

Student Assembly

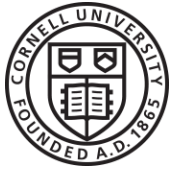
Student Assembly of Cornell University

Minutes of the October 9, 2025 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

Memorial Room (WSH 407), Willard Straight Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Chair Z. deRham called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.
 - b. *Members Present:* D. Addoquaye, A. Aftab, S. Agarwal, L. Blum, D. Carson, Z. deRham, G. Dorward, M. Ehrlich, C. Flournoy, L. Han, V. Kakra, C. Kim, K. Krishtopa, J. Purcell, H. Spector, J. Swavy, C. Tarala, A. Vallecillo, T. Waguespack, H. Watkins, J. Wu, E. Yao, K. Young
 - c. *Members Absent:* E. Galperin (Excused), C. Kim, J. Purcell, A. Walters
 - d. *Also Present:* University President Michael Kotlikoff, Vice President Ryan Lombardi.
- II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
 - a. Z. deRham stated the land acknowledgement
- III. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Approval of the September 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - i. Z. deRham motions to approve the minutes.
 - ii. Z. deRham motions to move Presentations to right after approval of meeting minutes and move on to public comments next. The motion to change agenda passes by unanimous consent.
 - iii. The motion to approve the minutes passes through unanimous consent.
- IV. Presentations
 - a. University President Michael Kotlikoff and Vice President of Student & Campus Life Ryan Lombardi. They discuss Cornell's current relationship with the federal government, attempt to restore federal grants, and the updates on the Student Code of Conduct.
- V. Public Comments
 - a. A. Vallecillo motions to extend public comment indefinitely until all speakers are finished. The motion to extend speaking time was rejected by a vote of 7-9-1.



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- b. Speakers argued for a judiciary independent of the university and urged the committee to pass resolution 10 unamended.
- c. Several speakers shared concerns of budget cuts, especially for ALANA and MGFC. They argue that Cornell cannot be world class without being open to the world and that these cuts cultivate culture, community, and belonging at Cornell.
- d. M. Ehrlich motions to extend public comment by five minutes, no dissent.
- e. The chair would smile favorably upon a motion to extend the meeting to 7:45 PM. The motion to extend the meeting was approved by unanimous consent.

VI. Consent Calendar

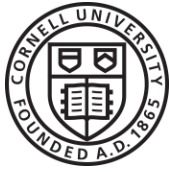
- a. None.

VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

- a. Finance Committee recommendation
 - i. Presented by H. Watkins and C. Tarala.
 - ii. African Latino Asian and Native American Intercultural Board submits a petition, requesting an allocation of \$14.00.
 - iii. The Appropriations Committee's original recommendation to decrease allocation for ALANA to \$9.90 is rejected by unanimous consent.
 - iv. Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council submits a petition, requesting an allocation of \$3.00.
 - v. H. Watkins moves to enter into the executive session. Approved by vote of 9-7-0. The assembly enters executive session.
 - vi. H. Watkin moves to reject the Appropriations Committee's original recommendation to decrease allocation for MGFC to \$0.90. Approved by vote of 16-0-2.
 - vii. International Students Association submits a petition, requesting an allocation of \$10.00.
 - viii. M. Ehrlich moves to close debate and reject The Appropriations Committee's original recommendation. No dissent against closing debate.
 - ix. The Appropriations Committee's original recommendation to decrease allocation for ISA to \$8.00 is rejected by a vote of 11-4-0.

VIII. Second Readings

- a. Resolution 11



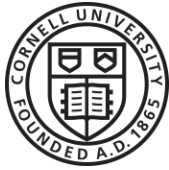
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- i. H. Specter addresses the concern that many on campus park their bikes in handicap-accessible aisles and ramps, making people unable to get around them. This act is illegal and goes against the Americans with Disabilities Act, so they request Campus facilities and services to put up signs to inform students it's illegal and their bikes may be removed by the police.
- ii. L. Han motions to pass the resolution. The motion to pass the resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

IX. Third Readings

a. Resolution 10

- i. A. Vallecillo reiterates the student's desire for rights to be respected.
- ii. T. Waguespack comments that adding staff and faculty dilutes and drowns out student voices. He moves to strike 83 and 88 and replace it with "Be it further resolved that the Student Code of Conduct be revised by a committee composed exclusively of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, ensuring that the process reflects student perspectives across all divisions of the university. Be it finally resolved that this committee shall be composed of 15 student members confirmed by the Student Assembly, consisting of 4 representatives of the Student Assembly, 4 representatives of the Graduate Professional Student Assembly, 1 graduate student trustee, one undergraduate student trustee, one residence hall association representative, one student-athlete Advisory Council representative, one multicultural Greek and Fraternal council representative, 1 inter-fraternity council representative, and one Panhellenic Council Representative, and that the revised Code of Conduct produced by this committee shall be submitted for approval to the Student Assembly and Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, followed by review and ratification by the University Assembly, the Faculty Senate, and the University Administration in accordance with shared governance procedures".
- iii. A. Aftab moves to end debate on the amendment, no seconds, debate continues.
- iv. A. Vallecillo argues that the University Administration wants to reject the amendment and that the faculty acts as a counterbalance to prevent a student majority that may push their own interests. He advises not to pass



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this amendment, as it would make it easier for the University Administration to shoot down the resolution.

- v. T. Waguespack counters that the committee is just a way for people to talk to the administrators and has nothing it can do. He doesn't think there should be voices that don't represent student interests.
- vi. The Chief of Staff agrees that students should have the only say, as they also don't have a say in faculty code of conduct. He expresses uncertainty about the incentive to include faculty other than make it more easily approved by the administration.
- vii. D. Carson shares that incorporating staff is a part of the history of shared governance.
- viii. A. Aftab reminds the committee that the students don't want any amendments, and just wants it to pass. She moves to end the debate. The motion to close the debate is approved by a vote of 6-4-2.
- ix. The amendment fails by a vote of 3-8.
- x. M. Ehrlich moves to vote by roll call on Resolution 10 by unanimous consent.
- xi. Resolution 10 passes by a vote of 21-2-1.

X. Announcements

- a. Z. deRham announces for the committee to check their emails about SUNY Student Assembly.
- b. Z. deRham announces that committee lists are updated in the box. Committee chairs must email their membership to set up a meeting by the 16th.

XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. There will be 8 people interviewing for vacancies next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sophia Lin
Clerk of the Assembly