

Minutes – September 11, 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, S. Balik, J. Batista, Y. Bhandari, B. Brown, L. Goldman, M. Henderson, E. Johnston, L. Liu, R. Raglin, M. Stefanko, S. Tayal, L. Wershaw, F. Yang, A. Zhou

Members unexcused: W. Bitsky, R. Gademsky, V. Kejariwal, M. Masson

II. Oath of Office

S. Balik led new members in their Oath of Office

III. Approval of the September 4, 2014 Minutes

Minutes approved by unanimous consent

IV. Open Microphone

Max Weisbrod: Really happy that the SA invited Seph Murtaugh and Kevin Sutherland regarding even odd parking. Had a conversation with his next door neighbor who had several ticket charges regarding parking. Another neighbor handwrote a thank you letter for bringing up the issue for consideration.

V. Common Council Presentation – Seph Murtaugh and Kevin Sutherland

Overview: As the law currently stands, from 11/1 to 4/1 there is no parking on the odd number sides of the city streets on odd numbered days and no parking on even number sides of the streets on even numbered days from 2am to 6am. Snow Watch crew numbers have dwindled, so snow plowing efficiency has also diminished. Proposition to change the law so that a different 1/5 of the streets in the city would not allow parking from Monday through Friday, 4am to 4pm for the entire year. The plan is to have signage everywhere. For emergencies, there would be reduced prices in parking garages. Mayor has pushed this off at least until next Spring. There is talk of doing a pilot, but that plan has not moved forward.

M. Henderson said that there are critiques that the proposal doesn't hit on the actual problem but rather is a move at improving employee efficiency. Regarding the student with permit vs student without permit population, there's a concern of people parking on streets that they don't live on. What are some potential flaws in the plan? Response: Don't consider there to be flaws in the plan, but it is trying to improve some of the problems in the city. One thing that would improve from it is street cleaning.

M. Stefanko asked if there are case studies accompanying the research for the plan. Response: There are definitely other cities that have similar plans, though none of them are very small. Ithaca is in a tight

spot due to a lack of a large workforce. Ann Arbor only does odd-even parking during a snow emergency, for example. No city of Ithaca's size has tried the proposed approach, which is why a pilot program is being considered.

D. Kezerashvili mentioned that some city areas will be very differently affected. For example, Eddy street has very high traffic regarding parking compared to say, a street in downtown Ithaca. There aren't many free parking spaces for students that is close to campus. Response: Concentration of parking is definitely a concern, but they're doing what they can.

J. Batista asked if they want feedback in the form of a poll or referendum from the larger student population or just from the SA. Response: Any positive feedback regarding the proposal would be appreciated as most voices that speak out have negative comments, and concerns are appreciated as well. A lot of feedback comes from year-round residents, and not so much from students. A poll or referendum would definitely be very helpful.

S. Tayal questioned the logic of the new proposal. With even and odd parking, 50% of streets are always available versus the proposal would make streets 0% available on a given day of the week, so it seems the new proposal would be a greater inconvenience for residents. Response: If you look at the maps that have been drawn up for the proposal, there will always be a street with available parking within a block of any residence.

L. Goldman asked what the protocol for snow emergencies is. Response: regular media.

? asked what the timeline for moving this proposal forward it. Response: they're not actually sure.

L. Wershaw asked what the implementation timeline would look like once it got approved. There are also other Collegetown parking concerns that hopefully will be open for consideration. Response: Likely this will be revisited in the Spring, and hopefully by the following Fall they will be doing education on the new policy. A parking director was recently hired, Frank Nagy, to oversee city parking issues, and it'd be great for him to speak to the SA. They've also removed minimum parking requirements in the latest zoning laws for Collegetown.

J. Fridman asks that they be equitable with zoning regarding concentration of traffic since the proposal for non parking would occur from 4am to 4pm.

A. Zhou asked if there is a different policy for loading zone parking, for example of someone parks and waits for a friend to come out of their building. Response: That would be up to the discretion of the officer on duty, but usually is acceptable, unless a car parks temporarily on a street with a snow plow going through it.

D. Kezerashvili asked for the reasoning behind 4am to 4pm restrictions as it is a significantly larger window than the previous 4am to 6am window. Response: Those are the times that workers are actually out, and those times are a bit more convenient to remember.

J. Fridman asked if policies regarding overnight employee contracts would change before the policy would be implemented. Reponse: Not in the foreseeable future.

Closing comments: Encourages feedback to Kevin Sutherland: Chief of Staff, ksutherland@cityofithaca.org and Seph Murtagh: 2nd Ward Representative, jmurtagh@cityofithaca.org

VI. Announcements/Reports

Elections Update – S. Aniket

Campaigning starts 9/21 and materials are due at noon tomorrow. Looking forward to greater candidate participation and a higher voter turnout.

