![Cornell University Student Assembly logo]

Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell Student University Assembly
Minutes of the Thursday August 24, 2017 Meeting
4:45 PM – 6:30 PM in WSH, Memorial Room

I. Call to Order
   a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.
   b. *Present at the Roll Call:* Attendance not available
   c. *Not Present at the Roll Call:* Attendance not available.

II. Open Microphone
   a. Nothing to report from SA Representatives or community members.

III. Announcements and Reports
   a. Carpool Initiative (Rep Valadez)
      i. Rep Valadez said the Carpool Initiative this past weekend to address the problem of inequity that first generation and low-income students face when they arrive on campus was a great success. Rep Valadez sent out email signups and 17 students signed up. Only 10 new students signed up to receive a ride, which was less than she wanted. She came to the SA to ask for reimbursement for the driveres' expenses, time, and gas, but was denied.
      ii. Cornell Senior Miguel who helped drive the students spoke about his experience and said he was grateful for the opportunity to give back to these new first generation students.
      iii. Opened to Speakers List
         1. Rep Kaufmann said he felt he was indirectly addressed and is happy to forward anyone the email conversation that he had with Rep Valadez explaining why he did not authorize the expense. The SA did not know exactly where they money would go and giving money to compensate volunteer student drivers could lead to consequences for the SA. However, he does support this initiative next year and is open to discussing this.
         2. Rep Valadez, in response to Rep Din, said at the time she began the initiative, she didn't know how many people were going to be involved. She wanted each driver to be compensated $15.
         3. SA Rep said last year the SA did not spend nearly as much money as it was supposed to and there is definitely enough money left in the budget. In the future, the SA is open to discussing how to spend this.
            a. SA Rep urged the Executive Board to not only communicate about the extra funds, but be clear on the guidelines on how to apply for it.

b. Rep Lipschutz – Hotel School Body/Body Switching Platform
   i. Rep Lipschutz talked about the initiative that started in the hotel school. Next week, he will be working with the Office of Student Services to create an online platform to make the course switching process more efficient.
c. EVP Devatha – Wall Street Journal Access
   i. EVP Devatha pushed for free digital Wall Street Journal subscriptions for Cornell Students. The SA has the New York Times subscription and historically the USA Today subscription. From his discussions with Wall Street Journal, it will cost about $1.75/student. If the SA gets the grad students on board, it will be $1.50/student. The benefit of getting them on board is that faculty and staff will get free access to this. With this, professors can start utilizing material from Wall Street Journal without having to worry about student access.
   ii. Opened to speakers list
      1. EVP Devatha said Rep Kaufman is going to have a convo with the GSPA, but regardless of that situation, it will be 25 cents more expensive with just undergrads, which he thinks is still a good deal.
      2. SA member clarified that the current allocation to spend on newspapers was made two years ago when they were still funding print copies. For the previous year and this school year, the SA is actually overfunded for newspaper allocations.
      3. G. Giambattista, responding to concerns that New York Times online subscription wasn't working, said it runs on an academic cycle that ends in May and starts up this week. She said it should be working now and told representatives to tell their constituents because they want students to use this.
IV. Presentations
   a. Agnes App (Alumnus Joe Nelson '14)
      i. J. Nelson gave a background of himself and showed two videos introducing the free mobile app, Agnes, a centralized platform that features a collection of events on and off campus, as well as group profiles of all student organizations. Through the app, students can be kept up-to-date about the events going on around them.
      ii. J. Nelson gave a brief overview of how to use the functions and personalize the app. To access the app, students have to download the app, connect to Facebook, and provide their Cornell email addresses. Students can make their own personal profiles on the app and share events with their friends. J.
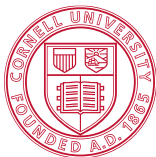
Nelson said he was open to the SA for input on how to make the app better for Cornell.

   iii. Opened to speakers list.

