



MINUTES
Campus Welfare Committee
April 11, 2017
1pm – 2pm
Day Hall 316

I. Call to Order

Committee Members Present: Sarah Park, Matt Indimine, Linda Copman, Ekarina Winarto, Joseph Anderson, Ulysses Smith
Guests Present: Ted Schiele, Gabriel Kaufman

II. General Updates

1. GPSA Update
 - i. The GPSA met on 4/10 to discuss the romantic relationships policy again, as well as a resolution on web accessibility, which the EA passed and is being considered in the UA.
2. SA Update
 - i. The SA cancelled its last meeting due to Spring Break.
3. EA Update
 - i. The EA passed revisions to its Charter and Bylaws to align with the other assemblies and to set its elections.

III. Drafting of Referendum Process Guidance

1. Tompkins County legislature is considering legislation to raise the purchase age for tobacco to 21 from 18. There will be a public hearing on April 18 at 5:30pm. This could have a profound impact on the Cornell community since there are so many students under the age of 21, though we do not have a lot of data on smoking behavior.
2. Defining Referenda
 - i. A distinction has to be made between a petition and a referendum. Are we simply looking to take a pulse of the campus or drum up support for a call to action?
3. Referenda Process
 - i. The UA currently has no process outlined in its bylaws for a referendum. The committee can draft a process and have it approved by the UA so that it can be used to conduct the tobacco-free campus referendum.
 - ii. Do we want to hold a petition period? People would have to collect some number of petition signatures in order to get the question on the ballot to be considered.



- iii. What would the petition threshold be? The SA uses 450 signatures or 3 percent of the undergrad population. The number was arbitrary. Would we have to designate different numbers for each constituency?
4. Deadlines and Approval
5. Statement/Comment Period
 - i. This period will be used for people to campaign for either side of the referendum.
 - ii. All comments will go on the Assemblies referendum tracker and will be public. Alumni cannot participate. You must have a valid Net ID to leave a comment.
6. Roles of Officers
7. Voting Procedures and Quorum
 - i. Linda provided some guidance from the European Union on referenda. The guidance suggests not using a quorum.
 - ii. Instead we should look to just a simple majority of those who voted. It would be interesting to see the breakdown by constituent group.
8. Post-Referendum Actions
 - i. How do we ensure that the administration will honor the results of the referendum? We don't want the administration to take action if the campus votes against the referendum.
 - ii. Is there time between now and the end of the semester to meet with the administration to discuss this? President Pollack starts on Monday.
9. Do we want to spend time defining a process or just conduct the referendum?
 - i. Passing changes to the bylaws is time-consuming and not really necessary since we already have a question determined for the referendum.
 - ii. We could pass a resolution that specifies the question, the timeline, the voting quorum or approval percentage, and what should happen after an outcome is determined.
 - iii. This is the desired option and essentially brings the committee back to where we initially started.
 - iv. The referendum should be held in the fall instead of this semester since many people graduating will not be impacted. This also gives time to brief the administration and ensure the outcome will be honored.



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- v. Ulysses will draft a resolution based on what was discussed by the committee, send it around for review and edits, and the committee can vote on Friday.
- vi. The resolution can be presented on Tuesday at the UA meeting for introduction.

IV. Questions

V. Adjournment

1. **Next meeting is April 25, 2017**