



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, September 27, 2018 Meeting
4:50pm-5:42pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. V. Devatha called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
 - i. *Present:* J. Anderson [0], D. Barbaria [0], V. Devatha [0], J. Dominguez [0], N. Hernandez [0], S. Iruvanti [0], K. Kebbeh [0], S. Lim [0], N. Matolka [0], U. Mustafa [0], D. Nyakaru [0], M. Peralta-Ochoa [1.25], E. Shapiro [0], J. Sim [0], M. Stefanko [0], F. Uribe-Rheinbolt [0], I. Wallace [0], B. Weintraub [0]
 - ii. *Absent:* O. Din [2.5], O. Egharevba [1], A. Hailu [1], S. Harshvardhan [0], C. Huang [0], A. Jain [0], G. Park [0], I. Pavlov [0], M. Shovik [0], V. Xu [0]

II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. There was a motion to approve the September 20, 2018 minutes – **approved**.

III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

IV. Announcements and Reports

- a. I. Wallace moved to amend the agenda such that Resolution 10 would be added to the agenda as a late agenda item.
- b. I. Wallace said that project applications for the SAIFC would close soon, and that the committee will meet from 11:30 to 1:30 on Sunday to hold a hearing for project applications. He added that he encourages everyone to attend, and that he will email Resolution 10 and its appendix to the members of the SA.
- c. D. Barbaria said that since these were passed after the agenda was finalized, there would need to be a 2/3rds majority to amend it to the agenda. He added that he would not be in favor of this addition.
- d. I. Wallace moved to amend the agenda to add this resolution in new business – **amended** 10-3-1.
- e. E. Shapiro said that he is on the Faculty Senate Educational Policy Committee, and that they are looking at revising the list of course meeting times. He added that if any member of the SA is interested in this and has any thoughts, they should reach out to him.
- f. D. Barbaria asked for E. Shapiro to keep everyone in the loop regarding proceedings of the committee.

V. Oath of Office

- a. The oath of office was completed for new members U. Mustafa and M. Stefanko at 5:02 pm.

VI. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 7: Denouncing University Guideline Related to Event Security

- i. There was a motion to table Resolution 7 indefinitely – **tabled** 15-1-2.

VII. New Business

- a. Resolution 9: Creating an ad-hoc Oversight Committee on CUTonight
 - i. J. Anderson explained the function of the resolution.
 - ii. I. Wallace asked whether the proponents of the resolution would be open to allowing non-SA members to sit on the committee. He also asked if this is just an advisory committee, or if it would administer CUTonight's funds.
 - iii. J. Anderson said that the committee would oversee the funding process and make sure the guidelines are being followed, and that it would look at the end results of the process but not the process itself.
 - iv. V. Devatha said that in the past, CUTonight hadn't been following its guidelines historically, and that moving forward the oversight committee will be restructuring the guidelines to be in accordance with the mission of CUTonight.
 - v. D. Barbaria said that non-SA members can serve on an ad-hoc committee regardless of how it's formed, and that only the chair must be an assembly member, but the point of this committee is for SA members to be in the process. He added that the best place for non-SA members to go to get involved in this regard would be to become commissioners, and that this committee would advise the faculty advisor of CUTonight. He also said that the committee would prevent events such as last semester's, where there was a big spectacle without any resources being committed.
 - vi. N. Matolka asked what the current status of CUTonight is.
 - vii. D. Barbaria said that, officially speaking, the organization only has an advisor at the moment.
 - viii. N. Matolka asked whether or not there should be one or two outside members on the committee.
 - ix. J. Anderson said that this was answered in D. Barbaria's last point, and that it is strictly an advisory committee.
 - x. D. Barbaria moved to amend the resolution.
 - 1. Following line 27, the following lines would be added:
 - a. "Be it further resolved, that this Committee will assist the Advisor of CUTonight in recruiting commissioners;"
 - b. "Be it further resolved, that this Committee will not have a strict timeline and will work collaboratively with the Advisor and future commissioners of CUTonight to promote autonomy and success of CUTonight in the future;"
 - xi. There was a motion to move this resolution to Business of the Day – **approved**.
 - xii. There was a motion to amend the resolution such that the use of the word "the" in line 27 would be removed – **amended**.
 - xiii. There was a motion to approve the amendments previously stated by D. Barbaria – **amended** 17-0-1.
 - xiv. S. Iruvanti asked what would happen if the advisory committee found that CUTonight did not follow their guidelines once again this semester.
 - xv. J. Anderson said that, if the committee finds that this is the case, then that would be a larger conversation that would involve formally applying Appendix B to the organization, and that this committee was made to act such that this point would not be reached.
 - xvi. D. Barbaria said that many of last year's problems came from following their guidelines too closely.
 - xvii. Shivani Parikh said that it was her understanding that they did not give organizations any feedback as to why they were not funded, and asked whether or not that contradicts D. Barbaria's previous point.

