

Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the March 5, 2019 Meeting 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM 401 Physical Sciences Building

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Call to Order
 - i. M. Battaglia called the meeting to order at 4:31pm
 - b. Roll Call
 - i. *Present*: J. Anderson, D. Barbaria, K. Barth, M. Battaglia, R. Bensel, L. Copman, V. Devatha, M. Hatch, D. Hiner, R. Howarth, L. Kenney, T. Onabajo, J. Pea, C. Van Loan, A. Viswanathan, E. Winarto
 - ii. Absent: I. Allen, D. Geisler, E. Loew, J. Pea, C. Wiggers
 - c. Welcome and Introduction
 - i. M. Battaglia welcomed the guests, Vice President Mary Opperman, Vice President Joel Malina,
 - d. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - i. There were no late additions to the Agenda.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. 2-19-19 Minutes
 - i. M. Battaglia motioned to postpone the approval of the minutes. There was no dissent. The approval of the minutes was postponed to the next meeting.
- III. Presentation from Vice President Opperman and Vice President Malina
 - a. Vice President Opperman gave a presentation on core values. She gave an overview of the different components of core values statements, and she also gave examples of the core values statements of different universities and organizations. She said that the goal is to have a finalized draft of core values for the University by May 2019.
 - b. Vice President Opperman and Vice President Malina opened up the discussion to hear from members of the Assembly about what things should be included in a core values statement.
 - c. Members of the Assembly shared their thoughts and insights with Vice President Opperman and Vice President Malina.
- IV. Presentation from Vice President Opperman and John Siliciano on Policy 6.4
 - a. Vice President Opperman said that the policies have been revised. She went over key changes to the procedures in Policy 6.4. She said that the status of the



responding party guides the process and procedures followed. She said that the staff and faculty procedures have been combined; she said that the definition has been updated; she said that procedure of academic freedom and freedom of speech has been updated; she said that the statute of limitations on complaints has been expanded from six months to three years; she said that there is now complete transparency with regard to the collection and dispersion of evidence; she also discussed other changes to the Policy.

- b. R. Howarth asked if there was a thought about the role of departmental faculty in the process, referencing a unique case.
- c. Vice President Opperman said that had the circumstances been different, she isn't sure that what happened would have needed to happen, referencing a unique case.
- d. R. Bensel asked about the latitude for deans or the Vice President to decide the sanctions after recommendations are provided by the hearing board.
- e. Vice President Opperman said that they have latitude to increase the sanction or decrease the sanction, but that they must go back to the hearing board and explain the reasoning.
- f. R. Howarth asked if there was an opportunity for the hearing board to comment on the dean or department head's decision.
- g. Vice President Opperman said yes.
- h. To clarify, Vice President Opperman said that there is no loop back to the hearing board after the dean or department head decides the sanctions. She said that either side could appeal. She also said that there would be a written record of the proceedings.
- i. Vice President Opperman said this work is difficult and takes a lot of work. She said that there are 297 complaints on the student-side. She said that the long-term goal would be to move away from the formal complaints as being the only way to deal with these issues.
- V. Assembly, Committee, and Liaison Reports
 - a. Employee Assembly
 - i. K. Barth said that Employee Assembly elections will be happening in the future.
 - b. Student Assembly
 - i. V. Devatha said that Student Assembly elections and Undergraduate student-trustee elections will be happening in the future.
 - c. Executive Committee



- i. J. Anderson said the executive committee met with Joanne DeStefano and Michael Kotlikoff about the future of the Budget Planning Committee.
- d. Campus Infrastructure Committee
 - i. R. Howarth said that the campus infrastructure committee met, and that Bill McKibben will be speaking to an audience at Call Auditorium next week on the topic of Climate Change and Divestment. He said that he would like help to get the word out.
- e. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. D. Barbaria said that the committee will be meeting tomorrow to continue the conversation on the revision of the Campus Code of Conduct.
- f. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. T. Onabajo said that she is presenting a resolution from the campus welfare committee later about the University's child care facility.

VI. New Business

- a. Ombudsman Reappointment
 - i. M. Battaglia said that he received an email from President Pollack to confirm Charles Walcott as the Ombudsman of the University.
 - ii. M. Battaglia moved to postpone voting on the resolution to the next meeting.
 - 1. There was no dissent. By unanimous consent, the vote on the resolution was postponed to next week.
- b. Resolution 3: Examining the Need to Augment the Cornell Childcare Facility
 - i. T. Onabajo said that, through anecdotal reports, the Campus Welfare Committee has heard a number of complaints from graduate students, faculty, and staff. She said that the committee has good reasons to believe that there are inadequacies within the child care facilities. She said that the committee would like more information about the waiting lists and how selections from the waitlist are made.
 - ii. R. Howarth asked who Bright Horizons reports to in the University Administration.
 - iii. T. Onabajo said that she is unsure.
 - iv. Voting on the resolution was postponed to the next meeting. There was no dissent.
- c. Discussion on revision to the Campus Code of Conduct
 - i. D. Barbaria said that these are the primary substantive changes that have not been reviewed by the University Assembly.



ii. L. Copman made a comment about section (d) and said that she wanted to see the definition of "harassment" expanded.

VII. Adjournment

a. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrill D. Malone Clerk of the Assembly