



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, March 29, 2018 Meeting
4:50pm-5:30pm in G01 Uris Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. D. Barbaria called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. *Present*: T. Ball [0.5], D. Barbaria [0], D. Engelson [0], O. Egharevba [1], H. Hassan [3], N. Hernandez [0], M. Indimine [1.5], S. Iruvanti [0], G. Kaufman [0], S. Lim [0], L. Lipschutz [4.75], D. Nyakaru [1], S. Park [2.75], G. Park [0], M. Peralta-Ochoa [2], E. Shapiro [1], J. Sim [1], M. Valadez [1], A. Viswanathan [0], I. Wallace [1]
 - ii. *Absent*: A. Chowdhury (*Excused*) [2], O. Corn (*Excused*) [1], R. Cornell (*Excused*) [2.5], V. Devatha (*Excused*) [1], O. Din (*Excused*) [2], R. Herz (*Excused*) [5], J. Kim (*Excused*) [1], C. Schott (*Excused*) [1.25]

II. Open Microphone

- a. A representative of The Cornell Daily Sun asked when the results of the Student Assembly election would be announced.
- b. D. Barbaria said that no member of the Assembly, nor any members of the Elections Committee know, and that they cannot give an answer.
- c. Shivani Parikh said that a representative of the Presidential Task Force likely will not come to speak at an Assembly meeting, and that she could speak in this stead if requested.
- d. D. Barbaria said that she will be called on during the Announcements and Reports.

III. Announcements & Reports I

- a. M. Valadez said that Anabel's Grocery is giving away perishable items from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, and that a Shopper's Club membership is necessary to partake in the giveaway. She also said that spring break dining hall hours have been released and requested that members of the Assembly share them. She added that applications for the Student Assembly Summer Experience Grant are open with a deadline of April 17th, and that J. Sim posted a flyer for the grant online.

IV. Approval of the Minutes:

- a. March 22nd Minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the minutes – **approved** unanimously.

V. Announcements & Reports II

- a. S. Parikh said that the Presidential Task Force held an open forum which was productive and got a lot of information from the community. She added that the current plan is to release a document that reports findings and what the Presidential Task Force should recommend on May 1st. She also urged for people to recognize that there are real people who are undergraduate students who sit on the Presidential Task Force, and that this should be taken into account when people speak of the organization in a disrespectful tone.
- b. D. Nyakaru asked what the biggest takeaways from the open forum were.
- c. S. Parikh said that IDP was discussed and how that is a “catch-all” solution, and that efforts should be made beyond IDP as a university, as well as how to mitigate the lack of trust between students and the administration. She also said that there was a discussion on intracommunity discussion, such as how many South Asians are participating in Greek life while many others are not, and how gaps such as this might be bridged.

VI. Business of the Day:

- a. Resolution 38: Reinstating Statement Policy
 - i. N. Hernandez said it has been weeks since this resolution was first introduced and that the sponsors do not know when Dr. Joseph Burke will be available to speak. She also said that there is nothing time-sensitive in the resolution, but she is comfortable with it passing without Dr. Burke.
 - ii. A. Viswanathan asked why he would need to come to the Assembly, rather than the sponsors meeting with him.
 - iii. N. Hernandez said that he used to make the announcements referenced in the resolution, and that she wants to make sure he is willing to bring the announcements back. She also said that he knows more about the issue at hand if any Assembly members have any questions.
 - iv. A. Viswanathan recommended contacting him and making sure this is a possibility before passing the resolution.
 - v. Motion to table – **tabled** 18-0-1.

VII. New Business/Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 42: Approving Special Projects Request for SDPB
 - i. G. Kaufman said that this resolution has to do with the allocation of funds for Slope Day.
 - 1. This resolution gives \$10000 for the Slope Day breakfast and \$2500 for Alternative Slope Day.
 - ii. T. Ball said that Slope Day needs this money, and that he strongly encourages passing this resolution as soon as possible even though it wasn't submitted on time.
 - iii. O. Egharevba moved to move this resolution to Business of the Day – **passed**.
 - iv. There was a motion to approve Resolution 42.
 - 1. M. Peralta-Ochoa dissented, saying that he is concerned that spending this money will hurt being able to bridge the gap for CUTonight.
 - v. G. Kaufman said that CUTonight will definitely take a large chunk out of the Assembly's budget, and that the Appropriations Committee feels

comfortable giving the money to Slope Day and then independently evaluating each organization denied funding by CUTonight, and to consider them as separate items.

