



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, May 3, 2018 Meeting
4:45pm - 6:30pm in Memorial Room, WSH

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:49 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. *Present:* D. Barbaria, A. Chowdhury, O. Corn, V. Devatha, O. Din, D. Engelson, O. Egharevba, H. Hassan, N. Hernandez, R. Herz, M. Indimine, S. Iruvanti, G. Kaufman, J. Kim, L. Lipschutz, D. Nyakaru, G. Park, C. Schott, E. Shapiro, J. Sim, M. Valadez, I. Wallace, J. Dominguez, S. Lim, M. Peralta-Ochoa
 - ii. *Absent:* T. Ball, R. Cornell, S. Park
- c. Pamela Hampton from the OA presented members of the SA with letters of gratitude and certificates of achievement on behalf of the Offices of the President, Vice President, and Assemblies.

I. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.
- b. SA member moved to add a late agenda item – **approved**.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. April 26th Minutes
 - i. N. Hernandez moved to amend the minutes under section VI Presentations I number xxx to delete the words “that something” – **amended**
 - ii. O. Din moved to approve the April 26th minutes – **approved** with no dissent

III. Announcements & Reports

- a. J. Kim announced that Adam Klier would be replacing Luke Opyd as the Veterans Representative.
- b. C. Schott said that the First Ivy League International Student Conference happened this past weekend, and he spoke to international students across various universities. There are still pressing issues that need to be solved.
- c. I. Wallace said that the SAIFC approved \$40,000 for the Straight Edge project, and that it used a popup this past week to collect data. Anabel's Grocery requested \$200 for shelving to implement a kitchenware rental system.
 - i. G. Kaufman thanked I. Wallace for his leadership and asked if there were any rollover funds from last year.
 - ii. I. Wallace responded in the affirmative.
 - iii. G. Kaufman questioned whether the charter states that any money not spent should go back into endowment.
 - iv. D. Barbaria said that the charter must be revised since that is functionally not possible. It was previously attempted, which is why the rollover has continued. This

information is from his conversation with members of the SAIFC and three previous chairs, who in turn asked the OA.

- v. V. Devatha said that the Straight Edge initiative helps build community outside and is a great social environment. He asked a question regarding a liquor license for Straight Edge.
- vi. O. Din raised a point of order, and asked whether or not the Assembly could include the Appendix C revision in the Appendix B amendments.
- vii. D. Barbaria said that they should not since they do not want to make the change and cannot put the money back in.
- viii. I. Wallace said there is a liquor license for the whole of Willard Straight Hall, and that Bear's Den has not sold alcohol this semester due to low sales.
- ix. V. Devatha asked whether the Straight Edge would be student-run or administration-run.
- x. S. Lim said that the initiative is student-run, and that they would likely ask the Assembly for funding.
- xi. C. Schott said that this is a great initiative, but there could be an issue regarding Cornell's exclusive contracts with specific vendors who charge exorbitant prices. He added that this is something that the Assembly should look into next year.
- xii. M. Valadez asked what kinds of conversations the project team of Straight Edge had with members of the community regarding the name of the initiative. She added that a lot of sober people use the term "straight-edge" as a label for themselves, and that the campus still needs to work toward more inclusive language, especially towards those who are sober and/or working toward recovery.
- xiii. S. Lim said that the person leading the project is a landscape architect, and a straight edge is a tool used to draw straight lines in their field. She added that this was the only intention behind the name to her knowledge.
- xiv. G. Kaufman asked a question regarding CUTonight and funding.
- xv. I. Wallace said that SAIFC money would only be going to furniture.

IV. Presentations

- a. CDTI Presentation on New Students Orientation App
 - i. Julia Kruk introduced the plan for an app two years in the making that would function as a consolidated place to list events on campus. The orientation app was used as a form of data collection to see what functions students did or did not use and incorporated this data into the events app.
 - ii. Zachary asked who would own the app in the long run. He also asked where the revenue would go.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that the team did not plan on profiting and does not necessarily want it. There will always be someone on Cornell Design and Tech Initiative (CDTI) focused on its maintenance.
 - iii. L. Lipschutz asked whether or not the app would be for only public events.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that, for now, the app would be dedicated to public events, and that there are plans to introduce organization channels for internal events in the future.
 - iv. G. Park said she is worried about the impartiality of the Discover portion of the app, and asked how focus on less popular events would work.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that the app does not use algorithms in the same way that other tech presences such as Facebook do.
 - v. G. Park asked if event hosts would be registering on the app, or if they would be internally selected.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that there will be registration and a way of checking if they are official.

