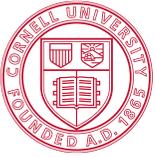


## Cornell University Student Assembly

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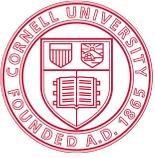
Minutes of the Thursday September 21, 2017 Meeting  
4:45 PM – 6:30 PM in Malott Hall: Balche Auditorium

- I. Call to Order
  - a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:45PM.
  - b. *Present at the Roll Call:* D. Barbaria, T. Ball, O. Corn, V. Devatha, R. Hertz, H. Hassan, M. Indimine, G. Kaufman, J. Kim, L. Lipschutz, T. Magloire, R. Cornell, S. Park, J. Pollard, S. Romero Zavala, C. Schott, E. Shapiro, D. Tokunboh, M. Valadez
  - c. *Not Present at the Roll Call:* O. Din, A. Martinez, J. Sanon
- II. Open Microphone
  - a. S. Romero Zavala announced the Students With Puerto Rico Initiative, a fundraiser inspired by students in universities over 15 states to assist those affected by Hurricane Maria. She encourages people to donate at [www.gofundme.com/studentswithpr](http://www.gofundme.com/studentswithpr).
  - b. A. Martinez addressed the incident that occurred this week regarding a Cornell Student, believed to be a member of the suspended Cornell chapter of Psi Upsilon, said to have called a black student a racial slur and then physically attacked him. He does not believe the university embodies its mantra of “any person, any study” and strongly urges for conversations with people of color and other minority groups.
  - c. A community member from Black Students United said the group is appreciative of the administration so far and has been in communication with President Martha Pollack on this issue.
  - d. A community member said that a fraternity with roughly 30 to 40 members does not deserve to be put down on the actions of one or two of its members. He asks the university to conduct a very thorough investigation before making a decision about the Cornell chapter of Psi Upsilon.
  - e. A community member said that this chapter has not had a very good history and this may be something we should consider not wanting to have at Cornell.
  - f. A community member said the Greek system was founded on principles of racism. The institutions that moderate the system is flawed and she listed out a list of demands, including urging the university to create better ways to monitor groups on campus, analyze why these issues persist, and to create a better version of the Greek system.
  - g. A community member said we all have a role to play in combatting this institutional racism.
  - h. Motion to amend the agenda to move Resolution 8 ahead of the Tri-Council Presentation – passed



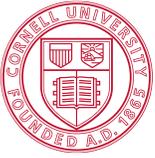
## Cornell University Student Assembly

- III. T. Magloire – Resolution 8: Condemning Hate Crimes and Hate Speech
- a. M. Valadez said this resolution comes to the floor in addition to parallel resolutions from every other body of shared governance on campus. The resolution that came to the floor of the University Assembly tasked the committee to, by the end of the semester, come up with a timeline as to how to address the Code of Conduct changes. This resolution, in addition to condemning hate crimes and hate speech, also calls on the University Assembly Codes and Judicial Committee to expedite the consideration of the Campus Code of Conduct changes requested by Black Students United (BSU). The resolution also supports all the demands made to the Administration by the the LAL (La Asociacion Latina) and BSU.
    - i. T. Magloire made a motion to amend line 34 to strike “one student allegedly” and replace with “John P.A. Greenwood ‘20” – **passed** through unanimous consent
    - ii. M. Valadez made a motion to amend line 64 to add “Be it further resolved, that the Student Assembly unequivocally supports all of the demands made to the Administration by Black Students United and La Asociación Latina” – **passed**
    - iii. T. Maglore made a motion to amend line 67 to, after “Black Students United” add “by the end of the fall 2017 semester.” – **passed**
  - b. M. Valadez added that she was in contact with the administration as well, including VP Ryan Lombardi.
    - i. Motion to amend line 68 to add “Be it further resolved that Cornell University fulfills its commitment to students by never recognizing the Chi Chapter of Psi Upsilon again”
      1. Motion to vote on the amendment by roll call – **passed** 17-1-1
    - ii. Motion to vote on amendment – amendment **passes** 16-1-2
  - c. Motion to move resolution to Business of the Day – **passed** by unanimous consent
  - d. Motion to vote by roll call – **passed**
    - i. J. Kim said they also have 2 community votes.
  - e. Resolution **passes** 19-0-1.
- IV. Tri-Council Presentation
- a. Presentors
    - i. Drew Lord, President of the Interfraternity Council
    - ii. Brianna Barrett, President of the Multicultural Greek Letter Council
    - iii. Caitlin Gleason, President of the Panhellenic Council
    - iv. Paul Russell, Vice President for Recruitment for the Interfraternity Council
    - v. Dr. Joseph Burke, Executive Director of Campus and Community Engagement



