

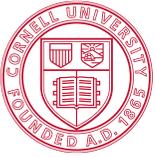
# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell Student University Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday October 19, 2017 Meeting

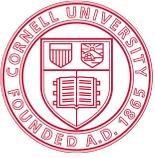
4:45 PM – 6:30 PM in WSH, Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order
  - J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:45
  - *Present at the Roll Call:* T. Ball, D. Barbaria, A. Chowdhury, O. Corn, R. Cornell, O. Din, O. Egharevba, R. Hertz, M. Indimine, G. Kaufman, J. Kim, S. Lim, A. Martinez, S. Park, M. Peralta-Ochoa, J. Pollard, S. Romero Zavala, J. Sanon, C. Schott, E. Shapiro, J. Sim, D. Tokunboh, M. Valadez, I. Wallace
  - *Unexcused at the Roll Call:* V. Devatha, H. Hassan, L. Lipschutz, T. Magloire
- II. Open Microphone
  - a. Nothing to say.
- III. Announcements & Reports
  - a. VP Park – Communications Committee Update
    - i. Rep. Park said committee had its first meeting and announced plans for a more functional site that will include any projects or side resolutions members are working on. She requested members to send her a message or let her know if any resolutions are in the works. The committee also wants to establish better communication with community, so instead of sending a monthly newsletter, they want to send something out before every meeting
    - ii. Rep. Park said the Committee wants to create separate committee, so please contact them if you're interested.
  - b. Rep. Egharevba – Academic Policy & Steve Forbes
    - i. Rep. Egharevba said he wants to change Cornell's GPA scale to a 4.0 scale.
    - ii. Rep. Egharevba announced that Steve Forbes will be coming to Cornell. You can pick up tickets at WSH.
  - c. Rep. Schott – International Financial Aid Update
    - i. Rep. Schott explained that the current situation is that international applicants who are not awarded financial aid in initial application are not allowed to reapply regardless of circumstance. He is working on a resolution to create an emergency fund separate from Cornell for international students and wants to encourage international alumni to donate to such fund.
  - d. Rep. Pollard gave an update that the Infrastructure Fund Committee application is live and applications are due the 27<sup>th</sup> of October.
- IV. Annual Sustainability & Climate Action Update



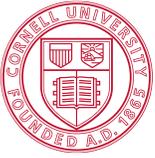
## Cornell University Student Assembly

- a. VP of Infrastructure and Planning Frederick Burgess gave a background of himself and his group. He just retired from doing public works for the Navy, came to Cornell at the end of August.
  - i. There is a major concern regarding carbon neutrality and the effect of fossil fuels today.
- b. Sustainability Communications & Integration Manager Sarah Brylinsky from the Campus Sustainability Office gave an overview of the Sustainability Highlights.
  - i. S. Brylinsky said Cornell is the top Ivy League Institution for sustainability this year in rankings across the board.
  - ii. S. Brylinsky introduced New Student Resources.
    1. New Sustainability Campus and Community Map
    2. Cornell Guide to Sustainable Living: update to the Student Green Guide
- c. F. Burgess gave a brief overview of the seven priorities the Senior Leaders Climate Action Group (SLCAG) is actively advancing.
  - i. Rep. Kaufman asked about the approach the department is planning on taking if geothermal energy doesn't pan out, as it is really risky and not sustainable.
    1. F. Burgess answered that his team has structured it in a multi-stage approach with research, testing, and evaluation. It would be premature to say we already failed and has the potential to succeed. It's our best option at this point to get there.
- d. Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions Michael Hoffmann said our role is to change the behavior of every single individual at Cornell.
  - i. Group consists of several faculty, staff, and students and they have 3 teams: Climate Change Literacy, Behavior Change, and Developing Leaders.
- e. Associate Vice President Robert Bland gave a Climate Action Plan Update, stating Cornell is on track to carbon neutrality by 2035. We have seen a 33% reduction to date since we moved beyond coal. He invited anyone who wants to see the facilities to reach out to him.
- f. S. Brylinsky gave an overview of the Energy Smackdown Competition where buildings and individuals can compete against each other. They can sign up on the Facebook page or online.
  - i. S. Brylinsky asked for the SA's help in getting the community engaged in the 5 Year Sustainability Plan with the 5 areas of Climate Leadership, Campus, Community, Living Laboratory, and Government & Finance.



