

**Minutes – November 20, 2014**  
**Cornell University Student Assembly**  
**4:45pm – 6:30pm, Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room**

**I. Presentation – Mary Opperman and Glenn Altschuler**

**II. Town Hall Meeting**

**III. Call to Order / Roll Call**

S. Balik called the meeting to order at 5:50pm.

Members present: S. Ali Khan, B. 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, S. Tayal, P. Titcomb, D. Vakili, L. Wershaw, F. Yang, A. Zhou

Members excused: R. Raglin, M. Stefanko

**IV. Approval of the November 13, 2014 Minutes**

Minutes approved by unanimous consent

**V. Open Microphone**

None

**VI. Announcements/Reports**

**Outdoor Odyssey Appointments Report – M. Henderson**

M. Henderson reported on behalf of M. Stefanko – the Appropriations Committee had several suggestions for Outdoor Odyssey.

**SAIF Application Announcement – R. Gademsky**

They decided to push back the application deadline.

**Follow Up On Academic Calendar Announcement – J. Batista**

Met with administrators and the Educational Policy Committee.

**VII. Business of the Day**

**R.27: Verifying the Spring 2015 Elections Rules – M. Henderson and K. Aniket**

There seemed to be no strong complaint against the changes presented last week to endorsements and slates.

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

### **VIII. New Business**

#### **R.28: Increasing Awareness of Available Accommodations During Event Registration – S. Tayal and Max Weisbrod**

The resolution calls for SACIDI to create, adopt, or modify a suitable metric to reliably communicate accessibility features of reservable spaces on campus. This would involve taking inventory of what is available and collaborating with willing parties to fulfill the mandates of the resolution.

The disabilities mentioned in the resolution are not only limited to physical ones, but also auditory and visual ones. SADAC and SACIDI have been talked to and are on board.

P. Titcomb stated his support of the resolution and mentioned that it was good that all disabilities were being considered.

D. Vakili asked how many people would actually be affected by this. Response: There are over 300 registered with Student Disability Services, the majority of which are temporary. There are definitely unregistered people with disability.

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

**Call to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 23-0-0.** (SA vote: 21-0-0, community vote of 4-0-0 contributes 2-0-0).

#### **Resolution 29: Calling for implementation of Open Course Evaluation – J. Fridman**

A number of other Ivy League institutions publically release course evaluation. Currently at Cornell, students hear about courses either by word of mouth, or websites like RateMyProfessor. Those usually only capture the opinions of people who are either really excited about the course or very disappointed, but rarely anything in the middle, which is the most important. The resolution calls for the creation of an Open Course Evaluation Implementation Committee to roll out an open course evaluation system.

F. Yang mentioned that one factor against this is faculty privacy. The administration only sees the numbers and suggestions from evaluations, and only the teacher of the class sees the comments. He asked if faculty involvement was considered in the creation of this resolution. Response: The factors involved are anonymity of students, and accountability on the administration end. The new system would allow professors to report harassment (as it already exists on posts in RateMyProfessor that they cannot respond to).

**Motion to move to Business of the Day, dissent expressed, not moved by a vote of 5-12-2.**

B. Brown asked if J. Fridman could elaborate more on the composition of the committee. Response: The specific composition of the committee was not stated on the resolution as he didn't want it to be debated, but every effort will be made to ensure that the appropriate stakeholders are involved.

M. Masson asked if the administration has been talked to at all about the specific recommendation in the resolution. Response: He has spoken to Arts and Sciences dean and a VP at the university level. While the specific wording of the recommendations were not discussed, they agreed on the principle of them.

B. Murphy commends the research done on the resolution, but fears that the specific prescription in lines 43-47 might cause some distress. Response: While the prescriptions are specific, as they are metrics that students are extremely interested in, this resolution is only a recommendation and it would be up to the administration to take input from the resolution and do what they want with it.

**Motion to table until next week, seconded, passed by unanimous consent.**

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chelsea Cheng