Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly
Minutes of the Thursday, September 20, 2018 Meeting
4:49pm-5:18pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

I. Call to Order & Roll Call
a. V. Devatha called the meeting to order at 4:49 pm.
b. Roll Call:
  i. *Present*: J. Anderson [0], D. Barbaria [0], V. Devatha [0], O. Din [1.5], J. Dominguez [0], O. Egharevba [1], A. Hailu [0], S. Harshvardhan [0], N. Hernandez [0], A. Jain [0], K. Kebbeh [1], S. Lim [0], N. Matolka [0], D. Nyakaru [0], G. Park [0], M. Peralta-Ochoa [1.25], E. Shapiro [0], M. Shovik [0], J. Sim [0], F. Uribe-Rheinbolt [0], I. Wallace [0], B. Weintraub [0]
  ii. *Absent*: S. Iruvanti [0]

II. Approval of the Minutes
a. Motion to approve the September 13th minutes – approved.

III. Open Microphone
a. No speakers at the open microhone.

IV. Business of the Day
a. Resolution 7: Denouncing University Guideline Related to Event Security
  i. J. Anderson moved to table Resolution 7 indefinitely.
  ii. O. Din indicated that he only intended for the resolution to be tabled until next week.
  iii. J. Anderson amended his motion to reflect O. Din's wishes.
  iv. O. Din said that he wanted to table the resolution such that he could come back later with better language for it.
  v. Motion to table Resolution 7 – tabled 19-0-1.

V. New Business
a. Resolution 8: Approving Special Projects Request for Chinese Students Association
  i. D. Barbaria asked to speak indefinitely since there is a lot to be explained.
  ii. V. Devatha granted him this permission.
  iii. D. Barbaria explained the origins of the Special Projects Fund and how it works.
  iv. D. Barbaria said that the Chinese Students Association (henceforth CSA) has a gap in funding due to CUTonight having been put on hold last semester, and that the Student Assembly funded this event because it is a good event that requires a large amount of money. He added that this event was done by

multiple organizations, and not just the CSA, for many years, and consistently got $5000 of funding from CUTonight. He also said that this was not a non-contentious issue in the Appropriations Committee (henceforth AppsCom), and that some in the committee believed that the CSA should have had a better contingency plan since they knew that CUTonight would not be an option. He added that this is background information to say that AppsCom has recommended this funding.

v. D. Nyakaru asked what sources of funding were recommended if the committee was working under the assumption that CSA should have relied on funding other than CUTonight.

vi. D. Barbaria said that AppsCom believed that CSA should have responded by downsizing or charging some amount of money. He added that there are a few things that can happen in regard to CUTonight, and that they are hoping to get the organization active very soon. He also said that he believes that the decision to put CUTonight on hold was made without thinking about how many organizations rely on CUTonight for funding, and that changes will be made, but that it is not yet known what those changes will look like. He added that if these changes do not work, then the SA will have the authority to declare that CUTonight is in violation of its byline funding, and in such a situation all the money that they have access to would be transferred to the Special Projects Fund. He also said that the SA does not currently have the capacity to be solely responsible for the funds that CUTonight has access to.

vii. V. Devatha said that the e-board of CUTonight has shifted since the concerns of last year.

viii. J. Dominguez said that the CSA said that they expected an attendance of 2000 at this event, and that everyone pays the Student Activity Fee (henceforth SAF) to fund events like this, and that he thinks it is imperative that the assembly try and make this event happen. He added that AppsCom did recommend that the CSA charge $1 or $2 at their events for food, and that AppsCom thinks it is reasonable for their original request of $5000 to have been reduced to $4000.

ix. D. Barbaria said that the aforementioned recommendation was sent to the CSA when they were notified that they would be funded $4000 instead of $5000.

x. B. Weintraub asked if the SA would be able to absorb a certain amount of CUTonight's funding for this coming semester, so as to replenish some money from the Special Projects Fund. He also said that he understands that $1 or $2 is not a prohibitive amount to charge, but that he would not want fewer people to come to the event as a result of that.

xi. D. Barbaria said that the assembly cannot unilaterally pass a resolution to reclaim money, but in the discussions that have already been had with CUTonight, it was considered and supported. He also said that the request for the CSA to charge was purely a recommendation.

xii. M. Shovik asked what the consequences for this event would be if this resolution did not pass.

xiii. D. Barbaria said that he did not think that there would be implications for the event itself, but it would affect the organizers, since they would be on the line for thousands of dollars more than expected.

xiv. O. Egharevba said that he was wondering about the progress concerning CUTonight.

xv. D. Barbaria said that little progress had been made since the end of last semester, that the new commissioners are ready to start working, and that the SA will have to help CUTonight's new advisor in some capacity. He added that he believes that there can be a process in place by the end of next week.

xvi. I. Wallace asked if D. Barbaria thinks it is possible for the SA to take over.

xvii. D. Barbaria said that it would not be beyond the assembly, but that it would not be ideal. He added that if this were to be done, the first priority should be to review applications from organizations consistently funded by CUTonight, but it would not be good for the SA in the long term, and that they would be hurting many people by absorbing this function.

xviii. Ashwin Viswanathan asked a question.

xix. D. Barbaria said that if the SA decides that CUTonight functionally doesn't exist this year, then all their money would end up in Special Projects Funding.

xx. There was a motion to move this resolution to Business of the Day – approved.

xxi. J. Dominguez said that he wanted to gauge D. Barbaria's opinion on something, and asked if an amendment should be included that would dissuade other organizations from coming to the SA because they might see what happened in this exceptional circumstance with the CSA.

xxii. D. Barbaria said that he doesn't think that it is a bad idea, but that it is also not necessary, since this resolution does not set any precedent.

xxiii. There was a motion to vote.
1. D. Barbaria dissented, and asked if the speakers' list had been exhausted.
2. V. Devatha replied in the affirmative.
3. D. Barbaria withdrew his dissent.

xxiv. Motion to vote on Resolution 8 – approved 21-0-1.

VI. Adjournment
a. V. Devatha adjourned the meeting at 5:18 pm.

VII. Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly