

## Cornell University Student Assembly

### Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, October 26, 2017 Meeting  
4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call
  - a. J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:49pm.
  - b. *Present at the Roll Call:* T. Ball, D. Barbaria, A. Chowdhury, O. Corn, R. Cornell, V. Devatha, O. Din, O. Egharevba, H. Hassan, R. Hertz, M. Indimine, G. Kaufman, J. Kim, S. Lim, L. Lipschutz, A. Martinez, S. Park, M. Peralta-Ochoa, J. Pollard, S. Romero Zavala, J. Sanon, C. Schott, E. Shapiro, J. Sim, M. Valadez, I. Wallace
  - c. *Absent at Roll Call:* T. Magloire (unexcused), D. Tokunboh (excused)
- II. Open Microphone
  - a. Matthew Battaglia: Chair of the Codes and Judicial Committee
    - i. Forum at 3:15pm in Klarman Auditorium regarding hate speech on campus and the Campus Code of Conduct. Please invite anyone who you think would be interested, including your constituents.
    - ii. Questions:
    - iii. M. Valadez: what communities has the CJC reached out to
      1. M. Battaglia: Some grad school groups, affinity groups in the Law School. Looking forward to inviting other groups.
    - iv. V. Devatha: Will other members of the Cornell community be present, since the event is during the academic period for most students? Will there be any other forums this year?
      1. M. Battaglia: There might be another forum next week. This is an issue that affects the whole community, so it will be open to the whole community
  - b. A. Martinez: concern regarding the Parliamentarian
    - i. Quiz was scheduled, but cancelled by the parliamentarian because of he had a job interview
    - ii. When the new members did not do well on a quiz, the parliamentarian called them "stupid"
    - iii. Condone these actions
- III. Announcements & Reports
  - a. Rep Ball – Tri-Council Diversity & Inclusion Plan Update



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- i. Reached out to Tri-Council and followed up on the previous plan (the plan does not include everything that has happened on campus recently)
  - ii. All three councils have established a VP of Diversity and Inclusion position
  - iii. Plan has established a Greek wide online diversity training for all who want to participate in the rush process. There will also be a day long IDP Diversity Workshop for all incoming presidents of Greek Life.
- b. J. Anderson – Consensual Relationship Committee
  - i. All representatives are willing to reach out and speak with whoever has questions
- c. Motion by the Assembly to move Resolution 15 before Resolution 14 **Passes**
- d. Motion to view Byline reports on laptops **Passes**

### IV. Byline Reports – Gabe Kaufman

- a. Class Councils
  - i. They're currently at \$2.20 per member, requested \$2.70. App Comm recommended they get \$2.35 per member.
  - ii. Motion to approve **passes** 23-0-2
- b. Welcome Weekend Committee
  - i. Requested \$2.32, but since their financials were in disarray, the App Comm decided to find at \$2.40
  - ii. Motion to approve **passes** 23-0-2
- c. Orientation Steering Committee
  - i. Little more unique than the other two
  - ii. Currently at \$9.98, requested \$11.53. App Comm recommended \$10.42.
  - iii. Email on Tuesday night from the advisor from the OSC
    - 1. While she appreciates the recommendation, she would like them to reconsider, since there will be two more days of orientation
  - iv. D. Barbaria: they do not need to go up to \$11.53, since they lowballed the number of members
  - v. Motion to approve **passes** 22-1-2
- d. International Students Union
  - i. Currently at \$3.10, requested \$4.81. App Comm recommends \$3.90, which is an \$0.80 increase
  - ii. Proud of the committee for giving international students support at this time
  - iii. Motion to table until next week **passes**
- e. Multicultural Greek Letter Council
  - i. Currently at \$0.50, App Comm recommends \$0.67
  - ii. They seem to be excited by the increase
  - iii. Motion to table until next week **passes**
- f. Slope Media
  - i. Currently at \$0.85, requested to stay at this amount
  - ii. App Comm recommended they decrease to \$0.50



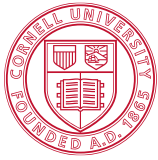
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- iii. Do not believe they will appeal to have this change since they have a large surplus in their budget
- iv. They will continue to do the same levels of programming, but will have less income from the student activities fee
- v. M. Peralto-Ochoa: it was wise to cut their budget
- vi. G. Kaufman: a couple of years ago, we asked to stop giving out shot glasses and they did not, which also played into our decision
- vii. Motion to table until next week **passes**
- g. SAFC
  - i. Largest organization on the byline
  - ii. Currently funded at \$94.14, wanted an increase to \$100
  - iii. The reason their recommendation got tabled again was because App Comm does not want to decide until they know what the new guidelines will be
  - iv. The number of organizations on campus is not sustainable, since the new organizations are growing at an unsustainable rate
  - v. O. Corn: We need to recognize that the SAFC is a large organization and plays an important role on campus, but we need to limit the growth
  - vi. D. Barbaria: it is not a good idea to wait until the new guidelines come out
  - vii. J. Sanon: We are working on the working of the SAFC guidelines, and this is currently our most important task
  - viii. S. Park: We want to have an informed decision and this is why we do not recommend voting on this
- V. New Business
  - a. Resolution 15: Allowing International Students Financial Aid for Extenuating Circumstances
    - i. C. Schott: Thanks to the International student community for coming out to the meeting
    - ii. International students are the only students on campus who receive need aware admission and financial aid, which disincentives them from applying for financial aid. Furthermore, the total financial aid budget for students is capped.
    - iii. If international students don't apply for financial aid the first year, they are ineligible to apply again for the rest of their time at Cornell, no matter the situation
    - iv. Proposal of an emergency fund for international students; the funding could come from leftover funds from domestic financial aid
    - v. Want to work with the Office of the Alumni, Office of Admissions, Office of Financial Aid, and others to ensure that all students have equal opportunity
    - vi. Trustees want Cornell to be the best institution, and this can be achieved if Cornell is accepting and supportive of all of its students, no matter where they come from



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- vii. To illustrate the gravity of the situation, a letter from an international student
  - 1. The student was accepted to Cornell, but his father, who was the financial provider for the family passed away. Cornell did not provide aid to the student, even in this extenuating circumstance
- viii. H. Hassan: Thank you for writing this resolution.
  - 1. Has been personally affected by the current guidelines
  - 2. International students are being discriminated against in an unfair way
- ix. O. Din: Echo what Harris said, thank you bringing this resolution to the SA
  - 1. Domestic students should not have an advantage over international students
  - 2. Question: has there been a working committee assigned to make sure this resolution remains relevant
    - a. There has been a committee created that has leaders from various affinity groups
    - b. ISU has been making internal efforts to stay on top of this
- x. T. Ball: Thank you for sponsoring this resolution and thank you for the community members who came out to support this
  - 1. Question: how much work is ahead in terms of interacting with the administration
  - 2. V. Devatha: we have been in communication with the admissions office
    - a. The office has stated that the issue of parents passing away or the family facing financial trouble has been very limited to a small group of people
    - b. V. Devatha: even if it does happen infrequently, it still has a severity that is detrimental to students
  - 3. M. Valadez: Martha Pollock has financial aid on her agenda as one of her main focuses
  - 4. V. Devatha: because this situation happens infrequently, one solution is to put the international students in the same emergency fund pool as domestic students
    - a. Spoke with the Office of Alumni Relations, and in order to create an endowment for this proposal, we need \$100,000
- xi. J. Sim: International students have to worry about academics, as well as financial stability, in an era of the Trump administration. It is hard to keep existing in this country, because of so many things to do.
- xii. Motion to move into the business of the day **passes**
- xiii. Motion to approve this resolution **passes** 24-0-1
- b. Resolution 14: Increasing the Transparency of WCM-Q
  - i. Pushing for transparency from the Cornell administration regarding the Qatar campus and for releasing the charter



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- ii. Questions:
  - 1. O. Din: Do you want to forward it to the trustees?
    - a. The trustees should have this document
  - 2. O. Corn: is this document that we are requesting confidential?
    - a. Unsure
  - 3. T. Ball: make a friendly resolution to make this charter public, and distribute it to the board of trustees and the Cornell University Council
- iii. Motion to amend many lines
- iv. Motion to **table** discussion, since there is too much conversation regarding amendments passes
- c. Resolution 16: Median Grade Reporting
  - i. Nathan Weirch: in the academic policy committee
  - ii. Request for more dependable and more accurate information
  - iii. Median grades are currently being reported as an aggregate, not taking into account different sections of classes
    - 1. There is a discrepancy here because some teaching assistants grade differently than others, which means there will be uneven grading across one class
  - iv. This resolution is no way an attack on Cornell faculty
    - 1. The resolution wants to simply increase equity
  - v. This resolution would be great for underclassmen especially because they have a lot of classes with many sections
  - vi. Motion to amend line 24: Instructors who lack a fluency in English
    - 1. Does this impact the quality of teaching
  - vii. I. Wallace: concern is that the sections for humanities classes should be treated differently than STEM courses, and this difference should be noted for
  - viii. J. Anderson: some classes don't have TAs who grade, as the grading is done by undergraduate graders, which complicates the situation
  - ix. Motion to amend several lines and to add nuances
  - x. Motion to **table** passes
- VI. Motion to adjourn at 6:09pm passes.
- VII. Executive Session

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sarvinoz Fahriddinova  
Clerk of the Student Assembly