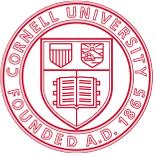
## Cornell University Student Assembly

1. The plan does not have smart goals concerning certain things around campus, naming water to be one and explaining this is an open process. She requested SA's help in getting people involved.
  2. Next workshop will be on Thursday Nov. 9 from 9am-noon.
- g. Opened up for Questions
- i. R. Bland explained the process of drilling down far enough, maybe almost 5 km down, where the actual ground temp is hot enough to heat the building. This process is done in some tectonically active areas of the world but if we can figure out how to make it work in areas that are not tectonically active, it can open up a lot of possibilities
  - ii. F. Burgess said our plan is to think about our community engagement, and there was an initiative to show people they were not going to cause catastrophic impacts on the lake. They will engage in a similar type of engagement with the community and once we have this strategy worked out, the team would like to come back and get reinforcements, assistance, and feedback. However, they are not ready for this yet.
  - iii. S. Brylinsky said one of the things that was in the options report was vehicle electrification. They do want to do more research on how they can move forward.
  - iv. Cornell Senior Charlie asked what the department is planning on doing about community outreach.
    1. S. Brylinsky explained Energy Smackdown competition and that a lot of communication is being geared toward a social media this year
  - v. M. Hoffmann said a campus split of energy use is about half heating, half electric. There is a vision for a carbon neutral campus, procuring all energy off-site – wind, water, and solar. Getting the logistics for travel, community and air fare has been a little more difficult problem.
  - vi. F. Burgess said we are getting some of our electricity from some of our solar panels that we have, but the ultimate goal would be to use solar for electricity and earth for heat. However, there are challenges that go with that, for ex. Solar takes a lot of land.
  - vii. Rep. Pollard announced that there is a ChemE class MWF 9am if you're interested, stop by and listen; asked about sulfur
    1. M. Hoffmann said this will be subject to a study, we did get a grant, but not to drill a well.
  - viii. Rep. Schott said engagement should also include administrative officials, especially people involved with the endowment.



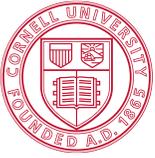
## Cornell University Student Assembly

1. S. Brylinsky said the Campus Sustainability plan has a Government & Finance section so this is the perfect place to start work through funding and investment issues.
  - ix. Rep. Jaewon: Regarding paper purchasing at Cornell, our score is low compared to other institutions, but we aren't using recycled paper, do you have any plans to start using recycled paper?
    1. S. Brylinsky said the New Campus Sustainability goals have to be set. They do not necessarily have target goals in this yet, and this is a perfect goal to put in.
  - x. Rep. Egharevba said you could do all these initiatives but if community is not engaged, it's pointless. He asked if the group has considered creating an app or Facebook page to model all the data and if they had run any software or simulations to model the return on investment.
    1. F. Burgess said the next step to make progress on after we work through the administrative/strategy is to drill a couple wells and get good samples of what geological formations are all the way down to the depth we are talking about. They still have some testing and work to do before going into the modeling.
  - xi. Cornell Student Julio said energy storage, potential of using gravity in the dams we've already built and water supplies there.
    1. M. Hoffmann said energy storage is key, we do have a hydro plant, but we do not have storage right now as part of our plan; that is something we are working on, we hope to place batteries in our facilities.
- V. Byline Reports (G. Kaufman)
  - a. G. Kaufman said the Appropriates Committee met on Monday to review four organizations; made a recommendation on 3 of the organizations and tabled one of them.
  - b. G. Kaufman said regarding the first organization, Class Councils; \$2.35 increase funding; want to fund all the programs they wanted to increase and asked them to specifically work on programming; will as SA to approve it next week.
    - i. Rep. Hertz said they talked in depth for all of these groups, but please ask if you have any questions
    - ii. Rep. Kaufman said if you want to make a grammatical amendment, we will handle it offline.
    - iii. Rep. Kaufman said they are going to expect the BUS program to very greatly reduced, or be funded entirely out of its own fund.



