*  
*Chief Administrative Officer, Kappa Alpha Theta, Iota*  
*Director of Recruitment, Cornell International Business Association*



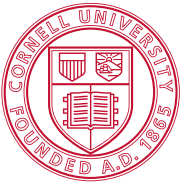
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91	Adriana Herrera '20
92	<i>Chair, MEChA de Cornell</i>
93	<i>President, Sabor Latino Dance Ensemble</i>
94	
95	Zachary Aleksandur de Stefan '18
96	<i>Co-Facilitator, Amnesty International at Cornell University</i>
97	
98	Paul Russell '19
99	<i>President, Interfraternity Council</i>
100	
101	Jeremy Gartland '18
102	<i>Executive Board, Christian Union</i>
103	
104	Andrew Peterson '18
105	<i>Co-president, Cornell Coffee Club</i>
106	
107	Robert Hendricks '17 JD '19
108	<i>President, Christian Legal Society</i>
109	
110	Tarannum Sahar '20
111	<i>President, Cornell Welcomes Refugees</i>
112	<i>Vice President, Bengali Students Association</i>
113	
114	Micah Wallingford '20
115	<i>Brotherhood Chairman, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity</i>
116	
117	Nayara Luna Guzmán '19
118	<i>Student Staff, Latina/o Studies Program</i>
119	
120	Michael Sarkis '20
121	<i>Vice President of Programming, Interfraternity Council</i>
122	
123	Venus Dulani '19
124	<i>Co-President, Big Red Bikes</i>
125	<i>Advocacy, International Students Union</i>
126	
127	Natalie Brown '18
128	<i>President, Cornell University Democrats</i>
129	
130	Winnie Ho '19
131	<i>Cornell Tradition Fellow</i>
132	
133	Jenise Carter '19
134	
135	Piragash Swargaloganathan '19



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136	<i>Member SJP</i>
137	
138	Kimberly St Fleur '21
139	<i>Cornell Tradition Fellow</i>
140	<i>Member, Christian Union</i>
141	
142	Faith Slaughter '20
143	<i>Treasurer, The Black Women's Support Network</i>
144	
145	Dennis Delasi Nyanyo '18
146	<i>Vice President of Funding, International Student Union</i>
147	<i>Co-President, Ghanaians at Cornell</i>
148	
149	Lavanya Aprameya '19
150	<i>President, Haven: Cornell's LGBTQ Student Union</i>
151	
152	Omar Din '19
153	<i>Board Member, Muslim Educational &amp; Cultural Association</i>
154	<i>Human Ecology Rep, Student Assembly</i>
155	
156	Christopher Schott '18
157	<i>Executive Board, International Students Union</i>
158	<i>International Students Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly</i>
159	
160	Mark Svenjak '18
161	<i>President, American Hotel &amp; Lodging Association</i>
162	Drew Lord '18
163	<i>President, Interfraternity Council</i>
164	
165	Ian Wallace '20
166	<i>LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly</i>
167	<i>Board Member, Cornell Welcomes Refugees</i>
168	
169	Kyjana Barnett '18
170	<i>President, Cornell Students for Animal Rights</i>
171	
172	Alex Santoriello '19
173	<i>House Manager, Sigma Pi Fraternity</i>
174	
175	Daniela Manzano '19
176	<i>Executive Chairperson, Cornell University Program Board</i>
177	<i>Director of Corporate Relations, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers</i>
178	
179	Elton Munoz '19
180	<i>Community Service Associate, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers</i>
181	



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- 182 Cristian Alonso '18  
183 *Treasurer, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers*  
184  
185 Maame Akosua Ohemeng-Tinyase '20  
186 *Director of Internal and External Affairs , Ghanaians@Cornell*  
187 *Secretary, Baraka Kwa Wimbo*  
188  
189 Tasnuva Ferdous Ming Khan '18  
190 *President, Bengali Students Association*  
191  
192 Anuush Vejalla '20  
193 *Vice President, South Asian Council*  
194 *Secretary, Hindi Student Council*  
195  
196 Syed Samin '19  
197 *President, Muslim Educational and Cultural Association*  
198  
199 Abraham Araya '19  
200 *President, Multicultural Greek Letter Council*  
201  
202 Evan Shapiro '19  
203 *College of Arts and Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*  
204 *Productions Chairperson, Cornell University Program Board*  
205  
206 Aaron Gottesfeld '19  
207 *Executive Vice President, Roosevelt Institute*  
208  
209 Stephannie Chen '19  
210 *President, Roosevelt Institute*  
211  
212  
213 *(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 4-0-0, 02/07/2018)*