

Student Assembly

Student Assembly of Cornell University

Minutes of the March 26, 2026 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

Memorial Room (WSH 407), Willard Straight Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - a. C. Flournoy 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, Z. deRham, M. Ehrlich, C. Flournoy, E. Galperin, I. Gayle, V. Kakra, C. Kim, K. Krishtopa, Y. Masoud, E. Porter, J. Purcell, H. Spector, J. Swavy, C. Tarala, A. Walters, H. Watkins, Z. Yabut, E. Yao, K. Young
 - c. *Members Absent:* C. Cook, G. Dorward, A. Fard, L. Han, T. Waguespack
 - d. *Also Present:* K. Abebe, E. Chaudhuri, I. Gilenson

- II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
 - a. C. Flournoy stated the land acknowledgement.

- III. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons
 - a. E. Glaperin reported that the next Dining Committee meeting will not be the first Monday of April, but rather on April 20th due to Passover. He added that the Morrison Kosher Station will be closed during Passover, but 104West is completely kosher for Passover while frozen kosher meals will be available upon request at Morrison and Appel.
 - b. L. Blum reported that the Environmental Committee met over the past weekend and were planning on an Earth Day event, where they can ideally set up tables in Ho Plaza, incorporate interactive games, and have different organizations tabling.
 - c. I. Gilenson shared that registration closes the next day at 11:59PM, an open petition does not constitute a completed registration form, and petitions are due 4/6. He encouraged members to sign petitions, as there are many candidates running for affinity seats who may not get the chance to run. He encouraged people to ask Dyson students to run for the Dyson race, as there is currently one person running. He finally added that endorsement applications are being accepted, though endorsements cannot be announced until the start of campaigning.
 - d. C. Flournoy reported that the Executive Cabinet met this past weekend, where they discussed the Student Code of Conduct and the SAF.



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- e. H. Watkins motioned to amend the meeting agenda by moving the Third Reading Calendar and Appointments and Vacancies to after Public Comment, with Resolution 66 at the Top of the Third Reading Calendar, no dissent.

IV. Public Comment Microphone

- a. A few speakers spoke on behalf of the Student Programming Council.
- b. M. Ehrlich shared that members who haven't been active legislatively in the body this year should not run for re-election.
- c. A speaker talked about apathy, knowledge and respect for Cornell's history and culture, consistency, saying no to organizations, and holding accountability.
- d. A speaker commented how people can show up at the committee meetings because they're not closed executive sessions and that it was unfair to place pressure on the committee last minute.
- e. A speaker spoke on behalf of Class Councils and asked whether the budget recommendation was really rooted in knowledge of what they do.

V. Third Readings

- a. Resolution 66: Reassessing Resolution 21: Approving the Recommendation for the 2026-22028 Student Activity Fee
 - i. E. Galperin motioned to limit discussion on Resolution 66, withdrawn.
 - ii. H. Watkins shared the importance of making decisions in a concise and respectful manner, brought up a concern of the timeliness of student financial aid, and emphasized making a decision today.
 - iii. C. Flournoy moved the assembly into a discussion period, where they discussed unclear communication between the Finance Committee and SPC.
 - iv. M. Ehrlich motioned to close debate, which passed by a vote of 13-5-6.
 - v. The resolution passed by a vote of 21-2-1.
- b. Resolution 57: Ensuring Equitable Evaluation of Special Projects Funding Request
 - i. R57 Appendix & Notes
 - ii. C. Flournoy ceded the chair to Z. deRham.
 - iii. Z. deRham ceded the chair to H. Watkins to make an amendment.
 - iv. D. Addoquaye shared that not much has been added and people had opposing opinions on the guidelines. He added that there is some language about organizations having other sources of income being restricted and that the wording is very intentional to protect organizations.



