

Minutes – November 13, 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 4:47pm

Members present: S. Ali Khan, Ben Bacharach, S. Balik, J. Batista, Y. Bhandari, W. Bitsky, B. brown, M. Chak, J. Fridman, r. Gademsky, L. Goldman, M. Henderson, E. Johnston, G. Kaufman, D. Li, E. Liu, L. Liu, M. Masson, R. Raglin, M. Stefanko, S. Tayal, P. Titcomb, D. Vakili, L. Wershaw, F. Yang, A. Zhou

Members unexcused: V. Kejariwal

III. Open Microphone

Anna: Chair of engagement for Cornell Hillel – they will be holding the Big Red Bar Mitzva this weekend in Duffield Atrium

IV. Announcements/Reports

Ivy League Summit Announcement – L. Liu

Summit to be held this weekend with an impressive lineup of speakers. Saturday 11/15 1-3pm networking session (sponsored by all 4 years of class councils) to meet the delegates of the ivy council and to update the student body on relevant events.

Cooperative Supply/Demand Announcement – J. Fridman

Looking into cooperative supply and demand as a topic after it came up during the debate of the quarter system.

Special Projects Report – M. Stefanko

Approved the application for a grill for the recently passed Ilan Rasooly for the Center of Jewish Living. They also heard Cornell Concert Commission, Cornell University Programming Board, and Slope Day Programming Board.

Organizational Spotlight – L. Wershaw

Cornell International Students Board. Working on amending its constitution to form Cornell's first International Student Union.

Fall 2014 Outreach Event Results Announcement – L. Wershaw

Results of the survey handed out during free froyo handout on Ho Plaza were presented in pie charts.

V. Business of the Day

R.25: Calling for an Investigation of the Quarter System – B. Brown, W. Bitsky, and Spencer Nord

Reiteration that this will purely be an investigation and its results will be presented to the SA in the form of a report.

E. Liu asked if they considered having the investigation go until the next school year so that they can observe all four quarters. Response: People can still be asked about their first and second quarters, so it is not necessary to hold the investigation during those quarters.

M. Stefanko asked if they would consider having the report be presented to the SA as a resolution that needs to be voted on instead of simply as an announcement. Response: That sounds like a good idea.

B. Asamoah Mensah commends the representatives for reaching out to the Greek Tri-Council.

Call to question, seconded, dissent expressed, vote to vote: 24-0-1, continue to vote.

Resolution 25 passed by a vote of 25-0-0.

VI. New Business

Motion to move R.27 up on the agenda before R.26, **seconded, approved by a vote of 25-0-1.**

R.27: Verifying the Spring 2015 Elections Rules – M. Henderson

Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, dissent expressed: The elections committee spent a lot of time on updating the rules and they should have a chance to explain the changes before the representatives can offer their opinions, **moved to Business of the Day by a vote of 17-8-0.**

Changes to the election rules: clarification of procedure, changes in procedure to reflect best and current procedures, and changes in Article II Section B, Article III Section C are believed to make the elections process more efficient in the future.

One of the changes made is the removal of a common slate.

M. Stefanko stated that there are benefits to having a President and Vice President run on the same ticket, such as ensuring that they have a shared vision, so it might be worth keeping.

M. Battaglia was concerned that any member of the Cornell community can review the challenges. Response: There are other rules in place to prevent abuse of public review. The change to the election rules actually limits challenge review to be supervised in the Office of the Assemblies rather than online.

S. Tayal asked why organizations are allowed to endorse candidates but individuals cannot do the same. Response: The goal is to prevent factions within the Student Assembly.

J. Fridman had a slight concern with the decreased limit of printing for quarter cards and posters.

B. Brown asked why ticketing would be considered unethical behavior. Response: There have been cases in the past where candidates were pressured by upper classmen to not run so that a preferred candidate could run unopposed. They are trying to prevent that kind of situation again.

R. Gitlin stated support for not decreasing the limit of quarter cards – maybe a wave system could be put in place where candidates can return to the office for more copies once they run out.

Motion to amend: revert the promotional materials limit back to 300 and 150 on line 147, **seconded, dissent expressed:** would like to offer an extension to the amendment. Vote to vote: 22-2-0.
Amendment approved by a vote of 13-10-0.

B. Bacharach asked about the voting procedure for different seats. Response: The previous elections rules were unclear, and were changed to clearly support what is stated in the Charter.

Max Weisbrod proposed some changes to the requirements needed to get on the ballot, such as increasing committee participation or meeting attendance so that candidates are better prepared for their positions. Response: That is a good idea, but even the one SA body meeting requirement did preclude many candidates from running, so while that was considered, it was not deemed needed for the rules.

Brian Murphy asked that “excepting outdoor events” be stricken from line 196 as the SA has no jurisdiction over that. Also, regarding the copy concern, an alternative might be limiting promotional material copies to 10% of the constituent population or 300, whichever is smaller.

Motion to amend: strike ‘excepting outdoor events’ from line 196

Call to question on the amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 21-2-2.

Motion to table until the next week, seconded, approved by unanimous consent.

R.26: North Campus Quiet Study Space – E. Liu, J. Batista

Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, dissent expressed: everything is being moved to Business of the Day and not staying as New Business, which defeats the purpose of New Business.

Motion failed by a vote of 9-13-1.

There was a concern brought up that there is not quiet study space on north campus. Currently, people living on north have a long, dark walk from central campus libraries back to their dorms and the upcoming snow season will also make the trip difficult.

Motion to move to Business of the Day, seconded, approved by a vote of 23-0-0.

Call to question, seconded, dissent expressed: there are still 7 people on the speaker's list. Vote to vote: 9-13-0. Continuing discussion.

Y. Bhandari asked what was being done regarding outreach and if they had looked into other study spaces on campus. Response: They will be reaching out to the Communications Committee for help with PR especially as the initiative is coming out of the SA. There are definitely other study spaces, but none of them are designated quiet spaces.

L. Goldman stated concern that the evaluation of the project in January might be too early. People might not know about it yet, so survey results might be skewed. Response: They are aware that it is early, but that was the date proposed by supporting administration.

Motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes, seconded, approved by unanimous consent.

D. Vakili asked what would happen if a student organization requested the Appel 303 space through R25 during the designated time slot. Response: Not quite sure, what would happen if there was a conflict but they will talk about it at their next meeting.

S. Ali Khan brought up that a resolution was passed last year extending hours at the Africana library that L. Wershaw worked on to alleviate the study space concern.

Chelsea Cheng mentioned that Appel has been very strict about not allowing student organizations to make weekly reservations for the multipurpose room, and having the SA reserve daily space for the entire year might be disconcerting for the community, as the space is highly coveted by dance teams. Response: They are aware of that, but in the eyes of RPCC and Appel representatives, academics trumps extracurricular activities.

Call to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 24-0-0.

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Cheng