- xviii. J. Anderson said that there were many issues.
- xix. There was a motion to vote on Resolution 9 – approved 17-0-1.
- b. Resolution 10: Approving Revisions to Appendix C
 - i. I. Wallace said that, since this resolution entails a change of charter, it cannot be voted on this week. He also explained the background of the SAIFC and Appendix C's relation to it, and described the changes made in the resolution.
 - ii. D. Barbaria asked if any member of the audience would like a copy of these changes.
 - iii. I. Wallace said that the relevant sections of Appendix C had never been amended throughout the SAIFC's entire existence.
 - iv. V. Devatha said that his issue with the amendments is that it would take all of the money and put it into the fund.
 - v. I. Wallace said that this is how it was done in the past.
 - vi. J. Anderson said that, reading it the way he and V. Devatha did, this would take all of the endowment out and use it.
 - vii. V. Devatha said that the resolution states right now that the endowment has a certain amount of money and a certain amount of return, and that this will eventually be a problem due to inflation.
 - viii. Matthew Battaglia made a statement.
 - ix. V. Devatha said that, regardless of whether this has been the procedure in the past, that it should not happen in the future, and that he will draft some language in this regard at a later time.
 - x. D. Barbaria said that the Office of the Assemblies has told the assembly that the money cannot be put back into anything, and that they have never been given a reason why.
 - xi. V. Devatha said that this could be something to look at next week before any changes are made. He also referenced a different section of the appendix amendments that, and said that the necessary changes would be made next week.
 - xii. D. Barbaria said that he is hugely in support of this resolution, and that he thinks it is inappropriate for us to include this resolution next week. He added that he believes that it is rushed and a transparency issue, and that the SA should wait to pass this until the Thursday after fall break.
 - xiii. I. Wallace said that, since SAIFC meets on Wednesdays, anything that is passed at one of their meetings has to be a late-agenda item.
 - xiv. D. Barbaria said that it is for the purposes of transparency.
 - xv. N. Matolka asked if an accountability order could be included regarding the publicity plan.
 - xvi. I. Wallace said that the appendix already says that the plan must be passed by the second regularly-scheduled SA meeting, and a timeline must be released by the third meeting. He added that there are things that are part of the publicity plan that are due directly after that.
 - xvii. D. Barbaria said that the SA often discusses stupid things in its rules, and that this resolution is not that, and that it is very important. He added that if these changes are made, the SAIFC can become a more effective committee.
 - xviii. V. Devatha asked if there is a typeform available for SAIFC funding requests.
 - xix. I. Wallace replied in the affirmative, saying that it had been done in the past through Google Sheets, but will now be done through Qualtrics.
 - xx. V. Devatha asked if it can be put on the SA website.
 - xxi. I. Wallace replied in the affirmative.
 - xxii. N. Hernandez asked why the deadline is so quick relative to the start of the semester.

- xxiii. I. Wallace said that, in the past, the SAIFC hasn't had hearings until mid-November, and since the committee has dropped the ball on things for the past two years, he wanted to make sure that things started off punctually.
- xxiv. J. Anderson asked a question.
- xxv. I. Wallace said that, in the past, the SAIFC has only accepted applications in the fall, and that they could theoretically open things in the spring, but that the problem would be that there might not be enough time in the spring for some of these projects, and that the application could just be on a rolling basis.
- xxvi. J. Anderson asked if a potential solution would be to open the application for projects that have a cap limit in the spring, and would therefore only be small projects.
- xxvii. I. Wallace replied in the affirmative.
- xxviii. D. Barbaria said that the committee members and the applicants don't really decide how things are going to cost, and that he does not think that the SAIFC should reject applications in the spring. He added that applicants are not requesting money, but that something gets done.
- xxix. I. Wallace said that one of the reasons that it was not done last year was just tradition, and that he is hoping that they can start new traditions and really institutionalize the committee.
- xxx. J. Anderson asked if there were any members of the SA that did not understand the current proceedings, and that he would like everyone to be involved.
- xxxi. D. Barbaria said that there is one vacancy on the SAIFC that must be filled by an assembly member, and that this will probably be done next week.
- xxxii. There was a motion to table the resolution until next week – tabled 17-0-1.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. V. Devatha adjourned the meeting at 5:42 pm.

IX. Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hannan

Clerk of the Assembly