1. Rep Devatha said one problem the SA faces is that the representatives do not understand their constiuents well enough. An app like this can solve that problem, as it allows us to see what our constituents are doing and where to go. An organization may be able to say they want the SA to know about an event specicifically, and we can do that on a two way street. We will be able to better understand who our constituents are and how to reach them. We should discuss the marketing of this app.

2. SA Rep said this is a great way to engage people. I know of this app at other schools where you can take a picture of a quarter card and it will lead you to a link. If we could combine that feature, that would be amazing.

3. Rep Herz suggested partnering with ClubFest, so instead of having students sign up for listervs and getting a bunch of emails, students can just utilize the app to follow organizations.

4. J. Nelson said the app does attempt to filter events. For example, if you are an undergrad on campus, you will not be shown graduate student organization suggestions and vice versa. He also said, regarding off campus events, that they do try to pull events from different sources, and as long as the event is public, it can be picked up by the App.

5. Rep Valadez suggested having a feature where people can have a specific place to put initiatives or a weeklong event as a lot of student organizations have initiatives that span a long period of time.

V.   New Business

   a. Rep Kim motioned to move SA Resolution 2 ahead of SA Resolution 1 on the agenda – <mark>passed</mark> by unanimous consent

   b. Resolution 2: Ensuring Applicant Accessibility to SAFC Guidelines (Rep Kaufman)

      i. Rep Kaufman said this resolution amends the Student Activities Funding Comission (SAFC) Charter to help lower-tier organizations (organizations assigned Tier 4, 5, 6, or 7) receive funding. At the time of their application, organizations of these tiers must demonstrate that they have sent a representative to attend a "Help Session" that would assist in the SAFC application process. Organizations that do not do so forfeit the right to demand a SAFC Appeals Board Hearing, unless granted an exception by the

Chair of the SAFC Appeals Board. This Help Session could help clarify the process and reduce the chances of technical mistakes that would lead to no funding. However, the organization will still have the right to a budget hearing.

ii. SA Rep said the first type of mistakes organizations make in the application process are often technical mistakes, for example submitting a budget in time. The second type of mistakes are often in interpretation and misunderstandings. These mistakes are easily explained if the club attends the Help Session. The reason we do not require this of high-tier organizations is that these organizations that have demonstrated over a period of time that they are able to fully comply with SAFC guidelines in filling another budget.

iii. Motion to move this to Business of the Day – passed

iv. SAFC Representative said the clause of "truly exceptional circumstances" that would allow a lower-tier organization that failed to send a representative to a Help Session to be granted a SAFC Appeals Board Hearing was included because such exceptions could include technical difficulties, such as computer malfunctions.

v. Rep Kaufman made a motion to amend the Resolution to "and it has fulfilled the Help Session requirement as outlined in section 6.1.2"

vi. SA Rep said they do not see the purpose of these Help Sessions if the SAFC holds Office Hours.

    1. SAFC Representative said we do have office hours and actually they do help groups, but they have a lot on campus and it's not possible to address every group's needs in these times.

vii. Rep Kaufman made a motion to amend lines 32 "of three" and "three" 33 in case they want to hold more Help Sessions.

viii. Motion to vote on the amendment – amendment passed 19-0-1

c. Resolution 1: Approval of the 2017-2018 Standing Rules (Rep Devatha)

i. Rep Devatha motioned to amend the title to say 2018 – passed

ii. Rep Devatha said the SA Bylaws state the first meeting of the academic year must be used to approve the Standing Rules and this resolution proposes changes to the Standing Rules for the Fall 2017 Assembly session.

iii. Rep Kaufman said he thinks the SA should get some feedback before we vote.

iv. Rep Hertz made motion to move this to Business of the Day – passed

v. A motion to amend at the end of line 133 to strike "A summary of the initiative reports will re reported over the Actions Listserv bi-weekly" was made.

