



Cornell University Employee Assembly

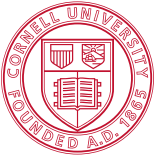
Cornell Employee Assembly

Minutes of the November 15, 2023 Meeting

12:00 PM – 1:15PM

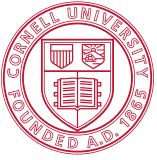
Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. J. VanHouten called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.
 - b. *Members Present:* M. Benda, F. Cantone, C. Cornell, J. Doss, D. Hinshaw, E. Krumm, J. Kruser, S. Lanchez, K. Mahoney, S. Resue, I. Solis Cruz, K. Supron, W. Treat, J. VanHouten.
 - c. *Members Absent:* M. Brooks, E. Crawley, R. Dillon. B. Dixon, T. Hambury, K. Phipps, D. Surine.
 - d. *Also Present:* P. Sroka, J. Creque, D. Wierson, B. Fortenberry.
- II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogoho:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)
 - a. J. VanHouten stated the Assembly's acknowledgment of the Gayogoho:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Business of the Day
 - a. Brandon Fortenberry presented on behalf of the United Way.
 - i. P. Sroka asked B. Fortenberry for any available email templates, QR codes, or materials which EA members could share to spread awareness for the United Way.
 1. B. Fortenberry stated that he will send the materials to J. VanHouten for distribution to the EA member list.
 - ii. S. Lanchez asked if there is a United Way flyer available for inclusion in the EA *Voice*.
 1. B. Fortenberry will introduce S. Lanchez to Jamie Paris, who manages social media and advertising for the United Way Committee.
 - iii. F. Cantone asked for the end date of the United Way campaign and offered to include information about the campaign in the next retiree newsletter.
 1. B. Fortenberry stated that the campaign ends on December 20, and offered to contact Jamie Paris to develop a statement that can be included in the retiree newsletter.
 - b. Incidental Vacancies
 - i. J. VanHouten welcomed Phil Sroka and Danyel Wierson.
 - ii. P. Sroka presented his candidacy for Disability Representative At-Large
 - iii. D. Wierson presented her candidacy for Representative At-Large.



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1. J. Doss asked D. Wierson to expand on her comments regarding increased centralization at Cornell.
 2. D. Wierson stated that one of her concerns involves the tracking system for room assignments, which has moved away from buildings and classroom clusters to central assignment by Arts and Sciences and the 25 Live system.
 3. J. Kruser offered to speak further with D. Wierson in his capacity as systems administrator for 25 Live.
 - iv. The Assembly entered executive session.
 - v. J. VanHouten announced that P. Sroka and D. Wierson have been elected as Employee Assembly Representatives and welcomed them to the EA.
- IV. Committee Reports
- a. Executive Committee
 - i. M. Benda stated that the Executive Committee will be reviewing the Assembly's governing documents and will draft a resolution to have them updated, which will be in discussion at a future meeting.
 - ii. M. Benda invited EA members to a presentation hosted at the Vet School by Kurt Jordan, on Cornell's relationship to Indigenous peoples in Ithaca and beyond.
 - b. Communications, Outreach, and Recognition Committee
 - i. S. Lanchez stated that the deadline for the George Peter Award is November 18.
 - ii. The EA *Voice* will be released by November 18.
 - c. Education Committee
 - i. J. Kruser reported that the committee has ongoing conversations with university leadership regarding additional educational benefits for CCE staff, and those conversations are continuing in a very positive direction.
 - ii. The Education Committee is continuing to work on the part-time bachelor's degree program for non-traditional students, which was addressed in EA Resolution 6 in 2020.
 - d. Welfare Committee
 - i. K. Mahoney reported that the committee will host representatives from Transportation Services at their next meeting.
 - ii. The Workforce Wellbeing Core Advisory Committee has identified three priority areas to address: mental health, workload, and healthy spaces and places. The Welfare Committee will host the Core Advisory Committee in the spring to report their recommendations.
 - e. Benefits and Policy Committee



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- i. No report.
 - f. Elections Committee
 - i. W. Treat stated that she will meet with the Office of the Assemblies to begin planning for the spring elections, and will focus on setting the election calendar and clarifying the language regarding the eligibility of term employees to run for election.
- V. Liaison Reports
 - a. C. Cornell reported that the University Assembly Welfare Committee discussed increasing the visibility and accessibility of the Cornell food pantry, low supplies in the food pantry, and ensuring that meat-cooking practices in dining halls adhere to cross-contamination and religious sensitivities.
 - b. J. VanHouten stated that the Transportation Hearing and Appeals Board has two seats which are open to any staff member, and she can provide additional information to anyone who is interested in joining.
 - c. J. VanHouten stated that the University Assembly will host President Pollack on November 28.
- VI. Open Discussion
 - a. M. Benda invited EA members to pass along questions for President Pollack to consider in advance of the Nov. 28 visit to the University Assembly.
 - i. K. Mahoney asked the President to consider how staff can connect with the theme of free expression, and to consider if the practice of free expression is less accessible to staff than it is for students and faculty; if so, how can that be addressed?
 - b. C. Cornell requested that the Assembly review the committees and potential committee roles for the benefit of new members.
 - i. W. Treat suggested that members review the committee descriptions available in Box and contact committee chairs with any questions.
- VII. Adjournment
 - a. W. Treat moved to adjourn.
 - b. J., Kruser seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,
[Clerk Name]
Clerk of the Assembly