



Student Assembly

Student Assembly of Cornell University

Minutes of the October 17, 2024 Meeting

4:45 PM

Room 407, Willard-Straight Hall

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair Z. deRham called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.
- b. *Members Present:* R. Acharjee; L. Berinde; E. Chaudhuri; Z. deRham; D. Donovan; D. Gekman; N. Hite; J. Lederman; K. Liu; F. Meng; M. Scali; J. Silverman; A. Vinson; E. Yao, S. Almosawi, G. Gonzalez-Mulattieri, I. Rezaka
- c. *Members Absent:* K. Everett, C. Kim, D. Suarez, C. Tarala, S. Zhuang, C. Flournoy (Proxied by S. Chan), E. Galperin (Proxied by N.Hite), S. Razzak (Proxied by A. Vinson)
- d. *Also Present:* Andrew Debin, Ethan - the President of the Melodramatics Theater Community

II. Reading of the land acknowledgement

- a. Z. deRham stated the land acknowledgement

III. Approval of the minutes

- a. Z. deRham motioned to approve the minutes from the October 10th meeting with the correction that "Carolina" be changed to "Caroline" in the announcements section, motion approved by unanimous consent

IV. Announcements

- a. No announcements

V. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers

VI. Consent Calendar

- a. No presentations



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VII. Presentations

- a. No presentations

VIII. Second Readings

- a. N. Hite reintroduced Resolution 9: The Melodramatics Theatre Company is requesting \$5,000 and N.Hite emphasizes the necessity of the funds to cover expenditures and greatly benefit the Cornell community.
- b. Ethan, the President of the Melodramatics Theater Community, explained that they need the funding to purchase microphones and production equipment. He provided the history of the Melodramatics Theater Community, demonstrating its exponential growth and the need for the SA to assist in supporting this expansion.
- c. Andrew Debin, Production Manager at Schwartz Performing Arts Center, added that the Melodramatics Theater has been a humble organization but now requires a boost to their production. He noted that if the SA provides funding, the Production Management at Schwartz Performing Arts Center would help the Melodramatics Community maintain the equipment and ensure its longevity.
- d. J. Lederman asked if other campus organizations that put on shows could also use this equipment.
- e. Ethan responded that many other organizations put on shows and would also benefit from the improved production equipment.
- f. I. Rezaka motioned to end the debate. The motion was unanimously approved.
- g. D. Gekman introduced Resolution 10, focusing on enhancing campus safety by ensuring that each housing unit has date-rape drug testing kits. He explained that although these resources are available through Cornell Health, access can be challenging, and Cornell Health supports this resolution.
- h. E. Chaudhuri asked how RA training would be affected and if it would change their job description. D. Gekman confirmed that adjustments would be necessary and coordination with the Dean of Students would be required to ensure effective implementation.
- i. G. Gonzalez-Mulattieri raised concerns about potentially placing the burden on vulnerable populations, such as females, to test their drinks. D. Gekman responded by emphasizing that the goal is to create safe social climates and ensure access to proper safety mechanisms, rather than placing undue emphasis on any specific group.



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- j. S. Almosawi expressed concerns about the burden on RAs and suggested that RA training should include compensation. S. Almosawi also recommended including a clause to enhance awareness of these resources and asked if fentanyl test strips had been considered. D. Gekman agreed, noting that this would be a great addition.
- k. A. Coleman cautioned about the feasibility of the resolution due to the potential high cost of testing kits. D. Gekman assured the assembly that he had thoroughly considered these concerns and would continue to work on them.
- l. E. Chaudhuri asked why Cornell Health hadn't previously implemented such a program. D. Gekman explained that Cornell Health offers many resources, and this resolution would serve as an additional safety net. D. Gekman also mentioned that RA training, including this new training, would coincide with other sessions like CPR and that RAs would be paid for their time.
- m. J. Lederman raised concerns about liability, comparing it to CPR training where incorrect administration could result in punishment. D. Gekman agreed that similar liability considerations would likely apply.
- n. L. Berinde asked about Cornell Health's involvement and plan. D. Gekman responded that Cornell Health is waiting for approval of the resolution to work collaboratively on a plan.
- o. I. Rezaka noted that West Campus housing uses House Managers instead of RAs and suggested they should also be included in the plan. D. Gekman agreed.
- p. Z. deRham asked if any peer schools had similar programs that could serve as a model. D. Gekman said other colleges have implemented similar initiatives, though he had not seen any specific training programs.
- q. I. Rezaka asked if Cornell Health had provided any tentative budget estimates. D. Gekman explained that Cornell Health already distributes Narcan and that funding discussions would begin once approval is secured.
- r. S. Almosawi inquired about including these resources in free vending machines. D. Gekman said this is being considered for inclusion in the resolution, aiming to expand access in areas like South Campus and Collegetown.
- s. S. Chan asked about scheduling and ensuring that at least two individuals from each non-dormitory housing unit are trained. D. Gekman explained that this clause specifically targets fraternity houses, which already require a risk manager at events.
- t. J. Silverman asked about distributing these resources to commuter areas like Collegetown. D. Gekman mentioned partnering with local organizations and businesses to offer vending machines with Cornell card access.



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- u. L. Berinde questioned whether trained individuals are necessary if the kits are easy to use. D. Gekman clarified that the training is mainly for Narcan administration, which can be more complex, hence Cornell Health's 2-hour training sessions.
- v. D. Donovan added that Narcan poses no risk if administered incorrectly, so prioritizing accessibility over training is important.
- w. I. Rezaka suggested adjusting the wording of the resolution to reflect the population size of each housing unit, such as requiring 10% of residents or at least two people to be trained. D. Gekman agreed and noted he would continue discussing the matter with Cornell Health.
- x. Z. deRham motioned to close the debate. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Third Readings

- a. No third readings

X. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. No appointments or vacancies

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5.26

Respectfully Submitted,
Kennedy Young
Clerk of the Assembly