



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell Student University Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday September 28, 2017 Meeting
4:45 PM – 6:30 PM in Willard Straight Hall, Memorial Room

- I. Call to Order
 - J. Kim called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.
 - *Present at the Roll Call:* T. Ball, D. Barbaria, A. Chowdhury, O. Corn, V. Devatha, O. Din, H. Hassan, R. Herz, M. Indimine, G. Kaufman, S. Lim, L. Lipschutz, T. Magloire, A. Martinez, S. Park, M. Peralta-Ochoa, J. Pollard, S. Romero Zavala, C. Schott, E. Shapiro, J. Sim, D. Tokunboh, M. Valadez, I. Wallace
 - *Not present at the Roll Call:* O. Egharevba, J. Sanon
- II. SA Rep took the Student Assembly's Oath of Office.
- III. Open Microphone
 - a. Two community members introduced an organization that provides free consulting advice and assistance for anyone with a federal Title IX complaint. They are not under a mandate, which faculty members are, to report certain information. The organization is struggling with outreach and their office is under construction so they prefer communication through email.
- IV. Announcements & Reports
 - a. V. Devatha – Collegiate Readership Program
 - i. Will send in resolution next week.
 - b. V. Devatha – International Student Financial Aid
 - i. V. Devatha introduced the problem of financial aid for international students. International students deemed financially stable when they arrive at Cornell will not be given financial aid at any time, even if they undergo financial situations, while domestic students are able to renegotiate if they undergo financial circumstances. Financial aid for international students is not run through the Office of Financial Aid, but rather the admissions office. V. Devatha and C. Schott are drafting a resolution that they hope to introduce next week.
 - c. M. Valadez – First Gen Announcements
 - i. M. Valadez said Vice President Ryan Lombardi's email that went out last Monday listed a first-generation initiative. An alumni donor gave the university a sum of money for first generation and low-income students. The university will be utilizing this money to hire a full-time position and fund initiatives. She has regular meetings with VP Lombardi regarding these initiatives and wants input from SA members and the community. Please email her at mv357@cornell.edu.



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V. Business of the Day

- a. G. Kaufman – CU EMS (Cornell University Emergency Medical Service)
 - i. CU EMS requested \$3.60/student. It is currently funded at \$3.24/student. The Appropriations Committee recommended funding them at the total request of \$3.60/student.
 - ii. Motion to vote to approve the funding recommendation – **passed** 24-0-1
- b. G. Kaufman – CPFEB (Community Partnership Funding Board)
 - i. CPFEB funds about \$30,000 to community projects every year. They requested \$2.00 per student, and the Appropriations Committee recommended funding them at the total request of \$2.00/student.
 - ii. Motion to vote to approve the funding recommendation – **passed** 24-0-1
- c. G. Kaufman gave a brief overview of the byline funding cycle process. The Appropriations Committee, which he is the chair of, makes recommendations to the SA each week and he comes to defend the recommendation. The committee is composed of past student assembly appointed SA members and past community members appointed by the staff of the committee. The next organization the SA will be reviewing is one that requested an appeal.
- d. G. Kaufman – WRC Byline Report (Women’s Resource Center)
 - i. G. Kaufman said the Appropriations Committee reviewed the WRC, which requested \$4.00/student. After questions and discussion, the committee recommended to fund them at \$2.67/student a total of about \$15,000. This reduction in funding is due to the “Feminism: Food for Thought” program, which the committee felt was very intensive program and recommended the WRC to hold the events less frequently or reduce the costs of the events.
 1. S. Romero Zavala briefly went over the WRC byline packet.
 - ii. Hannah Light-Olson, executive board member from the WRC, said the group is troubled by the 75% cut to the Feminism: Food for Thought program, a weekly Thursday night dinner open to all students for discussions relating to feminism. Students without unlimited meal swipes are provided tickets to get food from the dining hall. This program provides a chance to educate and connect campus organizations to students who would otherwise not hear this message. She calls the Appropriations Committee’s decision not only unreasonable, but antithetical to their mission of expanding inclusivity and insulting. She feels this decision was made without their input or knowledge with limited discussion. This recommendation forced the WRC to, in a few days, reconstruct the program.
 1. Another executive member of the WRC said Flora Rose House is an essential location for their program. The dining hall can adjust the