PR Update – L. Wershaw

Have handed out over 900 samples of yogurt this week, looking forward to keeping it going.

University Assembly Announcement – J. Batista

There were a lot of recommendations for the CWC (Campus Welfare Committee), CIC (Campus Infrastructure Committee), and CJC (Codes and Judicial Committee). Topics discussed: Tcat, Policy 6.4, and Code of Conduct.

Course Roster Announcement – S. Balik

Asks SA members to fill out the course roster by Friday.

VII. Business of the Day

R.7: Performance Tier SAFC Appeals – M. Stefanko

There were 3 appeals, all of which were rejected by the Appropriations Committee (AC).

The Men's Club Hockey team appealed to move into the performance tier. That tier has some metrics in addition to the numerical ones for upward movement in the other tiers, mainly impact on broader Cornell community. The concern was that the team didn't sufficiently impact the broader Cornell community, as their games only drew audiences of 20-50.

The Women's Alpine Ski Team appealed to move into the performance tier. Their application very closely mirrored the Club Hockey team, indicating that their impact on the broader Cornell community was not particularly unique.

The Men's Alpine Ski Team appealed to stay in Tier 2. They were moved down to Tier 3 due to spending inefficiency. Their argument was that it was the SAFC's responsibility to notify the team regarding their lack of reimbursements.

Appeal from Men's Club Hockey team members: There was a comment that the team application was 'lackluster.' Hockey is a very expensive sport and the application was filled out from the stance of financial need. The team is part of a greater league that now requires member teams to receive \$12K in funding from their affiliated universities, which the hockey team would not be able to fulfill had they not been grandfathered into the plan. Their donations have been dwindling, but what they do receive has gone toward travel costs.

Response to appeal: The comment about a lackluster application was meant in comparison to the other 23 applications that the SAFC received for the performance tier. Regarding financial need, it is not a factor of the applications as that is not the purpose of the SAFC as they are trying to support as many organizations as possible.

S. Ali Khan asked what the team is doing about their decreased donations. Response: They're doing the best they can with what they have. It's difficult for them to focus on impacting the broader Cornell community when they can barely function themselves due to lack of funds. They held a breast cancer awareness event last year that used alumni donations, but even that cost \$1500.

J. Batista mentioned that an underlying concern that this appeal points at is how Cornell funds the club sport teams on campus. However, that is not what is in question in the appeal, which is whether or not the SAFC erred in their decision. The AC goes through a very thorough investigation of the applications, and it is her stance that the SA should support the decision of the SAFC and the AC.

Y. Bhandari asked what impact would be if the team was granted performance tier funding. Response: A Practice Squad was created for hockey players that aren't good enough for the team. However, since ice time is extremely expensive, they're forced to practice on the same space as the team. With extra funding, the squad could get their own practice time which would likely double membership.

F. Yang asked if the team had considered outside funding and that he'd be willing to assist in those efforts. The greater Ithaca community loves hockey games, so that might be a source to look into.

J. Fridman said that the only thing that would make him overturn the decision of the SAFC was if they could equally compare themselves to other teams that received performance tier funding. Response: They were denied the information when they asked. M. Stefanko was willing to share the information, though the applications should be judged on their own merit, not on comparisons. The Women's Clubs Soccer team was granted performance tier funding as their games produced 80-150 audience members. BUDS, the ultimate frisbee team, also merited performance tier funding as they have won championships across the country, thus they were spreading Cornell reputation outside of the Cornell community.

Call to question, seconded, resolution approved by a vote of 13-1-2.

R.6: University Assembly Undergraduate Representatives as Ex-Officio Members of the Student Assembly – S. Ali Khan

Jim Blair, Chair of UA mentioned that it's extremely important for the UA undergraduate representatives to sit on the SA so they can be aware of the students issues that are relevant and being discussed.

This should have been done a long time ago, the UA undergraduate representatives are members of the SA and deserve debating rights.

J. Berger mentioned considering pushing this back until the status and privilege of ex-officio members is clarified, as changes would have to be made to the Bylaws, Charter, and Standing Rules. The undergraduate representatives have as much right to debate as ex-officio members as it currently stands. Response: The reasoning provided is sound, but those are changes that can happen regardless of what the resolution is asking for, and should not hold up the process as the UA is quickly taking action on many issues.

Motion to amend line 14 of the resolution to say 'joint' instead of 'join', **seconded, approved by unanimous consent.**

F. Yang maintained his stance from the last meeting regarding creating only one ex-officio position for UA undergraduate representatives. Response: It seems that that would cause more problems, as there would be an issue of who would take the ex-officio seat and how the responsibility would be equitable with the other undergraduate representative.

S. Balik mentioned that all members currently present would need to vote yes in order for the resolution to pass due to low attendance numbers.

Motion to postpone discussion until next week, seconded, approved by a vote of 13-1-0.

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Cheng