



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell Student University Assembly Minutes of the September 7, 2017 Meeting 4:45 PM – 6:00 PM Robert Purcell Multipurpose Room 218

I. Call to Order

- a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.
- b. *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Anderson [0]; T. Ball [0]; D. Barbaria [0]; O. Corn [0]; O. Din [0]; V. Devatha [0]; H. Hassan [0]; R. Herz [0]; M. Indimine [0]; G. Kaufman [0]; J. Kim [0]; T. Magloire [0]; A. Martinez [0]; R. Cornell [0]; S. Park [0]; J. Pollard [0]; S. Zavala [0]; C. Schott [0]; J. Sanon [0]; E. Shapiro [0]; D. Tokunboh [0]; M. Valadez [0]

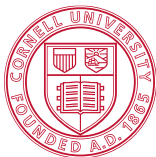
II. Open Microphone

- a. Irving Torres Lopez, a Senior resident at the Latino Living Center, addressed the September 6 incident where a member of Zeta Psi fraternity chanted “build a wall” near the Latino Living Center, urged the Student Assembly to address the issue, stating he does not recall the SA sending an email out or making a statement.
 - i. M. Valadez thanked I. Lopez for speaking and said hate speech should be followed with repercussions, but the university does not have a clause in the code of conduct that addresses this.
 - ii. V. Devatha urged the Greek community to stop this hate speech.
 - iii. J. Kim talked about engaging the fraternity community and urged the administration to consider implementing diversity initiatives.
 - iv. T. Ball reiterated that hate speech will not be tolerated on this campus.
 - v. J. Anderson urged SA representatives to take a stand up against fraternity misconduct, reaching out to constituents to uncover problems before they come to them.
 - vi. T. Maglorie said that statements only go so far so we need to make actual change happen.
 - vii. J. Sanon said that that Cornell has a history of not addressing similar incidents, leading to a validation of racist remarks with the freedom of speech. J. Sanon urges the university to address these issues and implement real consequences.
- b. President Martha Pollack acknowledged the difficult time the country is facing, but urged people to reflect on the good things. Cornell Tech is opening and Cornell has a strong first-year class that is the most diverse. President M. Pollack also said that people do have a responsibility for the things they say.
 - i. Mic opened to questions.



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- ii. Freshman student said she has always noticed racial micro-aggressions since coming on campus and does not feel safe here.
 - iii. Transfer student asked the university how and how soon the administration will respond to the list of demands from students regarding racial incidents.
 - c. President M. Pollack said she does not have a response today as the administration is still gathering facts and information but that they will respond.
 - i. Mic opened to questions and comments.
 - ii. Member of Cornell DREAM Team said she sees no action to create an honor code to prevent something like this from happening again.
 - iii. Senior student at Cornell calls for action instead of sympathy and statements to build a better future for the next class.
 - iv. Student states he cannot concentrate on studying when these incidents are going on in campus.
 - v. Freshman student said she experienced racism on the first day of class and urged the school to follow their statement of "diversity and inclusion."
 - vi. A. Martinez highlighted the fact that the Cornell Sun reported the incident as a fraternity member "allegedly" chanting, even after the fraternity member sent an email to the LLC confirming he did do it.
 - d. President M. Pollack said she feels a need to apologize for the incident on behalf of her as well as Vice President Ryan Lombardi and that the apology is not an excuse for the incident. The university is focusing on immediate issues, such as looking into the fraternity responsible, but also long-term areas regarding diversity, such as increasing the diversity of the university's faculty.
- III. J. Kim opened the mic to assembly members.
 - a. Assembly member encouraged community members to continue voicing their concerns and reaching out to LLC. He does not believe that President M. Pollack's statement was enough, as respectful as it was.
 - b. O. Din said that he believes it is on the assembly to hold the IFC accountable.
 - c. N. Hernandez said that we need a resolution or a change in the code of conduct to hold people accountable so that incidents like this do not keep occurring.
 - d. Student said that labor needs to be equally balanced and called on assembly to assist with creating a code or guidelines.
 - e. University Assembly Representative said that he will be pushing for the University Assembly to work harder so that the code of conduct can be changed. He called on IFC members to speak up.
 - f. Student said there will be a rally tomorrow (Sept. 8) at noon.
 - g. Associate Dean of Students and Cornell '74 Alumna Dr. Renee Alexander said that structurally and systemically, things haven't changed very much. Dr. R. Alexander



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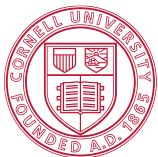
said it's not Cornell's fault, but rather society's fault as people grow up in a racist society. She urges for Cornell to design something for people to go through right when they arrive on campus to raise people's consciousness.

