



Cornell University Employee Assembly

Cornell Employee Assembly
Minutes of the September 19, 2018 Meeting
12:15-1:30 PM
401 Physical Sciences Bldg.

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. *Members Present:* A. Haenlin-Mott, A. Brooks, A. Sieverding, A. Hourigan, B. Roebal, C. Sanzone, C. Dawson, C. Wiggers, D. Hiner, E. Miller, H. Depew, K. LoParco, K. Supron, K. Fitch, K. Mahoney, K. Barth, M. Benda, P. Andersen, P. Thompson, T. Chams
- b. *Members Absent:* A. Howell, H. Sheldon, L. Johnson-Kelly, T. Grove

II. Approval of Minutes of the September 5, 2018 EA Meeting

- a. Motion to approve the minutes of the EA meeting of September 5, 2018 – **approved** with no dissent

III. Business of the Day

- a. C. Wiggers announced changes to the agenda.
 - i. C. Wiggers introduced Jeremy Thomas from Cornell Real Estate who is presenting on the north campus residential expansion.
 - ii. C. Wiggers announced plans to call for a vote to go into executive session. If approved, the EA will discuss R1 and R2.
 - iii. C. Sanzone will report on the Communications and Awards Committee.
 - iv. K. Supron will be giving an update about a community issue.
- b. J. Thomas gave a project overview on the north campus residential expansion.
 - i. Project benefits include:
 1. Meeting current and future demand for on-campus housing
 2. Meeting developmental and programing needs
 3. Creating a cohesive community
 4. Improving student experience
 5. Provide support in formative years
 6. Provide surge space for deferred maintenance projects, such as Balch Hall
 7. Support municipal and county housing goals
 - ii. J. Thomas showed a map of the two development sites. The new sophomore community will have 800 beds, a new dining facility that will replace the dining facility at Robert Purcell, and a new gym facility. The new first-year site will have 1,200 beds on the fields adjacent to Appel Commons.
 1. 77% of the development will be in city of Ithaca and 23% in town.
 2. There will be a public hearing next Tuesday night.
 3. CC Lot is currently underutilized. Director of Transportation Services Bridget Brady is conducting a parking study to confirm there is enough parking in the right spaces. There will be some parking loss, but they will be building it back in.
 - iii. J. Thomas walked through the energy plan.
 1. The team looked at three areas for lowest carbon footprint designs: efficient energy systems, efficient building design, and sustainable behavior and practices.
 2. All cooling on campus is done by lake source cooling.
 3. Cornell's combined heat and power plan includes heating and cooling done centrally. It is then piped out to buildings on campus.

4. Natural gas will be used for this new development to generate electricity. It is what will initially power the turbines, but it will be minimized to a greater extent. They looked at obtaining electricity from “the grid,” but 40% of the energy created in the grid is done by burning gas, oil and coal. If Cornell connects to the grid, it would actually be generating more carbon into the environment. They have future hopes to use earth source heating.
 5. Buildings will perform 30% better than the building code requires from an energy perspective.
- iv. Sustainable Operations
 1. There will be 24 hour monitoring of energy systems.
 2. They are anticipating a 1.4% increase on energy increase when this project goes online. However, they are committed to lower the energy footprint by at least as much as this will increase. There are activities planned between now and 2021.
 - v. C. Wiggers opened the floor to questions.
 1. T. Chams asked for the percentage of people who are going to be housed.
 - a. J. Thomas said there are 2,000 beds in this development, enabling Cornell to house all their first-year and sophomore students on campus. Starting with the class of 2021, it will be mandatory for students to live on campus. Currently, about 99.5% of first-years choose to live on campus, and sophomores around 60%.
- c. C. Wiggers made a motion to move into executive session – seconded and **approved** with no dissent.
 - d. FY18 Budget Review and Discussion
 - i. H. Depew said their budget is \$9,650 for the fiscal year.
 - ii. P. Thompson clarified that the \$2,500 allocated for the President’s Address to Staff includes food, rental space, vouchers, and other logistical expenses.
 1. C. Sanzone added that the allocation goes largely towards the lunches. There are additional expenses that come out of University Relations, such as live broadcasting, recording, and live captioning.
 - iii. EA member made a motion to **call the question** – seconded
 1. R1 FY18 budget **approved** with no dissent or abstentions.
 - e. Discuss and Vote on EA R2: Consolidation of Committees on a Trial Basis
 - i. H. Depew said this resolution was to consolidate the committees from 10 to 7 as discussed.
 - ii. P. Thompson said this would be temporary for a year before it is formalized. They are currently are not getting rid of any committee officially.
 - iii. G. Giambattista said for transparency and clarity, they would list the new seven committees as temporary. This change shouldn’t limit a committee’s scope and authority, but expand it in regards to effectiveness and possibilities.
 - iv. A. Sieverding made a motion to consolidate the committees on a temporary basis.
 - v. P. Thompson made a **call to question**.
 - vi. EA R2 **passes** with no dissent.
 - f. President’s Address to Staff
 - i. C. Sanzone said the event is October 9th from 12-1pm. The communications committee will be meeting next week and one action item is to identify the volunteer task list for the event. There will be other promotions, via digital signage and email similar to last year. N. Doolittle has a prewrite advertising the event going out in the Pawprint/Cornell Chronicle.
 - ii. C. Sanzone said they are working with A. Haenlin-Mott to notify the winning group and figure out what they are going to say.
 - iii. C. Sanzone said they are going to have the lunch covered up and guests will get them at the end. They do not have a good projection for the number of attendees. They are supplementing lunches with vouchers, so if they do run out of lunch, the vouchers can be used at various Cornell dining locations. They talked about doing an RSVP, but that is still to be determined.

- iv. C. Sanzone said C. Wiggers will make welcome remarks and give a state of the assembly report. He will then turn it over to a presenter and those presenting the Staff Recognition Award. C. Wiggers will then come back up and introduce President Pollack, who will give prepared remarks. Afterwards, they will go into the Q&A. There is an online form for people to ask questions in advance, and those will be consolidated. They will also have someone monitoring the online questions during the event, and will also have microphones to pass out in the audience.

IV. **New Business**

- a. Employee Celebration Day
 - i. H. Depew said there is a call for volunteers for this October 6 event.
 - ii. C. Sanzone said they are not planning a big tabling effort, given the effort going into the President's Address.
 - iii. P. Thompson said there is a spring employee celebration, and perhaps their efforts may be better if they aim for that one instead.

V. **Discussion on the Earth Source Heat Seismic Study on the towns of Ithaca and Dryden**

- a. K. Supron said Cornell is looking into a long-term research and facilities project of geothermal heating. The first phase is to do a seismic study on the area. There is a truck driving around and drilling. It is measuring seismic waves to map the geology underground.
 - i. She brought a letter that went out to neighbors along the truck route. In addition to the trucks, there are also some stationary seismometers going into locations, including Ithaca High School and Dryden High School.
 - ii. <https://earthsourceheat.cornell.edu> has more information, and in the future, K. Supron suggested inviting a speaker.
- b. G. Giambattista said a staff member in the community wanted people to know this was happening and be connected to a resource with more information.

VI. **Adjournment**

- a. H. Depew thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 1:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Tran
Clerk of the Assembly