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- number of meals, as the WRC cannot anticipate how many people will come each week, and can cater to people with allergies and dietary restrictions. It is also a more environmentally friendly option to ordering food. Catering options will roughly cost the same amount as the meal swipes. It is also a more accessible location as well as a safe place, as they often discuss sensitive subjects.
- iii. G. Kaufman introduced a couple options the WRC could take, such as having the event every month or every other week. He also recommended spending \$3.50 to \$4 per student every week and having less expensive dinners, or having dessert instead. G. Kaufman said no other byline funded organization has this much funding. Even with lower funding, the program can have the same impact and be as great.
 1. SA member questioned whether paying \$16/student dinner was necessary to have meaningful discourse.
 2. WRC representative said having meetings once a month does not allow them to discuss their range of topics adequately.
 - iv. S. Park said if we fund them at \$4/head, the WRC has to cut this program. This sounds like a lot of money, but there is so much benefit that they give out of this and reach out to so many organizations.
 - v. G. Kaufman said this funding is on top of the budget WRC is already given as they do have a separate food budget.
 - vi. G. Kaufman said it takes a 2/3 vote of the assembly to overturn the decision of the committee and the SA can recommend new funding amounts. To put into perspective, every cent is about \$150.
 - vii. S. Park made a motion to overturn Appropriations Committee decision
 1. Vote to vote to overturn Appropriations Committee decision – **passed** 16-4-4
 2. Vote to overturn Appropriations Committee decision – **does not pass** 15-4-5
 3. J. Kim opened the discussion back up
 - viii. SA Rep suggests giving the WRC time to make changes to the program.
 - ix. SA Rep pointed out that WRC serves all women on campus, which is a huge number. No other byline funded organizations serves such a huge group.
 - x. G. Kaufman said any change would not take effect until next fall, so the SA can work with the WRC all year to make changes.
 - xi. G. Kaufman said the vote in the Appropriations Committee of funding them at \$3.67 was 7-4-1. It was almost unanimous.



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- xii. V. Devatha proposes allowing the WRC to continue funding themselves at \$16/student, and then lowering it to \$8/student so they have time to restructure. They can work with the SA and the dining halls to get this budget down.
 - 1. Motion to vote to vote on overturning the Appropriations Committee decision – 21-2-1 **passes**
 - 2. Vote to overturn Appropriations Committee recommendation – **passed** 21-2-1
 - 3. J. Kim opened up the discussion
- xiii. SA Rep made a motion to vote on \$4/student.
- e. Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes – **passed**
 - i. SA Rep recommended funding the WRC at the full amount of \$4/student and have SA members work with the WRC for the year.
 - ii. O. Corn recommended compromising at \$3.82/student.
 - iii. J. Kim said the list we have right now is: \$4, \$3.89, \$3.82, \$3.75, and \$3.67 per student.
 - 1. Motion to vote – **passed** with majority
 - 2. Vote on \$4 – **passed** 14-9-2
- f. S. Park – Resolution 7: Clarifying the Student Assembly’s Policy on Social Media Statement
 - i. Z. Schmetterer said this is a resolution that will amend the bylaws in setting procedures on posting official statements. There is no time to pass it or discuss it today, so he asks the SA to take a look at the resolution and to come prepared next meeting with amendments.
 - ii. Motion to **table** amendment.
- VI. Adjournment - J. Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:45.
- VII. The membership went into Executive Session.
 - a. Gorge Safety Committee Internal Election
 - b. Additional Appointment(s) to Relationships Committee

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