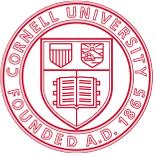
## Cornell University Student Assembly

- b. D. Lord announced they were presenting their plan on diversity and inclusion, something that is long overdue. He said their proposal is not going to solve every single problem, but it is a start. D. Lord said that horrible people are always going to exist, but the council does acknowledge the Greek system has always historically promoted social factions, elitism, and exclusionary behavior, but this does not have to define the future.
- c. B. Barrett said the scope of the council's judicial power is not as all-encompassing as some may imagine. The executive board can mandate programming, implement educational training, create and enforce regulations, and sanction chapters for chapter-specific violations, recruitment of factions, and minor hazing allegations. However, they do not have the power to expel individual members or revoke the recognition of a chapter. Any investigations, interviews, reports, sanctions, and decisions relating to these infractions are handled by the Office of Campus and Community Engagement.
- d. C. Gleason said the Tri-Council's Diversity and Inclusivity plan is the beginning of a long and hard fight to restructure their cultural core. The council representatives come today to ask for partnership to attack these issues.
- e. P. Russell said there are immediate action items in the plan and there are items that will come into effect later on.
- f. J. Burke said he believes this is an issue larger than the Greek community and that administrators and staff also have to step up more than they have in the past.
- g. Community member criticized President Pollack for calling on, in her statement, the IFC to develop substantial diversity training and educational training programs but not connecting the council leaders with administrators or allocating resources to them to support the initiative.
- h. Community member brought up having every chapter create their own personalized diversity and inclusion plans.
  - i. C. Gleason said she met with chapter presidents in Panhellenic and they are working on signing their own statements to reaffirm the BSU and LAL statements.
  - ii. D. Lord said he also met with chapter presidents and they are committed to this work, as well as disgusted by everything that has happened. These chapter leaders are the best people in their chapters as they were elected for a reason. However, one of the things they discussed was reaching the problematic people within their chapters, educating them and getting them involved in the plan.
- i. Community member asked how they can get involved.



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- i. D. Lord suggested coming to these meetings, talking to Greek members, reviewing their plan, and giving them feedback. He urged community members to not be scared to reach out.
  - ii. B. Barrett suggested reading the literature they put out and giving honest critical opinions. They are talking about disbanding centuries of institutional racism, segregation, elitism.
- j. Community member inquired about Section 4 of the plan regarding bringing in more workshops to be led by the Greek community and raised a concern about the same oppression persisting if Greek leaders are training Greek members.
  - i. B. Barrett said she and C. Gleason are sitting on the committee that is working on the new member orientation program. They want a diversity program at the beginning of each semester and Greek leaders and chapter presidents will be trained to facilitate this. It is still in developments so she does not have concrete answers at this point.
- k. Community member says as a queer student, he wants to know why there is no mention of gay, queer, LGBT+ or other genders in the plan.
  - i. D. Lord says those are the criticisms they want to hear and this will be included into the plan.
  - ii. C. Gleason said part of the model they are using is something that was adopted from Panhellenic in the spring called the Sisterhood Project, which can be found on their website. Every chapter was responsible for designating a committee and every committee was overseen by her and her executive vice president. Every chapter was responsible for picking an area of focus, which included this topic. However, it is a problem that this is not explicitly stated.
- l. R. Hertz said there is an obvious lack of diversity in Greek life. Freshman and transfer students who want to rush next spring will be even more afraid to rush, because it does not feel like a safe space now.
  - i. P. Russell said he took on this position because he felt Greek life wasn't as diverse as he hoped, but it is still a huge issue. He does not have an answer now.
- m. M. Valadez, referring to page 5, asked what the definition of "citizenship" was and does not understand why the council is waiting until the second quarter to take action.
  - i. D. Lord clarified that people may think second quarter refers to second semester but second quarter is actually after fall break.
  - ii. B. Barrett said what they meant by "citizenship" ties into respect as a Greek citizen and a member of the community.



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- n. S. Park brought up classism, which was something she noticed during Panhellenic rush.
    - i. C. Gleason said this is not specifically in this plan. She agrees there is a lot of classism in the Panhellenic rush process but they have made changes, including taking away “open closets” during house tours, eliminating hometowns on nametags, and making the focus of recruitment less about what someone is wearing and more on what they are saying.
  - o. C. Schott brought up hazing and the fact that students still die from hazing.
    - i. D. Lord said changing the culture and the community of the Greek system and getting results takes way more time than they are on campus for. It is hard to evaluate the effectiveness of something if they can not see it happening, but they have to trust that they are putting their best foot forward by putting these initiatives out.
  - p. D. Lord said they are planning on having an online diversity training to be completed by all members before spring recruitment. Diversity trainings are not always the most effective, but it is a step in the right direction.
  - q. D. Lord said they cannot control the actions of every single member, but there should be clear expectations, enforcement, and consequences in place.
  - r. J. Kim thanked the council for creating the plan and says it is a right step.
- V. Motion to approve the minutes of the August 31 meeting – passed
- VI. Motion to move byline report to next on the agenda – passed
- VII. New Business
- a. G. Kaufman – ALANA Byline Report
    - i. G. Kaufman said ALANA Intercultural Board, which is an intercultural umbrella student organization, came before the Appropriations Committee and requested \$8.10 per student from the Student Activity Fee for the 2018-2020 byline cycle – a five cent increase from the current allocation of \$8.05 per student for the 2016-2018 byline cycle. After the presentation and during discussion, the committee looked at the \$59,233.31 surplus listed under fiscal year '18 in the category “End of Year Surplus” and interpreted that to mean that there will be that much surplus at the end of this upcoming May. Thus, the Appropriations Committee recommended a decrease in funding of \$7.50. However, this is not the case. ALANA will not have a surplus in May 2018 and expenditures show that they will run down their surplus.
    - ii. G. Kaufman made a motion to overturn the Appropriations Committee’s decision. He also recommend funding them the maximum amount of \$8.10/student as the committee did not intend to cut their funding.