- vi. S. Lim asked if the app would be synced to Google Maps.
 - 1. J. Kruk responded in the affirmative.
- vii. S. Lim asked how the SA could help CDTI reach organizations on campus.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that the original plan was to go through Orgsync since it has a good chunk of organizations. She also said that they intend to use ClubFest as a way of getting out to organizations.
- viii. I. Wallace asked if there would be attendee lists, citing concerns for public attendee lists for Haven events.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that this information would be collected, but that they do not currently plan to display this information.
- ix. V. Devatha asked whether or not J. Kruk has an approximate percentage of which the team can capture information under the new model.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that there are organizations that do not go through Orgsync since they do not need money from SAFC.
- x. J. Kruk stated the team has not yet spoken to the Orientation Steering Committee.
- xi. V. Devatha suggested obtaining a QR code to put on the New Students Guide handed out at orientation. He also suggested printing descriptions of each app and asked if there has been discussion about making a schedule feature in the app.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that this would be a good idea, but that the development team is trying to keep the first release of the app as clean as possible.
- xii. H. Hassan asked if people have specific areas of focus on the development team such as marketing, glitches, and so on.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that not everyone on the team is a developer, and there are some people dedicated to marketing and business ends of the app.
- xiii. A. Klier asked how an organization would go about submitting events on the app.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that only administrators of an organization can upload events. The administrator would put in a request and an app moderator would confirm the event is legitimate. There is currently no way of being able to check what the event will actually be in this way.
- xiv. D. Barbaria said that there needs to be a larger conversation about the relationship between CDTI and the SA, and that the latter feels responsible, positively and negatively, for what the former has become.
 - 1. J. Kruk said that she is not a member CDTI leadership, but that it would be beneficial for a relationship to resume.
- xv. J. Dominguez suggested a function to make it optional to have an attendee list for the organization administrators submitting the event.
- xvi. Shea Belsky said he is a member of leadership for CDTI, and that at their next meeting, proceedings from this Assembly meeting will be discussed.

V. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 49: Approving Appendix B for 2018-2020 Byline Cycle
 - i. G. Kaufman read through a list of changes made to the resolution by the Appropriations Committee (AppsCom) in the prior week. He moved to amend the resolution to reflect these changes.
 - 1. O. Corn made a dissent.
 - 2. Vote to vote on the amendment – **Failed**
 - ii. O. Corn asked where the amendment regarding Alternative Spring Breaks came from.
 - iii. G. Kaufman said that he had previously said that Alternative Spring Breaks emailed him with these changes during the meeting.
 - iv. O. Corn said that transportation costs for Alternative Spring Breaks are already incredibly high.

- v. G. Kaufman said that this is why the new byline rules would prohibit them from raising costs. He suggested the SA incorporate these changes into the document and then debate it later.
- vi. SA member made a motion to vote on the amendment.
 - 1. M. Peralta-Ochoa made a dissent. The SA should not fund Senior Days events that are too expensive for low-income students to attend.
 - 2. Vote to vote on the amendment – **passed**
 - 3. V. Devatha said that the resolution can be further amended after this amendment is passed.
- vii. Motion to amend Resolution 49 – **amended** 22-1-0.
- viii. O. Din said that M. Peralta-Ochoa should make his amendment now, and that he will second it.
- ix. V. Devatha asked for an explanation of the color coding in the resolution.
 - 1. G. Kaufman clarified that anything in red had either been added or stricken, and that things in green had been moved.
- x. O. Corn moved to amend the language for Alternative Spring Breaks back to its original form – motion was not seconded.
- xi. Z. Schmetterer supported that many cannot afford the events, and that Cornell may be increasing prices. There should be more events, but that he does not know if the solution should be a quota.
- xii. G. Kaufman said that his job is to support the decisions of AppsCom, and that while he does not agree with all the decisions that the committee makes, including this one, the SA should accept the Committee's decision.
- xiii. M. Peralta-Ochoa moved to amend the resolution such that the line under Senior Days that was deleted be added back.
 - 1. SA member made a dissent.
- xiv. P. Monaghan said they looked at the numbers, and that this particular rule would be onerous because 80% of the allocation from byline funding is already going to free events. This rule had been in Appendix B for five years but never enforced, and the current breakdown of funding is acceptable. He added that this decision was made not without care or thought, and cautioned the SA against ruling against AppsCom.
- xv. O. Din said that he is also on AppsCom, and that while this might be the case, previous lack of enforcement is not a good enough reason to not do it in the future. He added that if some events would have to be removed because of this provision, then he is in support. He moved to vote on the amendment.
 - 1. There was a dissent.
 - 2. O. Din **withdrew** his motion.
- xvi. O. Corn said the committee discussed making the provision either 70%, 80%, or 90% to free events, which she supports.
- xvii. M. Valadez said this brings up another issue about the Assembly's oversight. The issue at hand is to push for more inclusivity for low-income students. She added that as the president of the First Generation Student Union (FGSU), she will not be attending any Senior Days events since they are so expensive. FGSU will be hosting their own Senior Days events for this reason. If the SA is to provide funding equitably, they must discuss how they are lacking in their own role. She added that this provision must be brought back, but that the new SA Executive Committee must step up and do a better job than the Assembly has previously done.
- xviii. V. Devatha said that there are multiple inaccessible events, but Senior Days has been structured for this year and next year such that if the SA changes their funding, they will not be able to make the necessary changes in time. A timeline they could work with is to make these changes for the 2020 byline funding.
 - 1. D. Nyakaru asked how it is logistically impossible.