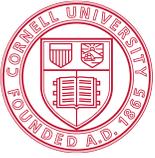
## Cornell University Student Assembly

- iv. Rep. Kaufman said the class-of awards is an event that class council has annually and cost per head was extremely high compared to their other programs. Some of the things class council included in their budget was increasing diversity and inclusion and that's where we want the money to go towards and we felt the class-of award program is not a bad thing, but not a priority.
  - v. Rep. Kaufman: they do have specific programs laid out for diversity and inclusion and there were a couple programs.
  - vi. Rep. Barbaria said another reason why they were not passing it today is not just to give more time if there is an appeal, but also for members to look at it over and give them a chance to attend the Appropriations Committee meeting on Monday and bring up concerns when we vote on it.
  - vii. Assembly Manager P. Hampton said all by-line applications were in Box.
    1. Rep. Kaufman said he would be happy to start providing those or forwarding them out digitally if requested.
  - viii. Rep. Romero Zavala from Appropriations Committee requested members to come to the meeting if they have any questions and to see how hard the committee works. She is frustrated because she is feels there are assembly members who don't trust the process.
  - ix. J. Kim: Motion to **Table** – passed 17-0-2
- c. Welcome Weekend Committee
- i. G. Kaufman said it was the Welcome Weekend Committee's second time presenting to the Appropriations Committee. The first time, the Appropriations Committee noticed a lot of financial irregularities in their byline packet. The Committee has two primary functions: plan Club Fest and TGIF (a few days per semester, a bunch of different events).
  - ii. G. Kaufman said this organization has a very large surplus and the committee made this funding level to help them spend down their surplus so next time, they will pretty much have just met their surplus.
  - iii. G. Kaufman said the Welcome Weekend Committee's request went down from \$2.77 to \$2.40, and the Appropriations Committee gave them the full \$2.40.
  - iv. **Tabled** by unanimous consent.
- d. Orientation Steering Committee
- i. G. Kaufman said the Orientation Steering Committee is one of the larger organizations. It plans orientations and funds programs to welcome freshman and transfer students.



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- ii. G. Kaufman said the committee requested a \$1.55 increase per student and the Appropriations Committee decided on \$.50 cent increase per student. The Orientation Steering Committee was actually projecting the number of students lower than it should be, and we could actually give them less money because they would actually get the amount they need.
- iii. G. Kaufman said the Appropriations Committee made a couple recommendations, including making sure the committee is submitting really detailed attendance instead of ball parking, and asked them to lower the cost of apparel.
- iv. **Tabled** by unanimous consent.
- e. Student Activities Funding Commission (SAFC)
  - i. G. Kaufman reported no byline report but that the Appropriations Committee did discuss it for a long time.
  - ii. G. Kaufman said the SAFC is the largest byline funded organization. They presented on Monday but the Appropriations Committee was not comfortable making a decision at that time.
  - iii. G. Kaufman is working with them to come back to the Appropriations Committee and discuss some ways they can decrease the huge growth rate they've projected.
  - iv. Open to Question
    1. Rep. Park said they SAFC gets over a million dollars and as long as an organization fills an application correctly, it can get the money. The assembly created the guidelines but there is a really clear incentive for these costs to increase which is why they have such a great unsustainable growth rate. One solution may be to double the number of tiers, making it harder for organizations to move up.
    2. Rep. Schott said they do fund so many great organizations and the total budget for some organizations are increasing. SAFC evaluates in a very bureaucratic way, and a more nuanced approach would be useful, but logistically much more difficult because we have so many organizations. Doubling tiers would be ineffective because there will be new organizations that do need a lot of funding.
    3. Rep. Kaufman said he does not have the solution to how the SAFC can grow at a sustainable rate and he is working with them to hear their concerns, but regarding growth rate, the average number that gets requested goes up about \$18,000 per semester. There's a lot of risk because SAFC promises more money than they have and they



## Cornell University Student Assembly

have to make predictions. Fluctuations are their primary concern to push them to want to grow their activity fee.

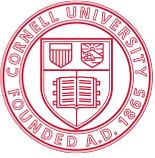
4. Rep. Hertz said she sees divide between Applications Committee and SAFC. The assembly does consider community impact and financials, but the real concern is about how they spend their money, not if the money is going to a good cause.
5. Rep. Zack asked if the increase was attributed primarily to these tier caps and if the SAFC would benefit from cost per student regulation.

- a. Rep. Kaufman highlighted three main reasons for why growth rate is what it is at: inflation, more organizations since the last byline cycle, and organizations moving up in tier cap/qualifying to spend more money. All organizations have to do is qualify for it is by spending a large percentage of their current budget and in the long run, it would increase the amount of money we have to give SAFC.

- v. Discussion concluded.
- vi. G. Kaufman reported three orgs the Appropriations Committee is reviewing on Monday: International Students Union, Slope Media, and Multicultural Greek Letter.

### VI. New Business

- a. Resolution 12: Calling for Development of a Strategic Plan – Rep. Anderson
  - i. Rep. Anderson said this started in the UA calling for a strategic plan for the university to project proactive actions, not just reactive actions. Now that Cornell has a stable president (M. Pollack) the SA should look to create a strategic plan to provide stability to get more administrative sign-on. He is open to amendments but since it hasn't passed the UA yet, he recommended suggesting amendments in two weeks so that members have time to think and ask their constituencies.
  - ii. Rep. Hertz said the "be it therefore resolved" clause is vague and it seems she does not know what the strategic plan would be doing for it to be resolved. She does not understand what this is going to accomplish.
  - iii. Rep. Park said if it's something the assembly wants to bring to all the assemblies, it will be better if we specify what the strategic planning process is going to look like.
  - iv. Rep. Martinez recommend power mapping this institution, as knowing exactly who and where to focus the Assembly's time and attention is important.



Cornell University  
Student Assembly

- v. Motion to **table** resolution until 2 weeks – **passed** with clear majority
- b. Resolution 13: Amending FARC Guidelines – Rep. Valadez
  - i. Rep. Valadez said went over the FARC guidelines to make sure language was inclusive and we were agreement with career services. She met with Assistant Director Diane Miller, who serves as the SA’s Arts & Sciences contact.
    - 1. Article 1 changes are pretty minimal, just in language. Article 3, Section 1 change in pronoun.
    - 2. Important change to committee guidelines.
    - 3. When counselors are thinking of referring a student to a source of funding that students helping students is there.
  - ii. Rep. Valadez motion to **amend**: Article 4: strike the first “or”
    - 1. Motion for amendment – **passed** 22-0-1
  - iii. Rep. Valadez said in Section 2 she replaced “uniforms” with “clothing” because some students have internships where they have to buy clothes. When it came to personal expenses, there was a lack of clarity of what people can spend their money on.
  - iv. Rep. Valadez added that students who are awarded the grant in past years are not eligible to apply again. Referring to E, the reasoning behind this is to give priority to upperclassmen who have not had any internship experience.
  - v. Motion to **approve** the resolution – **passed** with a clear majority.

VII. Adjournment - J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:32.

VIII. The membership went into Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Catherine Tran*  
Clerk from the Office of the Assemblies