

**Minutes – September 4, 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: S. Ali Khan, S. Balik, J. Batista, Y. Bhandari, W. Bitsky, B. Brown, R. Gademsky, L. Goldman, M. Henderson, E. Johnston, V. Kejariwal, L. Liu, M. Masson, M. Stefanko, T. Talbot, S. Tayal, L. Wershaw, F. Yang, A. Zhou

Members unexcused: R. Raglin

**II. Oath of Office**

S. Balik led new members in their Oath of Office

**III. Approval of the August 28, 2014 Minutes**

Minutes approved by unanimous consent

**IV. Open Microphone**

None

**V. President Skorton and Vice President Murphy**

This is a particularly auspicious year for the SA as it is Cornell's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thanks the SA for their effort and is looking forward to working with them for the whole year.

L. Liu asked when open office hours will be this year. Response: They will be advertised in the Daily Sun and can take around 12 people (ideally 10). It will be done in President Skorton's office, dates TBD. Both President Skorton and Vice President Murphy are present for the office hours.

S. Tayal asked if there will be a movement from ISSO to something similar to 626 Thurston for the international community at Cornell. Response: There is a matter of space and a question of what the focus of such an establishment would be. They are interested in learning more and having more details. There is a Global at Cornell committee that will be looking into issues surrounding this one, so that might be another venue to look to.

Max mentions that TCAT has sent another ultimatum to Cornell regarding finances. Will Cornell be putting any funds toward this issue? Response: The last time this was brought up was regarding first year student passes, and those are still going to be granted. They are working directly with the TCAT board regarding sustainability of the system. Very important to know that Cornell is a major partner with TCAT and it's not a Cornell vs. TCAT situation.

D. Kezerashvili asked if there has been any discussion about increasing residential space for students, as the incoming classes are increasing in size. Response: The answer is no in the short term for financial reasons. Currently, the most pressing need is the replacement of Maplewood apartments for graduate students.

Y. Bhandari asked what the Administration is doing to address the issue of sexual harassment this year. Response: It is definitely one of the top issues of discussion. Asks that representative Bhandari provide a list of specific issues to pursue. An event last year focused on education for incoming students. One big question is how to educate what 'consent' means and it is currently a very active conversation.

Matthew Battaglia asked if any details could be shared about tuition. Response: Leaders in education have failed in the past 30 years to get this to where it needs to be, though it is definitely better and is it a high priority discussion. Cornell will be continuing to use a high tuition, high aid model.

## **VI. Announcements/Reports**

### **PR Update – L. Wershaw**

Giving out free Smart froyo at Ithaca Mall and in Elmira. SA holding their outreach event, giving out froyo on the Arts Quad.

### **Ivy Leadership Summit – L. Liu**

Held on Cornell's campus this year. Students involved in leadership around the East coast come to this conference. Tentative date: 11/14-11/16. Currently in the process of seeking funding.

### **Appropriations Committee Announcement – M. Stefanko**

Have a full slate in Appropriations Committee

## **VII. Business of the Day**

### **R.3: Approval of the Elections Committee Slate – M. Henderson**

Elections Committee is responsible for planning and overseeing the Fall and Spring elections, including resolution of challenges. Comprised of 4 SA members and 6 community members.

S. Ali Khan asked if any of the members are members of any organizations that usually endorse candidates. Response: There is a member that is part of the PanHellenic E-board and the Cornell Republicans E-board. There has been good communication on the rules: that these members need to ensure that their organizations do not endorse candidates. It might be the case that one of those members need to resign in the Spring, but those vacancies will be handled as they arise.

L. Wershaw asked if it might be a good idea to have the slate be in the Spring to allow for better publicity and other candidates. Response: It definitely sounds like a possibility and will be looked into further.

**Called to question, seconded, approved by a vote of 18-0-0.**

**R.4: Addressing the Student Activity Fee Endowment Fund – M. Stefanko, R. Gademsky**

For the purpose of supporting projects that benefit the student body. Waiting for approval. The plan is to hash out details of how much money is being pulled out, the interest amount, and applicants for the committee.

D. Kezerashvili asked if this would increase the Student Activity Fee as the years go on to support the fund. Response: In the past, part of the SAF was to put money towards the fund, but that stopped a few years ago, so no money from the SAF will go towards the fund.

J. Batista asked if the funding process could be walked through. What if one group requests 50% of funds and a second group requests 75% of the funds and both requests are approved? Response: All requests will be reviewed at the same time, and the applications will be ranked. The applications will then be brought to the committee and will be reviewed in order of ranking. In the example given, the second group would not receive funding.

Y. Bhandari asked about the application process and how projects will be approved. Response: The applications and their budgets will need to be very detailed. The plan is also to establish a relationship and point of contact with organizations submitting applications before the approval process begins.

A. Zhou asked what would happen if a mistake happens and it is discovered that there aren't enough funds for a project. Response: There really isn't any room for error, so the best they can do is be extremely diligent and hope to avoid that case.

M. Masson asked if there was any communication protocol in place if, for example, a classroom is affected by a project. Response: Any projects affecting infrastructure will abide by University code and procedure.

**Called to question, seconded. Passed by a roll call vote of 18-0-0.**

S. Ali Khan	Yes
J. Batista	Yes
Y. Bhandari	Yes
W. Bitsky	Yes
B. Brown	Yes
R. Gademsky	Yes
L. Goldman	Yes
M. Henderson	Yes
E. Johnston	Yes
V. Kejariwal	Yes
L. Liu	Yes

M. Masson	Yes
R. Raglin	Not present
M. Stefanko	Yes
T. Talbot	Yes
S. Tayal	Yes
L. Wershaw	Yes
F. Yang	Yes
A. Zhou	Yes

### **R.5 Updating United Student Body – S. Tayal**

Only semantic changes were to rename the funding tiers to align with the SAFC names.

**Motion** to postpone to next week, **seconded, dissent expressed**: if it is merely a change in semantics, why not move this to Business of the Day and get it approved. **Motion withdrawn.**

**Motion** to amend the first to Whereas clauses to remove the word ‘semester’ from the beginning of the clauses, **seconded, approved by unanimous consent.**

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

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

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

The University Assembly has two student-elected undergraduate representatives, and the UA does not make a distinction between those representatives and the SA elected representatives. This resolution is to allow the UA undergraduate representatives to have a spot on the SA to allow them to participate in discussion.

M. Stefanko asked why particularly the UA and what the limit will be on ex-officio members for the SA. Response: Technically, in the administrative system, the UA undergraduate representatives are listed as members of the SA. Not sure why the ex-officio status was not given earlier. This is only for debating privileges – not voting privileges.

T. Talbot asked why specifically the resolution asks for 2 ex-officio spots and not just 1. Response: There are 2 UA undergraduate representatives, which is why 2 spots are requested.

**Motion** to postpone until next week, **seconded, approved by a vote of 17-1-0.**

K. Aniket announced that there are quarter cards for elections that he asks SA members to distribute.

T. Talbot announced that he is resigning from the Student Assembly. When he first joined, he was very excited to work with a group of passionate individuals. Stepping down mainly because of a time commitment, but hoping to stick around as a mentor. Encourages the SA to continue improving the university.

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded, approved by unanimous consent.**

S. Balik adjourned the meeting at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chelsea Cheng