



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, May 5th, 2016 Meeting

4:45pm-8:00pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

### I. Call to Order (J. Batista)

- J. Batista called the meeting to order at 4:45pm
- Present at the Roll Call:* B. Bacharach [5.5]; D. Barbaria [0]; J. Batista [4]; N. Billington [0.5]; J. Breuer [1]; S. Chadhaury [4.5]; J. Chessin [1.5]; V. Devatha [4.5]; R. Dunbar [4.5]; M. Ghandour [5.5]; S. Gilbert [2]; C. Hodges [0]; M. Indimine [1]; E. Johnston [2.5]; S. Karnavat [5]; M. Kasher [0]; G. Kaufman [0]; J. Kim [1.5]; D. Li [4.5]; D. Liu [2.5]; M. McBride [0]; V. Michel [5]; P. Russell [2.5]; J. Selig [4]; M. Stefanko [7]; S. Tayal [5.5]
- Not Present at the Roll Call:* W. Choi (Unexcused) [2.5];

### II. Open Microphone

- Amanda Bat, Chloe Chan, and Adja Toure from the Slope Day Programming Board addressed a formal complaint against the WSH Programming Board. They clarified that they were not given an office for the 2016-2017 year, and were requesting support for their own space.
  - G. Kaufman stated that the Assembly recently passed an amendment to its bylaws, which addressed this concern.
  - J. Batista believed a meeting needed to be held between Class Councils and the WSH Programming Board.
  - J. Chessin believed that the Assembly could serve as a great mediator between all these groups.
- Two community members, Ma '17 and David '18, sought to create connections between students and alumni through Hyphen Connect, a new application they developed. The application allowed students to connect with local individuals, and was downloadable. They also had a group function.
  - J. Chessin asked if the sponsors had presented to any other groups.
  - The two students stated they had spoke to entrepreneur club.

### III. Announcements and Reports

- Big Red Bikes & Zagstar – Gary Cremeens gave an overview of Zagstar, a bike sharing program. The program was in use at Columbia, but he believed issues at Cornell involved risk, bike maintenance, and the campus topography. Zagstar would be possible with a \$121,000 dollar implementation offset by the Assembly, to pay for transportation funds and student fees. He asked for student involvement, and hoped to increase the commitment next fall. He gave his NetID: GRC22.
  - M. Stefanko stated that the funding for this project would only be granted in the

next by-line cycle, and suggested Gary look at other means for funding in the short term.

- Sober House – M. Kasher said that the house was looking to commit 4-5 spots for their new house next semester.
- Gender Identity and Pronoun Working Group – D. Liu discussed how because of the passage of Resolution 14 and Resolution 20, a new draft had been released by the Office of the Registrar to allow preferred pronouns on blackboard class list, and ID cards.

#### IV. Initiatives

- The F Word – Christian Kyle '17 of Class Councils wanted to bring the Assembly up to speed on freshman orientation. The council was working to create a curriculum to increase knowledge about sexual assault, sexual culture, and related issues. They suggested that any member get involved in the initiative.
  - J. Breuer asked if the social consultant group was involved, as social consultants at other schools worked on this issue.
  - C. Kyle stated he had been working with the group and he himself was a member.
- Diversity Innovation Fund – Fred Kiber '18 of the Wardrobe Project, which consists of seven students, updated the assembly on collecting professional clothing to provide outfits for students facing financial hardship. Given nearly 40% of students receive financial aid, they hoped to provide rental services to students for clubs and networking events requiring formal clothing. Fred provided his NetID: FDK9.
  - W. Choi felt that many would use this service.
  - The project began a pilot program and had storage space in Mann library. The matter was that they needed inventory, and had collected few suits so far. They believed that the rental service should be free of charge, and in extreme cases they were looking to provide money for students to buy their own professional attire.
  - P. Russell asked about how discreet the program would be.
  - The project team was happy their service was located in Mann, where other items were rented and the process could be done discreetly.
- Cornell Thrift - Daniel Cheong '16 worked to reuse student waste at the end of the year by creating an outlet for students to donate used items. They were looking to set up a data collection on North campus, with three bins: clothing, kitchen ware, and other. They placed their bins in Risley and the Tatkon center, and the main items they received were articles of clothing. D. Liu spoke about the group's outreach. At SpringFest they placed previously donated items out and over a hundred items were taken, all within a four-week period. The group was considering ways to move forward, including the possibility of creating a pantry.
  - W. Choi asked about Dump and Run, and how these were connected.
  - Daniel Cheong stated that the sponsors were hoping to create a connected process for all year service.
- Condom Fairy Initiative - D. Liu and M. Kasher discussed the use of condoms on college campuses and the spreading of sexual diseases. They were hoping to increase STI testing, decrease stigma, and increase information. They were creating packages that provided use for students.
  - S. Gilbert stated her concerns that data showed 49 percent of students were not using condoms.
  - S. Tayal asked how they were funding the initiative.
  - D. Liu stated that Gannett had an overwhelming number of condoms that they were not using.
  - D. Varun suggested the sponsors reach out to RAs.
  - D. Liu stated that there were problems with students not providing condoms, and

