

Minutes – September 25, 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 4:46pm.

Members present: S. Ali Khan, S. Balik, J. Batista, Y. Bhandari, W. Bitsky, B. Brown, R. Gademsky, L. Goldman, M. Henderson, E. Johnston, D. Li, L. Liu, R. Raglin, M. Stefanko, S. Tayal, P. Titcomb, D. Vakili, L. Wershaw, A. Zhou

Members tardy excused: V. Kejariwal

Members tardy unexcused: M. Masson

Members excused: W. Bitsky

Members unexcused: F. Yang

II. Approval of the September 18, 2014 Minutes

Minutes approved by unanimous consent

III. Oath of Office

S. Balik led the new members (D. Li, P. Titcomb, D. Vakili) in the Oath of Office

IV. Open Microphone

None

V. Announcements/Reports

Elections Announcement – K. Aniket

Voter turnout: 2,712 – up from 2,361 in Fall 2013 and 1,860 in Fall 2012. Delays in the Freshman race due to election challenges. There are vacancies for the Arts & Sciences and LGBTQ positions.

Outreach Announcement - Y. Bhandari

Partnering with Cornell Republicans to encourage students to vote for the upcoming elections for Congress elections – will be tabling on 10/3. Intro the Streets to be held on Friday 10/24.

VI. Business of the Day

R. 15: Special Projects Request: EzRoots – M. Stefanko

Music/Performing Arts festival on Sunday 10/5 to be held on the Arts Quad – a number of student organizations will be performing. Raised around \$3,000 in co-sponsorships and requested \$1,500 from the Appropriations Committee for food for the first 300 people. The Committee felt the event was really well organized and approved the request.

M. Henderson mentioned that the \$1,500 for food would help make the event more accessible and increase turnout.

S. Tayal, and J. Fridman stated their support for this event.

R. Gitlin asked if it was prudent to spend half of the special projects fund on this event. Response: In the past, only a miniscule percentage of special projects funding has been used. They will look over the budget at the end of the semester and move unused funds from different committees into the Special Projects fund if necessary.

Max Weisbrod asked how the Special Projects Fund was publicized. Response: It's not heavily advertised, but the information is there for people that look. It's meant for organizations planning campus-wide events that need financial help after reaching out to other sources.

L. Wershaw said that the festival coincides with Apple Fest and asked if there was a concern for turnout. Response: No real concern for that.

Call to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 18-0-1

R. 8: Resources in Syllabi for Mental Health – Y. Bhandari and M. Stefanko

Motion to amend: Adding “Sometimes academic stress can come about as a result of a bias incident. If you believe this is the case, please contact the University Ombudsman or the [Bias Reporting Service](#)”

Motion to amend: Adding “For additional resources, please visit Gannett’s Notice and Respond list of resources at <http://www.gannett.cornell.edu/notice/resources>”

R. Gitlin recommends that this be sent for approval to the Dean of Faculty and Director of Mental Health before submitting it through the Student Assembly.

J. Batista asked what would happen if this resolution was passed but changes were requested by people after passage through the SA. Response: The changes would be brought back in resolution form to the SA. However, the sponsors felt that it was important to get the resolution moving.

Call to question on first amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 19-0-1.

Call to question on second amendment, seconded, approved by a vote of 17-0-3.

M. Battaglia asked if it would be prudent to put language in the resolution mentioning that it would be open to amendments. Response: They have had many conversations with many people. The SA is supposed to push things out and forward, and there can be an infinite loop of consulting people. It seems best to approve it in the SA to solidify that it represents the students’ opinions and can change as it moves forward.

S. Tayal mentioned that this resolution was heavily discussed in the SADAC, a coalition meant to consult faculty opinion for student legislation, and they agreed with the resolution.

Call to question on the resolution, seconded, approved by a vote of 22-0-0 (20-0-0 SA vote, 6-0-0 community vote contributes 2-0-0 to the total)

R. 10 Ex-Officio Charter Changes

R. 11 Ex-Officio Bylaws Changes

R. 12 Ex-Officio Standing Rules Changes – M. Henderson, J. Berger, M. Battaglia

The purpose of these resolutions is to make more clear what it means to be an ex-officio member.