2. V. Devatha said that similar changes that needed to be made for the Women's Resource Center took two and a half years, and that people said that it was not enough time for them, but that Senior Days, which is much more nuanced, would be given half that time.
- xix. H. Hassan asked if adding a 2020 portion to the amendment would push representatives of Senior Days come up with a plan to be implemented in 2020.
 1. V. Devatha responded in the affirmative.
 - xx. O. Din moved to vote.
 1. There was a dissent.
 2. O. Din maintained his motion.
 - xxi. O. Din said it is possible to make all these changes and for them to be enforced.
 - xxii. D. Barbaria said that there should not be discussion right now.
 - xxiii. V. Devatha asked who is in charge of Senior Days.
 1. G. Kaufman said that there are three co-chairs.
 2. V. Devatha asked if the co-chairs for next year had yet been selected.
 3. SA member said that they are about to be.
 - xxiv. SA member made a motion to vote to vote on the amendment – **passed**
 1. Motion to amend the resolution – **amended** 22-3-1
 - xxv. O. Corn moved to amend the resolution such that 90% of Senior Days' funding would go to free events.
 - xxvi. A. Gilmore of AppsCom said the committee spent hours thinking about this, and this provision would be a huge restriction. The Assembly would be telling this group they have to spend 100% of their money on specific things. He added that Senior Days came to AppsCom and said it would make operations difficult, and that they do not know how much each ticket will increase by. The SA should consider the implications of this provision, and that this organization knows its events best and works to provide free events.
 - xxvii. Motion to extend the meeting by twenty minutes – **approved**.
 - xxviii. V. Devatha asked if there are any free events.
 1. A. Gilmore said that 80% of funding already gives money to free or close-to-free events, but here are other popular events.
 - xxix. O. Din moved to vote.
 1. There was a dissent.
 2. Vote to vote on the amendment – **failed**
 - xxx. D. Nyakaru asked why this provision was not being upheld previously. Only 5 of 25 events were free. A year is a significant amount of time to change structures.
 - xxxi. G. Kaufman said that he is personally in favor of making Senior Days spend more on free events, but that a lot of what was just said is false. While it might be the case that not a lot of events are free, most of their funding does not come from the Student Activity Fee (SAF), and this would just increase the percentage from the SAF from 80% to 90%. Senior Days has previously used some of the SAF to cover the difference if an event does poorly.
 - xxxii. V. Devatha said not all events that occur are subsidized by the SAF, and it is important to recognize that they derive profit from some events and put it back into others.
 - xxxiii. M. Peralta-Ochoa said they get a lot more money from other sources. He added that they need events that are accessible to everyone, and anyone can attend a free event.
 - xxxiv. D. Barbaria said that this language has existed since Senior Days became an independent organization, and that removing it would be a big change. Leaving it in and enforcing it would just be the SA doing its job.
 - xxxv. G. Kaufman said he supports O. Corn's amendment, since they need some leeway to subsidize events that have lower than average attendance.

