

Minutes – October 23, 2014
Cornell University Student Assembly
4:45pm – 6:30pm, Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

S. Balik called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Members present: B. Bacharach, S. Balik, J. Batista, Y. Bhandari, W. Bitsky, b. Brown, J. Fridman, R. Gademsky, M. Henderson, E. Johnston, G. Kaufman, D. Li, E. Liu, L. Liu, M. Masson, R. Raglin, M. Stefanko, P. Titcomb, D. Vakili, L. Wersahw, F. Yang

Members excused: M. Chak, V. Kejariwal, S. Tayal, A. Zhou

Members unexcused: S. Ali Khan, L. Goldman

II. Approval of the October 16, 2014 Minutes

Minutes approved by unanimous consent

III. Open Microphone

None

IV. Food Security Presentation – M. Stefanko

Food costs have increased within recent years and there are limited administrative resources on this issue.

Mission statement: To fight the problem of food insecurity on Cornell's campus by providing access to healthy, affordable food and increasing food literacy. Purpose: To develop a food cooperative for Cornell students that provides financial aid and educational programs on healthy and cost-effective eating.

Food cooperative: consumers are involved with decisions regarding where the produce comes from. Sources: local farms and markets, Friendship Donation Network, local donations, healthy Food for All. Funding: Students Helping Students Grant, Alumni Outreach, Grant Funding, local fundraising.

Food literacy and education: cooking courses, educational programs, rentals of kitchen essentials, meal planning

Financial structure: full payment, subsidized payments, SNAP/food stamps/etc.

Proposed cost: total \$231,000 Hoping to get a head start on gas/electricity/labor costs.

Next steps: building a support network, outline a final proposal, access Students Helping Students Grant

Gretchen Ryan (Financial Aid): Housing and dining costs have not increased in the past few years. Tuition has increased, but so has the aid amount. Could Cornell Dining be part of this solution? To clarify: Students Helping Students is available to all registered students. Response: they have not approached Cornell Dining and are wary that their objectives might not align with that of the initiative.

J. Fridman asked who this initiative is targeting and how, and where the financial savings will come from. Response: The initiative aims for affordability for everyone – hoping to develop some sort of algorithm to gauge the population. Ideally the savings will come from being able to purchase in bulk.

D. Kezerashvili mentioned that he was unsure where the labor cost amount comes from, and recommends keeping in mind that convenience is a very important factor for students.

Max Weisbrod mentioned that there have been comments that there aren't people that need this initiative, and he believes that the burden of proof for that is on them.

M. Masson: Do you have specific numbers for how many students this would affect? Response: No specific numbers, but there are enough to get this project started.

F. Yang mentioned that he was on the Bear Traditional meal plan (14 meals/week, \$400 BRBs) and that seemed very sustainable. Also, what would happen to this initiative if WSH doesn't have room to host it? Response: The Bear Traditional meal plan isn't sustainable for everyone, whether or not they are on financial aid. They believe that there is definitely space on campus to host this initiative.

E. Liu recommends starting small (eg: in Mandibles) and expanding the initiative if it's successful. Also recommends having several locations closer to residential halls rather than on WSH.

B. Bacharach asked for clarification on what the food pantry is. Response: there's a small room in 626 Thurston where one can go to get ramen, Fig Newtons, etc. Not sure where the funding is coming from, and while it does provide some food, it is not sustainable. 10-20 students are using that as their main food mechanism.

J. Fridman listed the initiatives that MIT has regarding this issue. Asked if this would target graduate students, and also highly recommends quality presentation sessions to ensure quality answers.

M. Masson asked how they plan on enticing people to purchase this healthier food. Response: That's not what this initiative is addressing. The idea behind food security is having the choice of what to eat – if students want to spend \$8-9 on pizza every night, that's completely okay, but this initiative hopes to provide a food option for those that cannot afford that.

IV. Announcements/Reports

Dining Committee Announcement – R. Gademsky

Recapped progress of initiatives in the last 2 years. Looking forward to working with Cornell Communications and the tour guides to provide free food for students visiting campus.

FARC Announcement – F. Yang

Grant in the low \$10,000 per year from the Students Helping Students Grant. Have \$40,000 leftover per year for projects. Current idea is to aid in food security.

Community Life Committee Announcement – E. Johnston

Working on a Campus Forum on 11/20 (improving relations between Cornell and the community) and are reaching out to speakers for that. Finalizing speakers for a mental health discussion. Working on

workshops for transfers/grad students to let them know about their housing options. Also working on a mentorship program.

R.16 and Academic Calendar Announcement – J. Batista

Faculty and administrators involved in the academic calendar process were invited to the SA, but none were able to make it. They will be meeting in the following week to discuss R.16.

Shared Governance and International Students Announcement – S. Tayal

Working on integration of international students into campus life – asks representatives to contact S. Tayal if interested in involvement.

CUTonight Report – M. Stefanko

Looking to hold Office Hours to assist people in the CUTonight application. Will be seeing Cornell Cinema and a few special project requests next week.

V. Business of the Day

R. 21: changes to the SAFC Guidelines – Version of Record – M. Stefanko

SAFC Guidelines have not been edited on the Assemblies website for the past couple years. Looking to move the official guidelines to OrgSync. Changing the SAFC Bylaws to state that the official version of record will be hosted on OrgSync.

Call to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 21-0-0.

R.22: 2014 2nd SAFC Allocation Appeals – M. Stefanko

The Appropriations Committee overturned both SAFC decisions. For Cornell Santos Soccer Club, the SAFC did not realize that that organization was a merge of two, and placed them in the wrong tier. For Hanchum, the SAFC denied funding for shoes, but the Appropriations Committee felt the shoes fell into qualifications for funding.

Call to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 19-0-0.

VI. New Business

R.23: Sexual Violence Discussion – Y. Bhandari and J. Batista

This requires the Women's Liaison Representative to reach out and hold an information session addressing sexual violence each semester. Also to have the Women's Liaison Representative to serve on the Council of Sexual Violence Prevention. Also plan on reaching out to administrators.

Motion to move to Business of the Day, approved by unanimous consent.

F. Yang asked which groups would be reached out to. Response: They will not be targeting specific groups, but rather holding a forum to discuss the issue to consolidate efforts.

R. Gitlin recommended reaching out to Narda Terrones, since she held a Women's Summit several years ago for this exact purpose.

P. Titcomb encourages keeping the discussion inclusive – not just men on women, but women on men, men on men, etc.

L. Liu asked if the yearly event mentioned in the resolution would exist in addition to the programmed events for the issue. Response: Yes, this will be held in addition to current programming.

Motion to table, seconded, dissent expressed: there have been no arguments against this, so it should be voted on today. **Vote to table: 2-20-0** Resolution not tabled.

Call to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 22-0-0.

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Cheng