



Student Assembly

Student Assembly of Cornell University

Minutes of the December 5, 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; D. Addoquaye; L. Berinde; S. Chan; E. Chaudhuri; Z. deRham; D. Donovan; M. O'Donnell; K. Everett; C. Flournoy; E. Galperin; D. Gekman; G. Gonzalez-Mulattieri; N. Hite; C. Kim; J. Lederman; K. Liu; F. Meng; J. Purcell; S. Razzak; I. Rezaka; M. Scali; J. Silverman; D. Suarez; C. Tarala (Late Excused); T. Waugespak; J. Wu; E. Yao
- c. *Members Absent:* S. Almosawi (Proxied by H. Khan); A. Vinson (Proxied by N. Hite); S. Zhuang (Excused)
- d. *Also Present:* Marissa Brucker; Jenna Saevitzon; Sierra Burror

II. Reading of the land acknowledgement

- a. Z. deRham stated the land acknowledgement.

III. Approval of the minutes

- a. E. Galperin motions to approve the November 21st meeting minutes with the correction that "Ledderman" under section IX. Second Readings is changed to "Lederman", this motion passes with unanimous consent.

IV. Announcements

- a. No announcements.

V. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

- a. F. Meng provided an update on the Infrastructure Fund. Three applications have been received from student projects. Of these, two will move forward. The third project was declined due to a precedent of disapproval by administrators.
- b. D. Gekman welcomed new Student Assembly members and announced that the Student Health Advisory Committee is still accepting applications for membership.
- c. S. Chan congratulated the new Student Assembly members and highlighted the high turnout in votes from first-year and transfer students. S. Chan also shared information about the free shuttle service available to transport students to airports during the break.
- d. Z. deRham expressed gratitude to the Elections Committee.



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- e. K. Everett announced that the LGBTQ+ Student Union will host their annual Winter Fest on December 11.
- f. E. Galperin shared that hot chocolate will be served at Shabbat.

VI. Open Microphone

- a. A Cornell alum and former professor, who left academia to engage in direct climate action, spoke on behalf of a climate coalition comprising Cornell and community members. She urged Cornell to adopt a comprehensive, university-wide approach to addressing the climate crisis.
- b. Marian, a faculty member focusing in the areas of natural resources and the environment, expressed strong support for Cornell's climate initiatives. She highlighted the critical need for active student and faculty involvement to achieve the university's environmental objectives.

VII. Consent Calendar

- a. Resolution 19
 - i. Z. deRham introduced Resolution 19, approving a \$5,000 transfer from the Student Activities Funding Commission (SAFC) to the Student Assembly. The reimbursement covers funding for The Melodramatics Theatre Company's Fall 2024 show, as it fell under a different SAFC funding category. This resolution passes with majority consent.

VIII. Special Order of Business

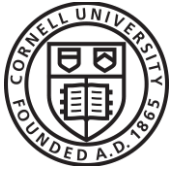
M. Barberis motions to go into executive session, this motion passes with majority consent.

IX. Presentations

- a. No presentations.

X. Second Readings

- a. Resolution 20
 - i. A. Vinson, M. Brucker, J. Saevitzon, S. Burror introduces resolution 20, outlines Cornell's shortcomings in addressing its contributions to climate issues within Ithaca and Tompkins counties and demonstrates ways in which Cornell can get back on track to achieve its environmental goals it has outlined.
 - ii. K. Everett commends the work of the students and outlines that she doesn't see any reason that this resolution shouldn't be passed. K. Everett asks about how Cornell's advocacy of funds has impacted its

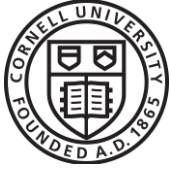


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- climate goal. A. Vision says there has been an issue of Cornell's investment into companies and organizations who produce a lot of carbon emission, and the students have to draw a line on where the pressure of the university should come from,
- iii. G. Gonzales-Mulatierra also commends the resolution and inquires about if the SA environmental committee is willing to do any work regarding any initiatives, he asks this question on the basis of precedence of initiatives he has seen from other universities. A. Vinson states that is a great idea
 - iv. E. Chaudhuri states that the resolution is fantastic and commends the students. He announces that this could possibly be the most influential resolution passed by the assembly the entire year.
 - v. Jessica acknowledges the help of the environmental committee.
 - vi. E. Galperin says this is a fantastic resolution and motions to close debate. This motion passes with unanimous consent.

XI. Third Readings

- a. Resolution 7
 - i. Z. deRham reintroduced Resolution 7 for discussion.
 - ii. D. Gekman initially motioned to amend line 486 to remove the requirement that resolutions be voted on in committee before proceeding through the reading calendars but later withdrew the motion.
 - iii. E. Galperin raised concerns about referring resolutions to committees. Z. deRham clarified that after the second reading, a vote would determine whether a resolution goes to committee or directly to the third reading calendar.
 - iv. N. Maggard encouraged E. Galperin to revisit his amendment, noting its conflict with subsequent lines after 486.
 - v. E. Galperin motioned to strike lines 492–508 and replace them with provisions addressing committee processes.
 - vi. For Subsection 10A, the assembly voted on whether decisions would require a simple majority or a two-thirds majority of members present.
 - vii. E. Chaudhuri asked about the VP of Policy position, highlighting concerns over the broad scope of the role.
 - viii. Debate was closed following a motion by E. Galperin, who then motioned to approve the resolution. Motion approved by two-thirds majority of the entire Assembly, and passed by unanimous consent.



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b. Resolution 15

- i. F. Meng introduced Resolution 15 to amend the Charter and streamline the operations of the Infrastructure Fund, which allocates endowment payouts to campus projects that benefit undergraduates.
- ii. Z. deRham praised the resolution, commending Representative Meng's efforts.
- iii. G. Gonzalez-Mulattieri suggested extending the definition of conflicts of interest, which F. Meng agreed to consider.
- iv. E. Chaudhuri motioned to end debate, and E. Galperin motioned to pass the resolution. The resolution was **approved** with unanimous consent.

c. Resolution 16

- i. N. Hite introduced Resolution 16, which requests \$5,000 in funding for the BSU (Black Student Union) to take a trip to Washington D.C.
- ii. The resolution was **approved** with unanimous consent.

XII. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. The Student Assembly swears in Daniel Addoquaye, John Purcell, Thor Waugespack, and Jinzhou Wu as Freshmen Representatives.
- b. The Student Assembly swears in Michael O'Donnell as Transfer Representative.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41

Respectfully Submitted,
Kennedy Young
Clerk of the Assembly