- xxxvi. Travis Cabbell yielded his time.
- xxxvii. G. Park yielded her time.
- xxxviii. N. Hernandez asked whether or not the language having been there for eight years means that all the funding should have gone to free events.
 - 1. M. Peralta-Ochoa responded in the affirmative.
- xxxix. N. Hernandez asked what the point of the 90% provision is if this is the case.
 - 1. G. Kaufman said that the problem with enforcing the rule would be that Senior Days would be forced to not take any losses.
- xl. V. Devatha said that if a decision is going to be made about changing the way this organization works, it is imperative that the Assembly look at the finances.
- xli. G. Park asked why Senior Days does not use proceeds from Duff Ball.
- xl.ii. D. Barbaria moved to extend the meeting by twenty minutes – **approved**.
- xl.iii. O. Corn moved to amend the resolution – motion was not seconded.
- xliv. Motion to vote on the amendment to the amendment – **approved**
- xl. v. E. Shapiro said that if Senior Days has an event they do not make enough on and cannot recoup these costs, they will have to run a deficit, which they do not have enough money for. They will have to come to the Assembly for more money.
- xlvi. V. Devatha said the easiest way to circumvent that provision would be to make whatever provision of events required very low-quality.
- xl. vii. O. Din asked whether or not it would be impossible for Senior Days to find \$7000 elsewhere.
- xl. viii. G. Kaufman said that \$7000 would be 10%, and that they currently subsidize ticketed events with \$10,000. The only other way they could get \$7000 from would be to raise ticket prices from other events to generate profit. He added that this is a very good idea, and that this ensures that Senior Days will not be too risk-averse.
- xl. ix. P. Monaghan said that making the funding 100% toward free events is that it will stratify ticketed events even more, raising the price of ticketed events.
 - 1. N. Hernandez asked if there was still an amendment on the floor.
 - 1. There was an affirmative response.
 - 2. N. Hernandez moved to vote on the amendment – **amended** 16-6-1
 - 3. D. Barbaria moved to amend the resolution – **amended** 23-0-1
 - li. N. Hernandez moved to amend the resolution such that political affiliation would no longer be considered a protected class.
 - 1. O. Corn added this is not to protect people with hateful views, but because people on campus are picked on because of their political views. She has been prevented from joining countless organizations at Cornell because of her political orientation.
 - lii. D. Barbaria moved to extend the meeting to 7:30 pm – **approved**.
 - lii.iii. D. Barbaria said that this takes a very strong stance on political affiliation, and that a person has no requirement in this country to align with or join a political party, and that many of these other protected classes are things that cannot be chosen, such as race, sex, or sexual orientation. He added that these other classes that are protected are beyond one's choice when arriving at Cornell, and that political orientation does not fall into this category.
 - liv. J. Anderson said political affiliation runs counter to what is trying to be accomplished. There are some hateful views that could be espoused in a Haven meeting that would be protected because it is a legitimate political stance in this country. He added that this provision does not present any benefits, that it damages credibility. He disagrees that race and political affiliation can be considered to be on the same grounds.
 - lv. There was a motion to vote on the amendment.
 - 1. O. Corn dissented.

- lvi. J. Dominguez said that the SA needs to make a commitment to an inclusive atmosphere on campus, which does include political affiliation.
- lvii. There was a motion to vote on the amendment.
 - 1. SA member made a dissent.
 - 2. Vote to vote on the amendment – **failed**
- lviii. There was a discussion in regard to voting rules, and whether the vote to vote needed a simple majority, a 60% majority, or a two-thirds majority to pass.
 - 1. There was another vote to vote on the amendment – **passed**
- lix. O. Corn moved for a **roll call vote** on the amendment.
 - 1. The amendment was **approved** 15-7-1.
- lx. V. Devatha moved to amend the resolution such that the relevant text of the Cornell Concert Commission reads “anytime a concert’s subsidy is more than expected, the Cornell Concert Commission should detail the shortfall and impact it would have on future operations.”
 - 1. **Amended** by unanimous consent.
- lxi. There was a motion to vote on the resolution.
 - 1. There was a dissent.
 - 2. J. Kim moved into voting on the resolution.
 - 3. Motion to vote on Resolution 49 – **approved** 19-2-1.

VI. New Business

- a. Resolution 50: Approval of the Fall 2018 Elections Rules
 - i. Motion to table – **tabled**
- b. Resolution 51: Recommendation for Cornell University to Amend its GPA Scale
 - i. Motion to table – **tabled**
- c. Resolution 52: Recommendation for Cornell University to Establish a Testing Center for MCAT
 - i. Motion to table – **tabled**

VII. Adjournment

- a. J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan and Catherine Tran
 Clerks of the Assembly