- vi. M. Peralta-Ochoa withdrew his dissent.
- vii. Motion to vote on Resolution 42 – approved 18-0-1.
- b. Resolution 43: Approving Special Projects Request for SLU
 - i. G. Kaufman said that the funding request made by Señoritas Latinas Unidas (henceforth SLU) was the first affected by CUTonight that the Appropriations Committee was able to vote on, and that three others were essentially tabled. He also said that he hopes to fund SLU at \$2000 and then consider the other three at the next meeting.
 - ii. M. Peralta-Ochoa said that multiple people from the previously approved organizations have expressed disappointment, saying that G. Kaufman ensured they were going to get full funding. He added that it would be wrong for that not to happen.
 - iii. G. Kaufman said that he never said that everyone would get all the money they requested, and that he has this in writing.
 - iv. M. Peralta-Ochoa said that the organizations said that G. Kaufman told them as much.
 - v. G. Kaufman said that he can guarantee with 100% certainty that he did not say that, as it would be a lie.
 - vi. D. Nyakaru asked what organizations' requests were tabled.
 - vii. M. Peralta-Ochoa said that Collective X, Deltas, and La Asociación Latina were tabled.
 - viii. D. Nyakaru asked why they were tabled.
 - ix. M. Peralta-Ochoa said that they had fraternity duties and had to leave the meeting, and that they therefore lost quorum.
 - x. G. Kaufman added that the meeting went over time by 45 minutes and therefore to over three hours.
 - xi. N. Hernandez said that SLU originally asked for \$4000, and asked why they were only approved for \$2000.
 - xii. G. Kaufman said that the Appropriations Committee approved less than \$4000.
 - xiii. N. Hernandez asked why this happened.
 - xiv. G. Kaufman said that there were two reasons. He said the first reason was that the Appropriations Committee wanted to cover SLU's obligations, such as contracts already held, but that they felt comfortable not funding things that could be changed. He added that the second reason was to encourage seeking funding through other routes, and that special projects funding is normally funding of last resort.
 - xv. S. Iruvanti asked what kind of organization SLU is.
 - xvi. G. Kaufman said that it is a sorority in the Multicultural Greek Letter Council.
 - xvii. D. Engelson yielded his time to the chair.
 - xviii. M. Valadez asked G. Kaufman to clarify the Assembly's current financial standing and what the next two years look like in this regard.
 - xix. G. Kaufman said that he spent a couple of weeks trying to extract financial information from the Office of the Assemblies, and that he did obtain the

information without it being sent to him. He said that, post-Slope Day funding, the Student Assembly had \$80,000 for the next two years. He added that the Assembly typically uses \$15,000 each year, which leaves \$50,000 in special projects funding money for the next two years (that is, 2018-2020). He added that the amount requested just on Monday was \$16,000, and that if the Appropriations Committee gave everything that was asked for, the Assembly would have lost \$16,000 out of the \$50,000.

- xx. G. Kaufman said that CUTonight is the Assembly's commission, but they do get a lot of requests and have \$50,000 for the next two years.
- xxi. Dean Vijay Pendakur asked whether CUTonight went back and funded organizations that were previously denied. He also asked what organizations the Assembly is looking at.
- xxii. G. Kaufman said that CUTonight only funded organizations that had events in the past, and that this process is for organizations that were denied and applied for funding for the first time in this cycle.
- xxiii. A. Viswanathan asked if there was an update on CUTonight's fiscal state.
- xxiv. G. Kaufman said that their balance is approximately zero, and that he is currently working with M. Valadez on a charter amendment for them that he hopes they feel comfortable adopting.
- xxv. D. Barbaria said that they will be receiving their next byline funding at this time.
- xxvi. G. Kaufman said that this would be between \$11,000 and \$12,000 that would come in next week.
- xxvii. D. Nyakaru yielded her time to the chair.
- xxviii. M. Peralta-Ochoa yielded his time to the chair.
- xxix. N. Hernandez yielded her time to the chair.
- xxx. M. Peralta-Ochoa asked what the Student Assembly's yearly budget of \$15,000 consists of.
- xxxi. G. Kaufman said that some of this money is used for printing, elections, general uses, forums, committees, co-sponsorships, and otherwise fairly regular things.
- xxxii. D. Nyakaru asked how the Assembly makes all of this aware to organizations who thought they were guaranteed funding, and how to make this process more transparent.
- xxxiii. G. Kaufman said that he sent something explaining how it works, and that he explained that it does not guarantee funding now.
- xxxiv. A. Viswanathan asked how much money from the budget goes into special projects funding during each cycle.
- xxxv. G. Kaufman said that this is determined by the Student Assembly and is typically between \$5000 and \$8000, but that the Assembly has typically spent \$20,000 every year due to fiscal irresponsibility.
- xxxvi. D. Barbaria said that whenever the Assembly has a surplus, it typically goes to special projects funding, and that Appendix B violations also go to the surplus.
- xxxvii. There was a question from the floor.
- xxxviii. G. Kaufman said that this year will have a lot of spending, and that last year's total was \$17,000, with \$12,000 having gone to Slope Day and \$5000 to other organizations.