      vi.   Motion to amend 132 strike "as reports" – passed

     vii.   Rep Kim made a motion to approve the amendment by unanimous consent – passed

  d. Resolution 3: Approving Student Assembly Budget (Rep Kaufman)

       i.   Rep Kaufman said according to the SA Standing Rules, the SA budget must be passed by the second meeting of the year, which is next week. He did not think it was appropriate for the SA to vote on this today, but at the next meeting. Rep Kaufman went through the expense categories for the 2016-17 budget and noted that the thing that jumped out the most was that although $2,000 was allocated within the "Diversity" section, $0 was spent. He said it not acceptable and that the SA should be spending more.

      ii.   Rep Kaufman said the Organizational Support account was created to help support SAFC organizations that didn't get funded. He spoke with the SAFC commissioners and they said this amount wasn't nearly enough to make a dent to help these organizations, so he recommend they get rid of this organizational support category.

     iii.   Motion to remove the "Organizational Support" category of the 2017-18 Budget.

     iv.   Rep Hertz asked why these funds were not allocated directly, but rather backup funds were created under "Special Projects."

          1.   Rep Kaufman said if allocate the $5,000, it would get spent up and create an incentive for organizations to not cooperate with us.

          2.   Rep Park said there are a lot of organizations that do not get SAFC funding, but it would be beneficial even if the SA is able to fund only one or two organizations. It would be beneficial to have that safety net there.

          3.   Rep Kaufman recommended putting the $5,000 into the Special Projects funding if the SA decides to remove it from this Organizational Support section. They can advertise more about how to use it and get more organizations involved.

      v.   Rep Cabbell supported keeping the Organizational Support because it is a different route for organizations to get additional funding.

      vi.   Rep Varun said he was on the special projects team and said it was not fair to give the money out to one or two specific organizations when 50 or so of them made the exact same application mistake. Instead of focusing on the organization, he suggested refocusing on the individual project so organizations can maybe get a smaller allocation of the fund.

     vii.   Rep Kaufman made a motion to vote on the amendment.
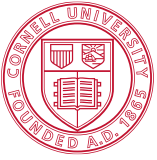
1. Dissent: SA Rep said they have not discussed the important part of the logistics of what this would mean. The SA does not know exactly where the funds of "Organizational Support" would go to.
2. SA Rep said most of what where the funds went last year was to the Slope Day Programming Board to supply breakfast. Referring to the $16,000 amount the SA spent last year, they only allocated $5,000, so the SA spent more than 3 times the amount.
3. SA Rep said they should not keep this in the budget because they currently have no definition to what "organizational support" is. As of now, special projects allocation can go to any project or service so they can put all this money into Special Projects and use it for what we intended the Organizational Support section to do.
4. Rep Kaufman went over the process of applying for Speical Project funding. An organization would apply for special project funding is to fill out a special projects funding request that is online. It is between 400 and 1500$. The appropropriations committee then has to approve it and if its more than $12-1500 then the full assembly has to approve it.
5. Motion for amendment – passes 19-0-1

viii. G. Kaufman made a motion to amend the budget as it did not include the percent over expense column – passed

ix. Rep Valadez also brought up the issue of the SA not spending any money on diversity last year. However, last year she did request funding for the Latino Leadership Summit and she thought that is where the money came from. They also gave funding for the Thanksgiving Initiative last year, and also funded food for a memorial last year, so she wondered where the money came out of and asked if it was out of Special Projects.
1. G Kaufman said he is happy to speak to her about that.

x. Rep Barbaria brings up a lack of communication. The previous Executive Board did not explain properly as to how to request funding for initiatives and what the money could be spent on. A lot of budgets that could of gotten funding did not. He pushes for better communication so that the SA does spend the allocated money.

VI. Adjournment
   a. Motion to adjourn and move into executive session – passed
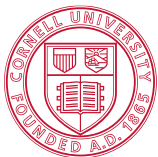
J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Tran
Clerk of the Assembly