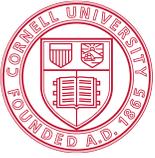


## Cornell University Student Assembly

- iii. ALANA representative said they worked over 50 hours to type up a byline packet over 90 pages, and it is disheartening to see that the Appropriations Committee did not fully look over the packet.
- iv. Motion to overturn the Appropriations Committee's decision – passed
- v. Motion to fund ALANA at \$8.10/student – passed 19-0-1
- vi. J. Kim made a motion to extend the meeting to 6:45 – passed 13-3-1
- vii. Motion to move onto the resolutions – passed

### VIII. Business of the Day

- a. D. Barbaria – Resolution 6: Setting Public Statement Policy
  - i. Motion to table Resolution 6 indefinitely – tabled
  - ii. V. Devatha explained it will be replaced by another resolution for a statement policy that will go into the Standing Rules.
- b. S. Park – Resolution 7: Bylaws Amendment on Statement Policy
  - i. D. Barbaria explained that a bylaw amendment must appear on the agenda a week before it is voted on, so he wants to introduce this resolution today and have a discussion. The reason they tabled Resolution 6 and wanted a better one is so that the incidents of the Executive Committee not knowing how to handle statements do not occur again. Because of the lack of time, he does not think it is a good idea to have an in-depth discussion today. He suggests making amendments next week, passing the resolution next week and have it put in the bylaws.
  - ii. Motion to table resolution.
    - 1. V. Devatha raised a dissent, citing the need for a discussion now so they can have amendments by next meeting.
  - iii. T. Cabbell does not think a statement should be posted just because the Executive votes on it unanimously, but rather have it be sent to the assembly.
  - iv. D. Barbaria said the Executive should have the power to post things on the Facebook page, such as announcing the time and place of meetings.
    - 1. V. Devatha added that he does not want the assembly to have to go through the bureaucratic process for certain things, citing a marketing push for example. However, they can discuss next week ways to allow statements to go to the whole assembly in the resolution.
  - v. G. Kaufman said he wanted to speak to J. Pollard's point that there should be a deadline. If we impose a deadline, it may push someone to vote "no" automatically. He suggests that if a single person on Exec votes "no," then the statement should go to the assembly and a deadline is not necessary.



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- vi. D. Barbaria said this resolution for Facebook statements is intended for emergencies. If there is something not time-sensitive, the SA should put out something they can all put their time and energy into.
  - vii. Motion to table – **tabeled**
  - viii. Motion to move to Resolution 9 – **passed**
  - c. V. Devatha – Resolution 9: Converting 2 Forest Park into a Resource Center
    - i. D. Barbaria motioned to table the resolution indefinitely – **tabeled**
  - d. G. Kaufman – WRC Byline Report
    - i. D. Barbaria motioned to table the Women’s Resource Center Byline Report until next week – **tabeled**
- IX. Announcements and Reports
- a. V. Devatha – Collegiate Readership Program (CRP)
    - i. V. Devatha said he will submit a resolution to get the Wall Street Journal subscription next week.
  - b. V. Devatha – Sprint Planning, Tasks, & Channels
    - i. V. Devatha said there is a required meeting this Sunday 3-5pm in Goldwin Smith, and he will send the exact location out. Send excusable absences to D. Barbaria. V. Devatha asked assembly members to be prepared for the tasks they signed up for.
  - c. T. Ball – Campus Planning Committee Update
    - i. T. Ball said the committee had its first meeting. They are planning to revive 2000 new beds for housing on north campus. He told members to be on the lookout for community input requests from undergraduate students. Concerns about efficiency were raised at the committee meeting.
- X. Adjournment
- a. J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.
- XI. Executive Session
- a. Health & Wellness Committee Chair Appointment
  - b. Romantic Relationships Committee Alternates
  - c. Parliamentary Quiz

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Catherine Tran*  
Clerk of the Assembly