



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, April 26, 2018 Meeting  
4:48pm-6:40pm in Memorial Room, WSH

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:48 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
  - i. *Present*: D. Barbaria [0], A. Chowdhury [2], O. Corn [1], V. Devatha [1], O. Din [2], D. Engelson [0.25], O. Egharevba [1], H. Hassan [3], N. Hernandez [0], R. Herz [5], M. Indimine [1.5], S. Iruvanti [0], G. Kaufman [0], J. Kim [1], L. Lipschutz [4.75], D. Nyakaru [1], G. Park [0], C. Schott [1.25], E. Shapiro [1], J. Sim [1], M. Valadez [1], I. Wallace [1]
  - ii. *Arrived After Roll Call*: S. Park (*Excused*) [4]
  - iii. *Absent*: T. Ball (*Unexcused*) [1.75], R. Cornell (*Unexcused*) [3.5], J. Dominguez (*Unexcused*) [1], S. Lim (*Unexcused*) [0], M. Peralta-Ochoa (*Unexcused*) [2]

### II. Presentations I

- a. Orientation Steering Committee
  - i. The co-chairs of the Orientation Steering Committee presented on initiatives and plans for the upcoming Fall 2018 Orientation for new incoming students.
  - ii. D. Barbaria asked if the Committee had any issues regarding the newly extended calendar.
  - iii. One of the co-chairs responded in the negative.
  - iv. Luke Opyd asked a question regarding orientation and nontraditional students such as veterans.
  - v. T. Cabbell asked what the process would be for an organization trying to be on the pamphlet given to students at orientation.
  - vi. One of the co-chairs said that such access is mostly restricted to new student programming, and to reach out to their advisor for more information in this regard.
  - vii. O. Corn asked if there were any events or programs planned for orientation that would help promote and increase diversity in the wake of racially-charged incidents in the past year.
  - viii. One of the co-chairs said that there will be programs in this regard, with one specifically for transfer students and another specifically for first-year students.
  - ix. D. Nyakaru asked what the topics of conversation will be.
  - x. Brandon Cohen said that more information will be coming from the Presidential Task Force.

- b. Convocation Committee
  - i. Lizzi Gorman said that, after a long process with tough conversations, film director Ava DuVernay will be the convocation speaker for the Class of 2018.
    - 1. Lizzi Gorman is the Class of 2018 Convocation chair.

### **III. Open Microphone**

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

### **IV. Approval of the Minutes**

- a. April 13<sup>th</sup> Minutes & April 19<sup>th</sup> Minutes
  - i. Motion to approve both minutes – approved by unanimous consent.

### **V. Announcements & Reports**

- a. G. Kaufman said, in accordance with Assembly standing rules, that the Appropriations Committee funded La Asociación Latina \$1250, Cornell Welcomes Refugees \$1000, and Delta Ball \$1499.
- b. M. Valadez said that the Student Experience Grant received 281 applications this year, and that the Financial Aid Review Committee has approved \$45000 to go to these grants. She also said that there will be a graduation event for first-generation students, and asked that first-generation students reach out to her.
  - i. S. Iruvanti asked how many applications were accepted for the Student Experience Grant.
  - ii. M. Valadez said that this has not yet been determined, but that the maximum award is \$3000, and most applicants get \$1500. She added that last year, 272 applications were submitted and roughly 10% of applicants were given grants.
- c. J. Sim said that the first round of internal elections is this Saturday, and that anyone who cannot make it to this meeting should email him beforehand.

### **VI. Presentations**

- a. Rep. Egharevba: APC Survey on Student Center and Pre-Enroll
  - i. O. Egharevba said that the Academic Policy Committee (henceforth APC) conducted a survey dedicated to Student Center and course pre-enrollment. He also said that suggestions included adding past professor evaluations, estimated enrollment based on previous trends, student comments about the course, and amount of time per week spent on the course, as well as combining the course scheduler and Student Center and ensuring a functioning Student Center.
  - ii. G. Kaufman commended O. Egharevba on the presentation, calling it informative and impressive.
  - iii. S. Park asked if O. Egharevba was on the APC or if he has reached out to its chair.
  - iv. O. Egharevba said that he is on the APC.
  - v. O. Corn said that she is a big supporter of having pre-enrollment during orientation for freshmen, since time zone issues are prevalent for West Coast and international students.