- xxxix. A. Viswanathan asked if this amount was how much was taken out.
- xl. G. Kaufman said that this amount was how much was spent.
- xli. A. Viswanathan asked how much gets put in during a given year.
- xl.ii. D. Barbaria said that there is no consistent average.
- xl.iii. A. Viswanathan said that he does not see why the Assembly is being so fiscally conservative, seeing that there is a large surplus with money going in and a potential of an even larger influx if an Appendix B violation is invoked against CUTonight.
- xliv. G. Kaufman said that this could be done if the Appendix B violation is invoked, but that there are still forty or so organizations seeking funding for events, and that the Assembly cannot create \$120,000 out of thin air. If there is no Appendix B, then CUTonight would essentially have to continue funding the events they were funding, and that the Assembly still has only \$50,000 until 2020 for all special projects, and that if the money is there, then there will be people who try to spend it.
- xl. v. I. Wallace asked what G. Kaufman will recommend his successor to do with the Student Assembly's budget.
- xlvi. G. Kaufman said that the Assembly technically did get zeroed, and that the money coming in is for the Students Helping Students Fund. He added that, in terms of his recommendation, he will plan on recommending fiscal responsibility, and that money eventually runs out despite the Assembly's general impulse to spend money. He also said that in terms of specifically how much to allocate, that a realistic budget of \$20,000 per year for the next two years specifically for special projects makes sense.
- xl. vii. D. Barbaria asked if this \$20,000 would be in addition to the \$15,000 for the Student Assembly each year.
- xl. viii. G. Kaufman replied in the affirmative.
- xl. ix. D. Engelson asked a question regarding suggestions from the midterm reports of byline-funded organizations.
 - i. G. Kaufman said that in almost every case in which an organization is sitting on a surplus, that the Assembly either reduces the surplus or tells the organization that this money must be spent, and that organizations with surpluses have been strongly encouraged to spend in the past. He added that the amount of unused funds was at least \$150,000, in addition to \$130,000 from SAFC, and that some organizations need that money.
 - li. D. Engelson asked a question in regard to continuing to put out special projects funding.
 - lii. G. Kaufman said that this is a good idea and that he would be happy to work with him on it, but that he does not think it's germane to Resolution 43.
 - liii. N. Hernandez asked if the Assembly has heard anything from CUTonight. She also asked whether SLU had been notified that this discussion would be happening today.
 - liv. G. Kaufman said that he sent an email explaining to SLU that this topic would come up. He also said that it would have been great if CUTonight came, but that they unfortunately elected not to do so. He also said that he is currently working on a charter amendment that he will ask CUTonight to adopt.
 - lv. There was a motion to move Resolution 43 as a late agenda item – passed.

- lvi. There was a motion to move Resolution 43 to Business of the Day – passed.
- lvii. Motion to vote on Resolution 43 – approved 19-0-1.

VIII. Additional Announcements and Reports

- a. Employee Assembly
 - i. D. Barbaria relayed C. Schott's update from the Employee Assembly.
 - 1. C. Schott said that they discussed bystander intervention training for students and faculty related to active shooter training, as well as wages of employees. He added that a representative of HR said that roles have become so specialized that there is an issue of career advancement.
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. Elena Michel said that the GPSA passed a resolution supporting the Employee Assembly resolution which supports an LGBTQ center on campus.
 - ii. Another representative of the GPSA said that bystander training workshops for graduate students were also discussed.

IX. Adjournment

- a. D. Barbaria adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hannan

Clerk of the Assembly