Motion to amend: R. 12 line 16 to read “..all voting and ex-officio members who serve in a liaison capacity. Absences will not be recorded for ex-officio organizational liaison members if the absence is a result of a conflicting obligation related to their respective organization. Attendance requirements for all operational ex-officio members shall be at the discretion of the executive committee. Absences for student government liaisons will not be under the discretion of the executive committee...”

Call to question on the amendment, **seconded, approved by a vote of 19-0-1.**

Motion to amend: R.12 line 36, strike “to fulfill their outreach obligation.”

Call to question on the amendment, **seconded, approved by a vote of 20-0-0.**

Motion to amend “student governance liaison” to “shared governance liaison” in all three resolutions.

Call to question on the amendment, **seconded, approved by a vote of 20-0-0.**

Motion to amend R. 11 Section 4 to read: “A. Student Trustees – The SA will grant the Student Trustees ex-officio positions as shared governance liaisons for the duration of their terms.”

Call to question on the amendment, **seconded, approved by a vote of 20-0-0.**

Call to question on Resolution 10, **seconded, approved by a vote of 19-0-0.**

Call to question on Resolution 11, **seconded, approved by a vote of 20-0-0.**

Call to question on Resolution 12, **seconded, approved by a vote of 20-0-0.**

VII. New Business

R. 13: Reforming the SA’s Attendance Policy – M. Henderson

The current policy is that if you have 3 consecutive absences or 6 total absences.

The process of filling vacancies is to give it to interested runner-ups in the elections, otherwise a special election would have to be held for interested community members.

The language in the resolution allows the Executive Committee to vote on letting a committee member stay on the SA.

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

L. Wershaw asked for clarification on the kinds of absences. Response: Committee absences and outreach absences contribute to the 6 total.

S. Tayal brought up that there is a potential conflict if a member of the Executive Committee hits his/her absence limit. Response: It would be expected of the member to recuse himself/herself, so it doesn't seem like a significant conflict.

S. Ali Khan mentioned that the process seems subjective. Also recommends that the SA move away from in-house resolutions as it is five weeks into the semester. Response: The process outlined is to formalize the current happenings.

F. Yang recommends separating Committee absences from SA absences. Response: The attendance policy does need some more attention, but the recommendation would affect the Bylaws, which would come in a different resolution.

M. Battaglia asked if under the current rules, missing two Committee meetings then the subsequent SA meeting would result in removal from the SA. Response: The current interpretation of the rules is that the 3 consecutive absences rule only applies to the SA meetings. But this will be taken into account moving forward.

E. Johnston asked if changing the absences limit from 6 to 8 or 10 was considered to allow a bit more leeway without introducing subjectivity.

Motion to table, seconded, dissent expressed: This is an important topic for discussion and it's unlikely that the conversation will continue outside of the meeting, so it's better to continue discussion.

Vote to vote: 4-14-2. Discussion will continue on this resolution.

M. Stefanko thinks that 6 absences is a reasonable amount, and the language delineated by M. Henderson is well thought out and allows some breathing room for the worst-case scenario.

Motion to amend line 24 to read "...during their term, without excuse, will lose..."

M. Henderson says that that won't solve the problem. Also, it might add more subjectivity as the VP of Internal Operations is who determines which absences are considered excused and unexcused.

Call to question on the amendment, **seconded, not approved by a vote of 2-10-6.**

Call to question on the resolution, **seconded, 10-5-5.**

R. 14: Repealing Odd/Even in the 4th Ward – M. Henderson

This resolution supports that a trial run of the proposed parking plan be held in the 4th Ward (95% population is students). The proposal is for the streets in the 4th Ward to be split into groups, each group would have no parking for a different day of the week.

M. Stefanko: Do you find it concerning that there is no information on a trial run of this size in another city? Do you see an issue with investing in signage, for example, for such a trial run? Response: A trial has indeed been held in a larger city. Regarding signage, the idea is to do a trial run in the 4th ward and

not all the wards, and also this resolution is meant to kick start change, but it is up to the City to determine the official policy.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, approved by unanimous consent.

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:34.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Cheng