



University Assembly

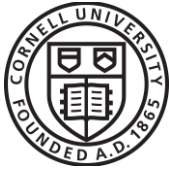
Cornell University's University Assembly

Minutes of the September 30th, 2025 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:15 PM

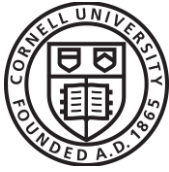
401 Physical Sciences Building

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Chair I. Gatimi called the meeting to order at 4:50 PM.
 - b. *Members Present: A. Aftab, M. Benda, V. Bell, S. Bruyere, J. Butcher, E. Chaudhuri, Z. deRham, E. DeRosa, J. Chobirko, E. Gainor, A. Garcia-Ortiz, I. Gatimi, A. Haenlin-Mott, S. Resue, C. Tarala, W. Treat.*
 - c. *Members Absent: A. Cardenas, N. Brennan, K. Nguyen*
 - d. *Also Present: B. Lewenstein, R. Platt*
- II. Lank Acknowledgment of the Gayogohono (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. None. Moved on with unanimous consent.
- IV. Approval of 9/16 meeting minutes.
 - a. J. Chobirko motioned to approve minutes.
 - i. Minutes approved with unanimous consent.
- V. Business of the Day
 - a. Ombuds Annual Report
 - i. B. Lewenstein presents about the Office of the University Ombuds.
 1. Introduces key principles, duties, and members of the Office of the University Ombuds Department.
 2. The office is important in providing the university with suggested areas of improvement and guidance to a diverse population.
 3. Formal written report will be sent to UA in November.
 4. Displays data regarding visitor demographics, past decade's visitor count, and issue areas.
 - a. An increase in staff/employee visits.
 - b. Average of 300 visits per year, with spikes going up to 500.
 - c. Common issue areas are employment, academic actions, and interpersonal conflicts.
 5. Looking ahead:
 - a. There is a new software system coming.



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- b. Hoping to continue outreach to campus groups/organizations and collaboration with other departments on campus.
 - c. Increase facilitated conversations.
 - ii. Q & A
 - 1. S. Bruyere questions why the data collection started in 2014.
 - a. B. Lewenstein wanted to keep the table to within a 10-year range. The data collecting system was different before, so it would be difficult to compare.
 - 2. A. Haenlin-Mott mentions Katie King and asks about whether the accommodation process is established already. How is it different from what the Office of Civil Rights offer?
 - a. The Office of University Ombuds often talk to the Civil Rights Department. They don't handle accommodations for people but do assist with guiding people through the process.
 - 3. I. Gatimi motions to end the Q & A and move on to reappointment voting.
 - b. Ombuds Reappointment Vote
 - i. B. Lewenstein is reappointed by unanimous consent.
 - c. UA Liaison Nomination: The Sustainable Cornell Council's Carbon Neutral Campus Steering Committee
 - i. There are no nominees at this time.
- VI. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - i. Finishing up vacancies, but Resolutions 9 and 10 led to public comment during SA meeting on 9/25.
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. Passed internal budget for the year.
 - ii. Filled 4 of 6 UA committee vacancies.
 - iii. Janna Lamey and Olivia Hopewell had a presentation planning for Ivy Plus conference at Brown on October 24th and 26th.
 - iv. Second graduate student placed on committee to review Student Code of Conduct.
 - c. Employee Assembly

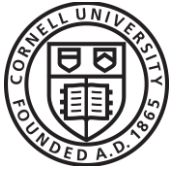


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- i. Last meeting was on September 17th.
 - ii. Members should put EA before their name on Zoom for attendance purposes.
 - iii. Appointed EA representative to Campus Planning Committee.
 - iv. Discussed Occasional Commuter Parking Program (OCP) and improving procedures for registering eligible staff with Transportation office.
 - 1. Only open to Ithaca Campus staff.
 - 2. Considering including B Lot and the Parking Garage in OCP to open more parking slots.
 - v. Katie King will present at the October 1st EA meeting.
 - vi. A. Haenlin-Mott asks were there any considerations for the garage at MVR garage.
 - a. Hoy Field garage is already in OCP.
 - b. MVR garage was not listed because it is difficult to get a parking permit there.
- d. Faculty Senate
- i. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8th.
 - ii. There will be a visit from President Kotlikoff and Student and Campus Life on the Student Code of Conduct.
 - 1. Student and Campus Life will present their work on the review committee, their goals, and their data from the past 4 years.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Have been constantly planning meeting and inviting speakers.
 - ii. Next meeting is on October 21st with Katie King visiting the UA.
 - iii. A. Haenlin-Mott invites suggestions for speakers.
- b. Campus Codes Committee
 - i. Meeting scheduled next Tuesday @ 4:30 PM.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. Organized two meetings to accommodate people, first one was yesterday, next one is on Thursday.
 - 1. Hopes to set the stage for the new school year, after Thursday there will be an actual meeting.
- d. CCITE
 - i. A. Aftab is planning the first meeting.



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VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. Campus Planning Committee
 - i. No report.
- b. Coalition for Sexual Violence Prevention
 - i. No report.
- c. Student Health Benefits Advisory Committee
 - i. No report.
- d. Sustainable Cornell Councils:
 - i. No report.

IX. Open Forum

- a. R. Platt is recognized and advocates for an independent judiciary system, believes that the dependence of the current judiciary system is not impartial and does not induce a good climate for free speech.
 - i. Also brings up issues raised in debate over Student Code resolution in SA meeting on September 25th.
 - ii. Heavily encourages a holistic review and revision of Student Code of Conduct.
- b. C. Tarala reports that Student Health Benefits is not taking anyone for UA liaison this year on E. Chaudhuri's behalf.

X. Adjournment

- a. J. Butcher moves to adjourn and S. Bruyere seconds.
- b. Unanimous consent to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Yao
Clerk of the Assembly