- vi. S. Iruvanti asked what is in the realm of possibility for working on stopping Student Center from crashing. He also asked if O. Egharevba has yet contacted CIT.
- vii. O. Egharevba responded in the negative, saying that the APC wanted a starting point before investigating possible solutions.
- viii. V. Devatha said that he was surprised that 60% of surveyed students preferred having summer pre-enrollment for freshmen as opposed to during orientation. He also asked if the APC concluded that the 7:00 am timeslot that is currently used for pre-enrollment is the best timeslot.
- ix. O. Egharevba said that it was discussed, and that he argued for a late-night timeslot since people can sleep through pre-enrollment time.
- x. V. Devatha said that a lot of clubs, organizations, and group projects meet later at night, and that while the 7:00 am timeslot is bad, he agrees with the APC that it is the best possible timeslot.
- xi. O. Egharevba stated his agreement, saying that it is a necessary evil.
- xii. V. Devatha asked whether the APC has reached out to CIT in regard to avoiding Student Center crashing.
- xiii. O. Egharevba responded in the negative, saying that the APC wanted to gauge student opinion before reaching out to any groups.
- xiv. Zachary Schmetterer said that peak internet traffic is during the evening, and that many students who get locked out of required classes are freshmen, and that the problem lies in seniority and predetermined amounts of seats in classes. He recommended that the APC write a resolution that would make the number of seats in a class more flexible, as well as for the APC to talk to individual colleges to reserve more seats.
- xv. O. Corn said that the issue in regard to class sizes is that most are set in relation to room sizes, and that if they're assigned to a smaller room they cannot be as flexible with seating.
- xvi. L. Opyd asked if there was anything on the survey which asked whether or not students ask their parents for advice in enrolling in classes.
- xvii. O. Egharevba responded in the affirmative.
- xviii. L. Opyd asked what percentage of students ask their parents for advice for pre-enrollment.
- xix. O. Egharevba said that it is between 8% and 10%.
- xx. C. Schott said that it is important to look critically at the ramifications of these recommendations, and that he anticipates pushback from bodies such as the Faculty Senate.
- xxi. O. Egharevba said that this survey was a preliminary procedure, and that criticism in regard to not reaching out to organizations or people so early in the process is unjustified.
- xxii. C. Schott said that his comments were not a criticism and that the initiative is great. He also said that if the APC wishes to move forward with this initiative, they must talk to the faculty.
- xxiii. G. Park asked if a weekend time for pre-enrollment was discussed as a possible option.
- xxiv. O. Egharevba said that it was discussed on the committee, but that it was concluded that many people are away during those times which would be an

- issue. He reiterated that the 7:00 am timeslot is a necessary evil, and that a weekend timeslot would put some students at a comparative disadvantage.
- xxv. G. Park asked whether a question in regard to students being away on the weekend was included in the survey.
  - xxvi. O. Egharevba said that the committee discussed the issue.
  - xxvii. N. Hernandez asked whether or not the survey had a question regarding student usage of Cornell Wi-Fi during pre-enrollment.
  - xxviii. O. Egharevba responded in the negative.
  - xxix. N. Hernandez said that she has gotten into every class during each of her pre-enrollment times without using the Cornell Wi-Fi, and that this should be considered.
  - xxx. O. Egharevba said that something to talk to CIT about in the coming weeks would be increasing server capacity for Student Center, but that this would probably be difficult since it is his understanding that Cornell contracts Oracle to handle Student Center for them.
- b. Campus Code of Conduct Changes.
    - i. D. Barbaria said that changes to the Campus Code of Conduct (henceforth CCC) have been proposed by the Codes and Judicial Committee (henceforth CJC), and that members who are in support of or against these changes should go to the University Assembly meetings and voice their opinions.
    - ii. Matthew Battaglia explained the proposed changes to the CCC.
      - 1. M. Battaglia is the chair of the CJC.
    - iii. V. Devatha asked a question.
    - iv. M. Battaglia said that the repercussions for violations can go from fines and probation all the way up to expulsion, and that this change increases possible suspension time for organizations from one year to five.
    - v. M. Battaglia continued to explain the proposed changes to the CCC.
    - vi. S. Park asked if non-Cornell students on campus in the summer have to comply with safety policies.
    - vii. M. Battaglia said that the code applies to all people of the Cornell community.
    - viii. C. Schott asked if the maximum suspension for students was now five years, as opposed to the possibility of indefinite suspension.
    - ix. M. Battaglia responded in the affirmative.