- there being stigma.
  - R. Dunbar asked about the discreetness of the packages.
  - The sponsors stated that the package was discrete.
- SA Composition – Representative Liu & VP Chaudhary spoke on survey responses to a poll on the Assembly’s composition. They saw overwhelming numbers of CALS, A&S, and ILR students. There were more males, fewer students with disabilities, and students generally felt their voices were heard most of the time.
  - On shared governance, many students were not knowledgeable, and there was disparity over how many hours students spent time on governing activities.
  - S. Tayal suggested in a future survey including questions about diversity of thought.
  - M. Battaglia asked about how the survey could better reach all of the Assembly.
  - S. Chaudhary stated that the survey was only on the Assembly’s, and each Committee’s makeup.
- There was a motion to move Resolution 57 to the top of the agenda.
- By unanimous consent the motion was adopted.
- Resolution 57: Towards a More Inclusive Learning Experience (S. Gilbert)
  - S. Gilbert and E. Johnson presented on Resolution 57. They explained issues related to minority comfort and inclusion in regards to teachers and the instruction on campus.
  - N. Billington asked about the outcome of the meeting with the meeting with VP Lombardi.
  - S. Golbert stated VP Lombardi believed the resolution would promote the faculty senate to look at issues. She saw this resolution as a first step.
  - S. Chaudhary stated that this resolution was not only a reflection of the BSU but all minority groups on campus.
  - R. Dunbar asked for more information on the actual training.
  - E. Johnston stated that this resolution affected the language of instruction, not the content.
  - There was a motion to amend line 38 to add, “Make it that this resolution be sent to the chair of the Academic Freedom and Professional Status of Faculty Committee as well as the Dean of Faculty and the faculty as a whole.”
  - There was a motion to vote on the amendment.
  - By a vote of 24-0-0 the resolution was amended.
  - There was a motion to Call the Question.
  - By a vote of 26-1-0, with two community votes in the affirmative, Resolution 57 was adopted.

#### V. Business of the Day

- Resolution 53: Updating the Charter (J. Berger, M. Henderson, P. Biedenweg)
  - There was a motion to Call the Question.
  - By a vote of 20-2-2 Resolution 53 was adopted.
- Resolution 54: Updating the Bylaws (J. Berger, M. Stefanko)
  - J. Berger motioned to amend Article VI, Section 2L. to read “The committee shall consist of a chair, up to two *additional* SA members.”
  - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
  - There was a motion to Call the Question.
  - By a vote of 22-0-0 Resolution 54 was adopted.

- Resolution 55: Updating the Special Rules (J. Berger, M. Henderson)
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
  - By a vote of 24-0-0 Resolution 55 was **adopted**.
- Resolution 56: Approving the Fall 2016 Election Rules (M. Henderson)
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
  - By a vote of 20-0-0 Resolution 55 was **adopted**.

## VI. New Business

- Resolution 58: Funding SAD Light Therapy Lamps
  - The sponsors providing additional details regarding their proposal to introduce Light Therapy Lamps. They hoped to place the lamps on the second floor of WSH in the Minds Matter Resource Center, and asked for \$400 for four lamps.
  - R. Dunbar asked about checking out the lamps. And if the lamps would be supervised.
  - The sponsors stated there would be surveillance on those students who rented the devices.
  - By unanimous consent the resolution was moved to Business of the Day.
  - E. Johnston wanted to consider if the lamps could be rented out from the library.
  - M. Kasher stated the libraries were not in favor of hosting this program, due to issues surrounding liability.
  - There was a motion to amend the resolution to add to line 27, “Minds Matter Resource Center; and \$2000 for twenty full spectrum SAD lamps in on campus libraries and service centers as long as deemed feasible and safe by library and other staff.” Additionally add to line 30, “consider allocating additional funding, and if the implementation of the lamps is found unfeasible, the funds allocated for this use be reallocated into the SAIFC.”
  - By a vote of 11-9-0 the motion to vote was adopted.
  - By a vote 15-4-1 Resolution 58 was **amended**.
  - M. Kasher believed that the libraries should not have control over the funding to decide how they would want to spend it.
  - D. Barbaria believed that the SAIFC should have more authority over this issue.
  - There was a motion to amend the resolution to add to line 27, “and \$2000 for twenty full spectrum SAD lamps in on campus libraries and service centers as long as deemed feasible and safe by *Cornell Minds Matter*.” Additionally for line 30 to read, “and if the implementation of the lamps is found unfeasible by *Cornell Minds Matter and safe by library staff*, the funds allocated for this use be reallocated into the SAIFC.”
  - There was a motion to vote.
  - By a vote of 17-2-0 Resolution 58 was **amended**.
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
  - By a vote of 19-0-0 the resolution was **adopted**.
- Resolution 59: Increasing Sustainability and Comfort in Residential Dormitories
  - M. Battaglia requested the West Campus Dorms increase their temperature range. He stated that Cornell facilities workers were in favor of this resolution.
  - By unanimous consent the resolution was moved to Business of the Day.
  - M. Stefanko believed this resolution would give students further agency over their rooms.
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
  - By a vote of 18-0-0 the resolution was **adopted**.

- Resolution 60: Adjusting the Cornell Academic Calendar (J. Selig, D. Barbaria)
  - The sponsors were requesting February Break be moved to the weekend with the last Sunday in February from the weekend of President’s Day.
  - There was a motion to amend the resolution to include, “Be it therefore resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Faculty Senate.”
  - By a vote of 16-0-0 the resolution was **amended**.
  - By unanimous consent the resolution was moved to Business of the Day.
  - M. Battaglia opposed the resolution because it would not allow for additional time to be spent with family members who also had President’s day off.
  - The sponsors addressed this concern with the assumption that the February break was created specifically to relieve stress.
  - M. Ghandour stated that given February break occurs two weeks after arriving on campus, she and many other students choose not travel home.
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
  - By a vote 20-1-0 Resolution 60 was **adopted** with two community member votes in the affirmative.
  
- Resolution 61: Reconsidering AAP Final Reviews on Slope Day
  - S. Karnavat stated architect students often have to give Final Reviews on Slope Day The sponsors were trying to make a recommendation to the AAP administration allowing them to attend Slope Day, because all students are Cornell Students before they are students of their colleges.
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
  - By a vote of 19-0-0 the resolution was **adopted**.
  
- There was a motion to adjourn.

J. Batista adjourned the meeting at 7:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies