



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, August 27, 2015 Meeting

4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

I. Call to Order (J. Batista)

- J Batista called the meeting to order at 4:46pm
- Present: B. Bacharach; J. Batistia; L. Bushner; M. Chak; S. Chaudhary; R. Dunbar; M. Ghandour; R. Gupta; E. Johnston; G. Kaufman; C. Li; D. Li; E. Liu; M. McBride; V. Michel; J. Selig; S. Tayal; P. Titcomb; R. Uttamchandani; Z. Zhu
- Not Present: S. Karnavat (unexcused); M. Stefanko (excused)

II. Oath of Office (J. Batista)

- The Assembly members took the Oath of Office

III. Open Microphone (E. Johnston)

- H. Pina '16 – Cornell EMS has been teaching hand CPR and are thankful for the Assembly's support in this initiative. Teaching has been happening in conjunction with the first-year swim test. This year was the pilot year, hoping to make it bigger next year.
- J. Huston '16 – Anyone interested in attending a bi-monthly meeting about campus issues should contact Jevan Hutson or Juliana Batista.
- J. Paige staff – The annual BEAR (Being Engaged and Responsible) Walk will be held on September 1, 2015 on the 400-block of College Avenue. More information is available [here](#).

IV. Announcements and Reports

- Beijing Send Off Report (E. Liu) – Representative Liu organized a Cornell event in Beijing for current undergraduate, graduate students; incoming undergraduate, graduate students; parents; families; and prospective students. About 100 people attended the event.
- Towards New Destinations (S. Chaudhary) – The Assembly will be taking on three initiatives: composition (committee staffing process should yield

- diverse committees; encourage a more diverse shared governance system); engagement (Assembly members will be holding meeting with key minority and international communities representatives to better engage them in the Assembly's legislative and other activities); inclusion (the United Student Body task force will use a \$5,000 innovation fund to sponsor initiatives to improve inclusion on campus).
- Referenda Process (J. Batista) – New referenda process will be launched this semester.
 - Attendance (M. McBride) – A reminder about the attendance policy reflected in the standing rules. Proxy votes are only permitted with excused absences.
 - Recruitment Events (M. Chak) – Recruitment events are being held to encourage students to run in the Freshman and Transfer races.

V. Business of the Day

- Resolution 1 – Approval of the 2015-2016 Standing Rules (E. Johnston, J. Berger)
 - The sponsors gave an overview of the changes present in the standing rules.
 - Parliamentarian helps to update the Standing Rules.
 - Update of organizational liaisons.
 - Committee chairs will have more power over what the definition of “active member” of a committee is.
 - Clarified the committees’ responsibility to review legislation.
 - Permits ex-officio members to amend resolutions and to sponsor legislation.
 - M. McBride clarified that coming late or leaving early from a meeting counts as half-absence.
 - M. Battaglia recommended using “shall” instead of “may” in the first clause of –§II.B.6.
 - Y. Bhandari asked about the deadline for the budget approval. The sponsors said that committees often commit funds early on in the academic year and it is not responsible to spend funds not formally allocated.
 - S. Tayal asked about the rules regarding committee membership and attendance policy approval. J. Berger said that if you don’t meet the committee requirement, you jeopardize your seat. E. Johnston said that the attendance policy will be, or can be, unique to each committee.

- B. Bacharach asked for clarification to the changes made to §II.B.6. J. Berger said that the rules clarifies that, in the event there is not a runner-up for a vacant seat on the assembly, there can be an interim appointment made by the Assembly.
 - M. McBride motioned to **amend** §VI.B.12 to insert “as outlined in the Bylaws” after “Rule 12: Ex-fficio members...”. The motion **passed** 18-0-0.
 - M. McBride motioned to **amend** §VI.B.13 to insert "as outlined in the Bylaws” after “Rule 13: Ex-officio members...”. The motion **passed** 18-0-0.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**. Resolution 1 was **adopted** by the Assembly by a vote of 18-0-0.
- Resolution 2 – Approval of the 2015-2016 Schedule (E. Johnston)
 - The sponsor noted that the calendar is self-explanatory.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**. Resolution 2 was **adopted** by the Assembly by a vote of 16-0-0.
- Resolution 3 – Approval of the 2015-2016 Bylaws (E. Johnston, J. Berger, M. Indimine)
 - J. Batista noted that this item will be considered New Business.
 - The sponsors gave an overview of the proposed changes to the Bylaws.
 - The President has the authority to communicate with heads of academic units, in addition to the President.
 - The end-of-year report is now due at the end of the term.
 - Removed the administering of the community cause from parliamentarian’s responsibility.
 - Secret ballot vote can only be used in executive session.
 - Any member of the undergraduate community can request that the voters of the community are actual undergraduate students.
 - G. Kaufman asked if the leadership of the Assembly has reached out to the heads of academic units about this new communication clause. J. Berger said that the Assembly has not, but that, in the past, the President has noted that the University is decentralized and certain issues only pertain to certain academic units.
 - P. Titcomb asked about for clarification about the membership of the Infrastructure fund. J. Berger and E. Johnston said that the

membership consists of 4 members of the Assembly, all but one of which are allocated to statutory positions. P. Titcomb motioned to **amend** §VI.3.D to change “The Commission shall consist of 4 voting members of the Assembly” to read “The Commission shall consist of 6 voting members of the Assembly.” The motion was **passed** by a vote of 18-0-0.

- M. Battaglia motioned to **amend** the Bylaws §IV.2.M to update references to the Student Assembly Finance Commission to the Student Activities Funding Commission. The motion was **withdrawn**.
- D. Li asked about the removal of section 9. J. Berger responded that the point was to update the Bylaws to be current with the Assembly practices. D. Li motioned to **amend** the Bylaws to restore §IX.
 - P. Titcomb said that it is important to keep the Assembly in compliance with governing documents. Striking this section from the bylaws does that.
 - Y. Bhandari echoed the statements of P. Titcomb.
 - S. Tayal recommended that instead of striking it from the Bylaws, making it recommended, not compulsory.
 - E. Johnston noted that this requirement came from previous Assemblies that did not host events other than this.
 - D. Li said that there is no harm in having something like this in the Bylaws.
 - J. Berger said that outreach events are still mandatory. Having accountability about other forms of outreach is not bad, but this section is not accomplishing that.
 - B. Bacharach recommended removing the reference to “Speak up” specification of the section.
 - E. Johnston said that intention was not to cancel outreach events. Individual outreach events are still required.
 - D. Li **withdrew** the motion to amend.
- D. Li motioned to **amend** Section 9 of the Bylaws to strike references to “Speak Up.”
 - G. Kaufman said that it is unnecessary to have this requirement in the bylaws.
 - B. Bacharach motioned to **Call the Question**.
 - The motion to amend **failed** by a vote of 2-14-1.

- B. Murphy noted that the use of the Ombudsman in Section 3 is no longer in line with the Ombudsman's policies and should be removed. G. Giambatistta noted that the Judicial Codes Counselor could be used as a substitute.
 - M. McBride motioned to move this item to Business of the Day. The item was moved to Business of the Day by vote of 18-0-0.
 - E. Liu noted that the lettering of Section 4 should be updated.
 - M. Battaglia motioned to amend §III.8.4.vii to restore "ensuring that candidates have submitted pictures and statements." The amendment was passed by a vote of 18-0-0.
 - G. Gambatistta asked for clarification regarding the FARC amendment. J. Berger noted that this was an oversight and will be clarified.
 - P. Titcomb asked that all references to "LGTB" be updated to "LGTBQ."
 - B. Bacharach and M. Henderson noted that the FARC section is out of date and should reflect all changes from the last few years.
 - S. Tayal said that the FARC chair should not be under the supervision of the VP Finance. E. Johnston said that each committee is under the supervision of a Vice President.
 - M. Battaglia said he disagrees with the removal of secret vote from use in the general body. J. Berger said that the point of the general body meetings is to be open.
 - J. Berger motioned to amend §IV.4 to strike "once every six weeks or additionally." The motioned to amend was passed by a vote of 16-1-0
 - M. McBride motioned to table the item. The motioned to table was passed by a vote of 17-0-0.
- Resolution 4 – Approval of 2015-2016 Operating Budget (M. Stefanko, E. Johnston)
 - E. Johnston noted that the budget has been reorganized and centralized by category, rather than by committee.
 - G. Kaufman motioned to Call the Question. The resolution was adopted by vote of 18-0-0

J. Batista adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 6:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Murphy
Secretariat, Office of the Assemblies