Student Assembly

Student Assembly of Cornell University
Minutes of the November 13, 2025 Meeting
4:45 PM – 6:30 PM
Memorial Room (WSH 407), Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order
   a. Z. deRham called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.
   b. *Members Present:* D. Addoquaye, A. Aftab, S. Agarwal, J. Anand, L. Blum, D. Carson, M. Causey, A. Cekic, C. Cook, Z. deRham, G. Dorward, M. Ehrlich, A. Fard, C. Flournoy, E. Galperin, L. Han, V. Kakra, K. Krishtopa, Y. Masoud, J. Mui, E. Porter, J. Purcell, H. Spector, J. Swavy, C. Tarala, A. Vallecillo, A. Walters, H. Watkins, J. Wu, Z. Yabut, E. Yao, K. Young
   c. *Members Absent:* I. Gayle, C. Kim, T. Waguespack
   d. *Also Present:* E. Chaudhuri, I. Gilenson

II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
   a. Z. deRham stated the land acknowledgement.
   b. I. Gilenson announces that the first year and transfer classes of Cornell University had the opportunity to elect their members. In the freshman race, there were 1,493 votes for a 40% turnout, the highest on record. In the transfer race, there was a total of 142 votes, for a turnout of 23%. In a crowded race of 16 candidates, the following four first years won: Ellie Porter, Jai Anand, Myshay Causey, and Arman Fard. In a field of 4, the following transfer student won: Zachary Yabut. The Elections Committee recognized these votes as valid and concludes the elections process.
   c. The meeting began with the swearing-in of the Student Assembly's new members.

III. Approval of the November 6th, 2025 Meeting Minutes
   a. E. Galperin moves to change "Gilesman" in Section 6, Subsection d to "Gilenson". Approved by unanimous consent.
   b. The motion to approve the minutes passes through unanimous consent.
   c. Z. deRham motions to move presentations to right after the approval of the meeting minutes. Approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Presentations

a. Presentation by Dr. Avery August, the Deputy Provost and Co-Chair of the Task Force on Institutional Voice.

V. Referendum
   a. None.

VI. Consent Calendar
   a. Z. deRham moves to approve the consent calendar items by unanimous consent. The motion passes by unanimous consent.
   b. Resolution 18 passes, approving the budget for finals week airport shuttle.

VII. Announcements
   a. None.

VIII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons
   a. E. Galperin reports that the Dining Committee's next meeting will be on Monday at 4:45, where they will be discussing Resolution 6.
   b. E. Chaudhuri reports that there are two open slots on the UA committee and notes that the first attempt to amend the Student Code of Conduct via the Assemblies is going through the University Assembly right now.
   c. S. Agarwal reports that the Student Health Advisory Committee will have their next meeting with Cornell Health on Tuesday, November 18th, from 4 to 5 PM at Cornell Health.
   d. J. Wu reports that the Technology Committee and the Student Employment Policy Committee are now up on the Student Assembly's website, including the committee application form.
   e. L. Blum reports that the Environmental Committee is still having meetings. As of right now, it's been every Sunday from 5 to 6 at varying locations. They've been discussing Cornell on Fire and a couple other side projects. She's been outreaching to other environmental chairs or sustainability chairs at different Ivies, such as University of Pennsylvania and Princeton.
   f. G. Dorward reports that Infrastructure meetings have mostly been on Zoom.
   g. Z. deRham reports that there was an update on an SAIFC project that the Student Assembly funded last semester, which will be sent out in her communications email. She adds that she and trustee Abebe will host a town hall on the 19. SUNY Student

Assembly Advocacy Day is also on February 3rd, 2026, in Albany, where they advocate to the state for money in the state budget to go to programs and SUNY-wide policy change.

h. Finance Committee Recommendations
    i. CUTonight to be decreased to $11.00. H. Watkins motions to enter into executive session, no dissent. E. Galperin moves to vote on the recommendation, no dissent. Approved by a vote of 20-3-3.
    ii. Community Partnership Funding Board (CPFB) to receive a consistent allocation of $2.00. Approved by unanimous consent.
    iii. Empathy, Assistance and Referral Service (EARS) to be decreased to $0.00. Approved by a vote of 26-0-0.
    iv. Outdoor Odyssey to receive a consistent allocation of $35.50. Approved by unanimous consent.
    v. Interfaith Council at Cornell (ICC) to be increased to $11.50. Approved by unanimous consent.
    vi. African Latino Asian and Native American Intercultural Board (ALANA) to be increased to $15.80. Approved by unanimous consent.
    vii. International Students Association (ISA) to be increased to $9.50. Approved by unanimous consent.
    viii. Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council (MGFC) to be decreased to $0.60. Rejected by unanimous consent.

i. H. Watkins reports that the Finance Committee will be meeting at 10 AM with GJAC and with Class Councils at 12:30 PM. In between, the committee will be talking about the Collegiate Readership Program and Students Helping Students Awards, which are two programs organized by the Student Assembly. Collegiate Readership funds the New York Times and Wall Street Journal subscriptions, while Students Helping Students Awards go towards the Summer Experience Grant and Emergency Funds approved by the Financial Aid Review Commission.

j. Z. deRham adds that there will be special meetings on Wednesday, December 3rd, during the normal meeting time and Sunday, December 7th, to go over finance recommendations.

IX. Open Microphone

a. Many speakers express that placing a geographic limit takes away many opportunities from students.

b. A speaker urges against Resolution 16, as Special Projects Funding is used mainly for off-campus trips.

X. Second Readings

a. Resolution 16: Amending the Standing Rules to Require Special Projects Funding be Used in Tompkins County

i. A. Cekic imagines a project to be at Cornell and is open to hearing from other Assembly members.

ii. K. Young motions to table the resolution indefinitely. The resolution has been approved by a vote of 23-0-4.

XI. Third Readings

a. Resolution 15: Approving Special Projects Funding Request for the Black Ivy Pre-Law Society

i. H. Watkins reiterates that this resolution is to approve a disbursement of $3,408.03 to cover bus tickets for the Black Ivy Pre-Law Society Advantage Tour. This provides many students the opportunity to visit law schools across the nation.

ii. E. Galperin moves to end debate, no dissent.

iii. The resolution has been approved by a vote of 28-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sophia Lin
Clerk of the Assembly