## VII. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 45: In Support of GPSA Resolution 13
  - i. C. Schott said that he did not know how much of the resolution was discussed due to his absence in the previous week.
  - ii. There was a motion to vote.
    - 1. There was a dissent.
    - 2. J. Kim said that there are two people on the speakers list.
  - iii. D. Barbaria asked what impact this resolution has on undergraduate students.
  - iv. C. Schott said that there will soon be a large expansion of undergraduate housing, and that public-private partnerships (henceforth P3s) are popular due to their cost-effectiveness, and that it is conceivable that some of the new housing for undergraduate students could be P3, and so international students in such housing would be unable to act as RAs.

- v. Z. Schmetterer said that the P3 is not the reason why international students cannot serve as community leaders. He also said that Cornell would need to tell the winning bidder for any given P3 project that international students must be allowed to act as RAs, and that Cornell can alter the terms of the P3 during negotiations.
- vi. A co-sponsor of GPSA Resolution 13 said that Z. Schmetterer's understanding of the P3 in regard to international students is incorrect, and that the problem with P3 employment is not contractual, but goes against federal immigration requirements. He said that neither EdR nor Cornell was responsible for this, and that international students' visas allow employment with Cornell, but not with a P3.
- vii. There was a motion to vote – approved 21-0-1.

### **VIII. New Business**

- a. Resolution 49: Approving Appendix B for 2018-2020 Byline Cycle
  - i. G. Kaufman said that the Appropriations Committee met on Monday and proposed amendments to Appendix B, and proceeded to explain the proposed changes.
  - ii. J. Kim asked what the per-student cost would be for the Orientation Steering Committee.
  - iii. G. Kaufman said that it would be \$1.12, and apologized for the confusion.
  - iv. G. Kaufman continued to go through the proposed changes.
  - v. C. Schott said that the International Students Union is not included in the proposed changes, and asked whether or not this was because there was nothing to amend.
  - vi. D. Barbaria said that this was the case, and that not every organization who needs to be funded needs to be in the guidelines.
  - vii. I. Wallace yielded his time.
  - viii. V. Devatha asked what the Willard Straight Hall Student Union Board (henceforth SUB) is.
  - ix. G. Kaufman said that SUB is funded at \$0.50 per student, and that it focuses on Willard Straight Hall-themed programming that takes place in or near Willard Straight Hall.
  - x. V. Devatha said that this sounds like taking byline money and throwing it into university-funded events.
  - xi. G. Kaufman said that this is correct.
  - xii. V. Devatha asked who books SUB rooms now.
  - xiii. G. Kaufman said that there was an issue in Fall 2015 in which SUB kicked some organizations out of their rooms, and that the Dean of Students' office now handles these bookings following this.
  - xiv. V. Devatha asked whether or not the SA has a guarantee of this, or if it more of an understanding.
  - xv. G. Kaufman said that if they wanted to take the Memorial Room from the SA, that they would not leave without a fight.
  - xvi. D. Barbaria said that the process is 100% not controlled by students at all.
  - xvii. D. Engelson yielded his time.