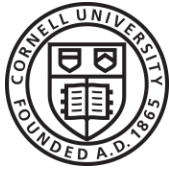
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- v. H. Watkins moved the assembly into a discussion period, where they discussed resolution 43 being rescinded and section F, which allows organizations to submit anonymized financial need reports from attendees.
 - vi. A. Cekic motioned to strike lines 74-80, dissent.
 - 1. M. Ehrlich motioned to close debate on the amendment, no dissent.
 - 2. The amendment passed by a vote of 16-1-5.
 - vii. Z. deRham shared that this resolution would have no tangible impact with the rescission of Resolution 43. She motioned to amend the resolution entirely and create an ad hoc committee to review the Special Projects Funding guidelines 2 weeks after break.
 - 1. E. Galperin motioned to close debate, dissent.
 - 2. The debate closed by a majority vote.
 - 3. The amendment passed by a vote of 15-5-1.
 - viii. H. Watkins moved the assembly into a discussion period, where they discussed the resolution before the amendment and the ad hoc committee, communication regarding the amendment, and censorship.
 - ix. H. Watkins nominated A. Walters to hold the chair.
 - x. E. Galperin motioned to close debate, dissent. The motion to close debate passed by a vote of 11-9-1.
 - xi. The resolution passed by a vote of 12-2-4.
- c. Resolution 60: Free Laundry
- i. A. Walters ceded the chair back to Z. deRham.
 - ii. M. Causey shared that she made amendments to the resolution. She reiterated that low-income students do not know about laundry which makes it difficult for lower income students and that the resolution ensures that laundry is not a hidden fee. She added that the point of the resolution is to give her permission to go and speak on behalf of the Student Assembly to talk to the Board of Trustees and figure out a solution.
 - iii. Z. deRham ceded the chair to C. Flournoy.
 - iv. C. Flournoy moved the assembly into a discussion period, where they discussed whether the laundry system would change, specifying the first two lines of the amendments, and Cornell's budget.
 - v. M. Causey motioned to strike the first two lines, no dissent.



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- vi. C. Flournoy moved the assembly into a discussion period, where they discussed the complexity of the issue, suggestions on actions to take, how to collect data and work with the admin.
- vii. H. Watkins motioned to amend line 5 and strike “finance policy” and replace it with “recommendation”, no dissent.
- viii. C. Tarala motioned to table the resolution for a week, no dissent.
- d. Resolution 63: Recognizing September 25 and Establishing a “Survey Service Window” Administered by Student & Campus Life
 - i. C. Flournoy ceded the chair back to Z. deRham.
 - ii. E. Galperin motioned to close debate, no dissent.
 - iii. The resolution passed by a vote of 22-0-0.
- e. Resolution 69: Urging Cornell to Support Higher TCAT Funding
 - i. M. Ehrlich shared that Cornell is not funding TCAT enough.
 - ii. H. Watkins motioned to close debate, no dissent.
 - iii. The resolution passed by a vote of 22-0-0.
 - iv. E. Galperin motioned to extend the meeting time, no dissent.
- f. Resolution 70: The Last Straw: Single-Use Plastic Phaseout
 - i. R70 Appendix & Notes
 - ii. L. Blum noted that Plastic Free Cornell came to the last 5 meetings but were told not to this time. She motioned to table the resolution for a week so that they can present it, no dissent.
- g. Resolution 71: Grade Transparency
 - i. D. Addoquaye shared that this resolution will allow people to have the information they deserve before taking classes and while in the semester.
 - ii. Y. Masoud motioned to close debate, dissent, passed by majority vote.
 - iii. The resolution passed by a vote of 22-0-0.
- h. Resolution 72: Alleviating Preliminary Examination Overloads
 - i. Aidan Moodley shared that the resolution would allow students to reschedule an exam if they have 3 in a 24 hour period. He noted that this is the case for final exams.
 - ii. L. Blum motioned to end debate, no dissent.
 - iii. The resolution passed by a vote of 20-0-0.
- i. Resolution 74: Transparency in First-Year Program House Access and Placement Outcomes



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- i. K. Young shared that there are programming houses catered towards cultural communities and that the resolution would request housing to release information on stats of the programming houses.
- ii. E. Galperin shared that he knows many people ended up in program houses despite not asking to be in it. He motioned to close debate, no dissent.
- iii. The resolution passed by a vote of 23-0-0.

VI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. C. Flournoy motioned to fill the AAP Representative vacancy.
 - i. Franklin nominated Amelia Lyons. Amelia Lyons accepted the nomination.
 - ii. The assembly entered a short question and answer session.
 - iii. E. Galperin motioned to vote, no dissent.
 - iv. The appointment for Amelia Lyons to fill the AAP Representative vacancy passed by a vote of 23-0-0.
- b. Z. deRham motioned to enter executive session for the Office of Ethics Director seat, no dissent.
- c. The assembly exited the Executive Session.
- d. Calvin Carpenter was appointed to fill the Office of Ethics Director vacancy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sophia Lin
Clerk of the Assembly