- h. J. Kim said that the way meetings are structured are very reactionary. Instead, they should hold proactive meetings, working together to discuss how they should solve problems. He said he will send emails out to request people to meet at other times, such as Sundays.
 - i. S. Park said they were thinking about extending the length of time you can suspend an organization, and as of now, the limit is a single year.
 - i. G. Kuafman added onto that and said the CJC met to discuss proposing a code amendment to allow the judicial administration the authority to suspend organizations to over a year or indefinitely. Greek life is university-recognized and in the office of fraternity and sorority life and president does have authority to revoke recognition at will
 - j. D. Barbaria said that the campus code of conduct has to go through the University Assembly committee. This year they are reviewing the document as a whole, so to discuss specific changes, this would be the year to discuss that.
 - k. R. Herz said increasing time of suspension does nothing to prosecute the people who said these racist comments.
 - l. M. Valadez addressed the issue of how the Cornell community, specifically students of color, see the Student Assembly in a negative light. We spend so much time making organization better when efforts are futile because others aren't backing them up. Hold yourself and others accountable so the people of color on this body do not have to do all the work.
 - m. Assembly member said that if we have guidelines and codes in place, people will think twice about saying hateful comments.
 - n. T. Cabbell said people were amazing about speaking up and to ask M. Pollack what she would do on the spot. We have faith in her because she has been somewhat proactive, but people should email her to tell her that this will not be tolerated. First time her presidency may be legacy. This person deserves punishment and sets the tone for the future. We need to reach out to other groups that have been hurt on this campus. Solve the problem from multiple groups.
 - o. J. Pollard said we need to push for and address equity and justice.
 - p. O. Corn said she does not think Greek life pushed the bad judgement and lack of morality by the fraternity brother.
- IV. J. Kim motioned to suspend the rules and skip to resolutions on the agenda – passed
- a. Resolution 7: Clarifying the Student Assembly's Policy on Social Media Statement sponsored by S. Park and Z. Lawrence



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- b. G. Kaufman said the Appropriations Committee unanimously supported this document.
- c. Motion to strike second haven on line 19; **passed** by unanimous consent
- d. Motion to move it to business of the day – 17-0-1
- e. G. Kaufman said the assembly could vote on this now and approve the charter changes, or wait a week and vote on their actual updated charter. He recommended waiting as nothing in the resolution will impact anything within the week.
- f. Motion to vote 8-8-3; motion **failed**
- g. Motion to table
 - i. Dissent from R. Hertz
 - ii. Motion to table was revoked
- h. J. Kim said you can't make a motion to vote while someone is in the middle of speaking. J. Kim directed a question to G. Kaufman and asked if the document is a separate document or an amendment to the charter. J. Kim said it is fine if the assembly sends two messages to President M. Pollack if they do pass the resolution today.
 - i. G. Kaufman said it is a separate document.
 - ii. G. Kaufman said Haven: The LGBTQ Student Union wanted to make amendments to their charter and also wanted to create an events committee with its own governing document. The Appropriations Committee liked the amendments to the charter, but thought the events committee needs some work, and so the Committee sent it back to them with recommendations. 3 days later, G. Kaufman received the updated version from the President of Haven. One of the requests the Appropriations Committee made was for Haven to take the events committee constitution and tack it on to their actual charter. The SA does not have the power to amend the charter of an organization while they're discussing them, but the charter that will be coming from Haven would only include the constitution of their events committee. G. Kaufman says once Appropriations Committee passes the resolution, the SA could reject this one and approve the other.
 - iii. R. Hertz said this resolution only has benign changes, so we should just pass it. She said it has nothing to do with SA and that Haven is not going to make the right changes in one week.
 - iv. G. Kaufman said we should table the resolution. After it is tabled, he will ask the Appropriations Committee to pass Haven's governing documents and then the SA should pass it too.
- i. Motion to table: 19-0-1; **tabled**



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Motion to extend meeting by 10 minutes

Motion to adjourn – unanimous

Adjourned 6:34 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Tran

Clerk of the Assembly