- xviii. O. Corn said that the Appropriations Committee met until 9 at night on Monday going through every single detail, and that if the SA trusts the Committee, then they should just pass the resolution.
- xix. D. Nyakaru referenced this funding cycle's issues with CUTonight and their rubric, and asked what would happen if this cycle's events were to occur again, or if CUTonight were to not cooperate.
- xx. O. Din said that the SA would find them in violation of Appendix B.
- xxi. D. Barbaria referenced lines 20-31 in the guidelines, saying that these are the enforcement guidelines that give power to the rules that the SA is setting.
- xxii. Joseph Anderson said that there is concern from some perspectives in regard to adding political affiliation to the nondiscrimination clause, and referenced Haven's issues in regard to community members of certain political affiliations coming to Haven meetings and harassing other members.
- xxiii. O. Corn said that line 24 states that organizations can enforce standards of conduct, and that in such a situation they could be removed from the organization. She added that she has been told directly that people would not feel comfortable having her in an organization, and that an organization can still remove someone for conduct violations.
- xxiv. D. Barbaria said that everything is included so that the SA can discuss the changes, and that the SA has a chance to amend next week when the resolution comes back. He added that the Appropriations Committee will also come back next week with amendments, and that questions now should pertain to the process or content.
- xxv. O. Din said that these are recommendations, and that if anyone feels a certain way about any of these changes, that they can amend them next week.
- xxvi. G. Kaufman asked that anyone who plans to make an amendment notify him first.
- xxvii. Chantel Moseby said that she has edits that she would like to propose regarding the Cornell Concert Commission and CUTonight, and asked whether those could be discussed now.
- xxviii. G. Kaufman responded in the affirmative.
- xxix. C. Moseby said that the Commission wanted to strike the language regarding loss, since the concerts do not make money. She also said that the desired information in a potential report can be told to whoever would ask, but no formal report is created, and asked whether a report would now be necessary.
- xxx. G. Kaufman said that nothing was changed regarding the Cornell Concert Commission except that performances in Bear's Den are no longer required.
- xxxi. C. Moseby asked what the definition of "loss" would be as referenced in Appendix B.
- xxxii. G. Kaufman said that it would be C. Moseby's definition.
- xxxiii. D. Barbaria said that the language regarding loss should be changed since the Commission does not have profits or losses, but that he does not see why the reporting mechanism should be removed.
- xxxiv. C. Moseby said that the Commission does not normally do reports and that the SA has never asked for them. She asked why the Commission now needs to do reports.
- xxxv. R. Herz explained her perspective on what loss would entail for the Commission, referencing the Carly Rae Jepsen concert of Fall 2015.

- xxxvi. C. Moseby said that the Carly Rae Jepsen concert was before her time as the Commission's advisor, but that some concerts do lose more money than others. She added that the former director said that this was potentially more loss than other cases, but not a huge loss altogether relative to concerts that do not make money.
- xxxvii. V. Devatha asked what sort of margin is to be expected at a concert.
- xxxviii. C. Moseby said that the Commission looks at who the artist is and how much they are being paid, and then bases ticket sales on those figures.
- xxxix. V. Devatha asked if C. Moseby had any specific information in this regard, such as historical variances.
  - xl. C. Moseby said that the Commission always gets higher numbers in Barton Hall for Homecoming, but that last year Barton Hall was closed which threw off the numbers.
  - xli. V. Devatha asked what C. Moseby sees as the harm in reporting.
  - xl.ii. C. Moseby said that she is unsure what they would be reporting and what a loss would be, as well as that similar organizations are not required to give reports.
  - xl.iii. V. Devatha asked if the authors of the resolution would be open to requiring other similar organizations to give reports.
  - xl.iv. O. Din responded in the affirmative, saying that the goal is to make the information transparent and readily available, and that they are willing to make it this way for other similar organizations.
  - xl.v. C. Moseby spoke regarding CUTonight.
  - xl.vi. There was a motion to extend the meeting by 5 minutes – approved.
  - xl.vii. G. Kaufman said that members of the Student Assembly should vocalize their opinions regarding CUTonight and the amendments in the resolution, and that he would be more comfortable giving the Student Assembly or the Appropriations Committee oversight instead of just one person, as it is now.
  - xl.viii. D. Barbaria said that he does not believe it to be a tremendous struggle to have the rubric approved once per year.
  - xl.ix. C. Moseby asked why she is not qualified as a person who can make these rubrics and decisions. She also said that the SA VP of Finance could have been present at earlier discussions regarding the rubric.
    - l. R. Herz said that the Assembly is not questioning C. Moseby's background and expertise, but that the SA has had issues with the rubric, especially this semester in regard to how it was not used and how organizations got no information or the ability to appeal. She added that this is less of a capability issue and more of a checks and balances issue, and that the SA has checks and balances on all organizations on byline funding.
      - li. C. Moseby said that this is an extra check and balance.
      - lii. There was a motion to extend the meeting by 5 minutes – approved.
      - liii. R. Herz asked why there is an issue with the Student Assembly also being a check and balance.
      - liv. C. Moseby asked why the Assembly did not handle things better prior to her instatement as an advisor.
      - lv. Discussion in regard to CUTonight continued.
      - lvi. There was a motion to table Resolution 49 – tabled.

**IX. Adjournment**

a. J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*John Hannan*

Clerk of the Assembly