



Student Assembly

Student Assembly of Cornell University

Minutes of the **February 6, 2025** 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; A. Aftab D. Addoquaye; L. Berinde; L.Blum; S. Chan; Z. deRham; E. Galperin; D. Gekman; G. Gonzalez-Mulattieri; H. Hitchcock; N. Hite; C. Kim; J. Lederman; K. Liu; F. Meng; J. Purcell; S. Razzak; M. Scali; C. Tarala; A. Vinson; J. Wu; E. Yao; S. Zhuang
- c. *Members Absent:* S. Almosawi, M. Barberis; E. Chaudhuri (Proxied by F. Meng); K. Everett (excused absence); C. Flournoy (Proxied by N. Hite); M. O'Donnell; M. Scali; J. Silverman (Proxied by L. Berinde); D. Suarez; T. Waugespack; S. Zhuang
- d. *Also Present:* Rebecca Joffrey, *CIT Director of Innovation and Strategy*; Dr. Ben Maddox, *Chief Information Officer*

II. Reading of the land acknowledgement

- a. Z. deRham stated the land acknowledgement.

III. Approval of the minutes

- a. A. Aftab motioned to approve the minutes from the January 30th meeting with the correction that "A. Aftab" and "L. Blum" be added to the members present section (I-b), motion approved by unanimous consent.
- a. E. Galperin motioned to approve January 30th meeting minutes, motion approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Announcements

- a. No announcements.

V. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

- a. No Reports.

VI. Open Microphone

- a. Will Hooker spoke about the financial situation at the Museum of the Earth, emphasizing how the museum has enriched his knowledge and supported his graduate studies.



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- b. Emilia discussed her efforts to spread awareness and how the Museum of the Earth helped her discover her passion for paleontology. She highlighted how many students benefit from the museum's resources.
- c. President of DLT gave a history of the organization, shared their goals, and stated how the requested funding will help them expand their network.

VII. Consent Calendar

- a. Nothing on the consent calendar.

VIII. Presentations

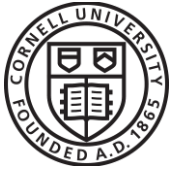
- a. N. Maggard introduced Dr. Ben Maddox, Chief Information Officer, and Rebecca Joffrey, CIT Director of Innovation.
- b. Dr. Maddox and R. Joffrey addressed student concerns on IT security, cybersecurity resources, and the digital divide. They discussed improvements to the Student Center system, the new degree audit system, and Cornell's AI initiatives, including concerns over data privacy. Dr. Maddox and R. Joffrey highlighted Cornell's tech connections with other institutions, and provided insights on upcoming AI resources and advisement portals.

IX. Third Readings

- a. Resolution 27: Preventing an Extinction
 - i. A. Vinson presents Resolution 27, urging Cornell to support the Paleontological Institute and the Museum of the Earth due to financial struggles.
 - ii. E. Galperin motions to approve.
 - iii. Resolution 27 is passed unanimously.

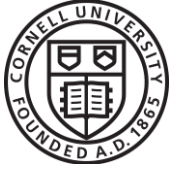
X. Second Readings

- a. Resolution 26: Vending Self-Care Supplies
 - i. D. Gekman presents the resolution, updating Resolution 20, highlighting limited access to vending machines with self-care supplies on South and West Campus. He proposes expanding payment options to include BRBs, aligning with peer institutions.
 - ii. B. Thompson (member of Student Health Advisory Committee Member) emphasizes the need for accessible reproductive health products, especially given political challenges restricting reproductive rights.
 - iii. D. Gekman motions to amend Line 21 to expand payment methods and to ensure vending machines are within a five-minute walk from each dorm.



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- iv. Z. deRham asks if they consulted with BRB entities; Gekman says no but believes it will be easier to implement post-approval.
 - v. F. Meng raises concerns about West Campus building hours; Gekman suggests placing vending machines in entranceways.
 - vi. C. Tarala asks about using existing vending machines; Gekman says they lack medical supplies and are not all Cornell-owned but will explore options.
 - vii. C. Tarala asks if COVID tests will remain free; Gekman confirms they will.
 - viii. E. Galperin questions BRB usage for medical supplies due to legal restrictions; Gekman will investigate further.
 - ix. Z. deRham suggests separating unrelated clauses and inquires about funding sources; Gekman says Cornell Health lacks full funding but other sources are available.
 - x. J. Lederman motions to approve the amendment; it passes unanimously.
 - xi. J. Lederman asks about the audit process for medical supplies; Gekman says the Student Health and Student Health Advisory Committee will oversee it.
 - xii. D. Gekman motions to change audits from yearly to monthly; E. Galperin motions to approve, but Z. deRham dissents, suggesting semesterly audits instead. Motion passes unanimously.
 - xiii. E. Galperin motions to move the resolution to the Third Reading Calendar; motion passes unanimously.
- b. Resolution 28: Approving Special Projects Funding Request for Diverse Leaders for Tomorrow (DLT)
- i. N. Hite and the DLT president present the resolution, requesting funding for an upcoming conference in NYC. N. Hite argues that DLT aligns with SA values and should receive funding like NSBE and BSU.
 - ii. D. Gekman asks for a breakdown of expenses; the president states funds will cover transportation and a team dinner.
 - iii. Z. deRham asks if non-Cornell students will be at the dinner; the DLT president confirms the budget includes travel and lodging for five Howard students. Z. deRham clarifies Assembly funds must be restricted to Cornell students only.
 - iv. F. Meng asks about other funding sources; the president says they have no outside funding. F. Meng follows up on why the national chapter isn't funding the event; the DLT president explains funding is limited.
 - v. E. Galperin asks for event details; the DLT president says it's on April 10-11 and emphasizes the conference provides key career opportunities for underrepresented students, marking a milestone as their first joint trip.



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- vi. C. Tarala asks how other clubs fund trips and if the Assembly has the budget; the DLT president is unsure about other clubs, but N. Hite confirms the money is available in reserves.
- vii. Z. deRham notes SA's special project fund is currently at -\$145.
- viii. E. Galperin asks if the request covers all costs; the DLT president confirms it does.
- ix. S. Chan requests a breakdown of Cornell student-specific costs, and the DLT president agrees.
- x. F. Berry questions why the Assembly is the primary funding source, as many orgs manage NYC trips without this support. The DLT president says DLT receives only \$500 per semester. N. Hite adds that the Assembly funds BSU's trip every year similarly.
- xi. E. Galperin asks about lodging costs for 20 students, and Z. deRham questions the team dinner expense. The DLT president clarifies the trip does not depend on the dinner cost.
- xii. The debate had to stop because the Assembly did not have the required number of members to continue the meeting.

XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. No appointments or vacancies.

XII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.
 - i. Z. deRham motions to extend the meeting to 6:45, with dissent from E. Yao. The motion passes with majority consent.
 - ii. E. Galperin motions to extend to 7:00, and the motion passes unanimously.
 - iii. Due to the number of members in attendance falling below the quorum threshold, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kennedy Young
Clerk of the Assembly