

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Agenda of the Thursday, November 2, 2017 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall: Memorial Room

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

II. Open Microphone

III. Announcements & Reports

- a. Dining Chair Bankier – Dining Update
- b. Rep Pollard – SAIFC, Consensual Relationships Policy, CSP Steering Committee updates
- c. Rep Wallace – Queer Program Housing Update

IV. Byline Reports

- a. International Students Union
- b. Multicultural Greek Letter Council
- c. Slope Media
- d. Haven
- e. EARS
- f. Cornell Cinema

V. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 16: Median Grade Reporting

VI. New Business

- a. Resolution 17: Declaring Support for Wind Development on Campus
- b. Resolution 18: Expanding the CRP
- c. Resolution 19: Preventing the Use of University Resources for Political Purposes

VII. Adjournment

VIII. Executive Session



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| Organization | International Students Union |
| 2016-2018 Allocation | \$3.10 |
| 2018-2020 Request | \$4.81 |
| Appropriations Recommendation | \$3.90 |

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding the International Students Union at \$3.90 for the 2018-2020 By-Line Funding Cycle. The Committee felt that ISU provides a tremendous benefit to the 1 in 10 undergraduate students who hail from outside the United States and also provides a tremendous benefit to domestic students who serve to benefit from increased exposure to foreign cultures, customs, foods, experiences, and art. We are very excited to be providing more support for ISU. The Committee also believes that by increasing ISU to this level, they will be able to increase coverage for legitimate requests for funding.

With an \$0.80 increase in funding, for ISU, they should expect to see more than \$11,000 in increased revenue next year. We hope that they spend this extra \$11,000 as judiciously as they spend their current allocation, paying specific attention to making sure that events cosponsored by them serve to promote awareness about international students and international students' issues. Specifically, we would like to commend ISU for adopting and adhering to its guideline stipulating that events should remain at or below a \$5 cost per head. This is a sensible rule and demonstrates clear fiscal responsibility and good stewardship. We appreciate that deliberateness apparent in ISU's funding decisions and guidelines.

In addition to programming, ISU work towards advocating for student interests and the Committee is extremely proud and impressed with what they have accomplished over the past few years. It is our hope that by substantially increasing funding for ISU, all Cornell students will be made better off in the coming years.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

| Amount | Vote |
|--------|--------|
| \$4.81 | 0-10-2 |
| \$3.90 | 7-4-2 |

Respectfully submitted,

Gabe Kaufman

Vice President for Finance



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|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Organization | Multicultural Greek Letter Council |
| 2016-2018 Allocation | \$0.50 |
| 2018-2020 Request | \$0.67 |
| Appropriations Recommendation | \$0.67 |

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding Multicultural Greek Letter Council (MGLC) at \$0.67 for the 2018-2020 By-Line Funding Cycle. The Committee felt that MGLC provides an invaluable service to the Cornell community through its programming focusing on issues of diversity and inclusions. We are very happy to support increasing MGLC at this time and we are excited for the community to be able to benefit from the increased programming that MGLC will be able to do.

The Committee did have recommendations for MGLC on how it could more efficiently spend its activity fee disbursement. Firstly, the Committee recommends that MGLC adopt guidelines to more strictly internally allocate funds to control the cost per head. Most importantly, we strongly urge MGLC to emphasize funding non-food related events.

Where MGLC does fund food, we hope that they work as hard as possible to increase attendance and promote awareness so that the maximum number of students possible can benefit from the fantastic programming that MGLC provides.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

| Amount | Vote |
|---------------|--------------|
| \$0.67 | 8-4-1 |

Respectfully submitted,

Gabe Kaufman
Vice President for Finance



| Organization | Slope Media Group |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2016-2018 Allocation | \$0.86 |
| 2018-2020 Request | \$0.86 |
| Appropriations Recommendation | \$0.50 |

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding Slope Media Group at \$0.50 for the 2018-2020 By-Line Funding Cycle. Firstly, we want to note that we very much thank Slope Media Group for their active participation at the funding hearing. We want to stress that we recognize that Slope Media specifically took steps to address the concerns of previous Committees and that they made an effort to reach out in advance of their hearing to go over the hearing process.

The decrease in funding we are recommending for Slope Media is based primarily on the fact that this organization has amassed an unusually large surplus, approximately equal to their yearly spending. It is because of this large surplus that we felt that Slope Media would be able to continue to provide the quality programming and media services without requiring the same level of funding. Considered this way, the Committee believes that because Slope Media Group is able to efficiently use funds to manage its operations, that the organization can continue providing quality services even with less activity fee income. We hope that Slope Media uses this surplus for the next two years to subsidize this lower activity fee allocation, and we hope that the next Appropriations Committee considers increasing Slope Media's allocation for the 2020-2022 By-Line Cycle should it spend down its surplus in a way beneficial to the whole campus community.

The Committee also recommends that Slope Media continue or increase its support for on-campus organizations that look to benefit from an increased media presence. We also hope that Slope Media focuses less on how training its members to produce quality media benefits its own members, but really comes to view itself as a service that the campus community can access free of charge.

One of the members of the Committee pointed out that despite Slope Media being encouraged to not give out shot-glasses (labeled glassware) in 2015 for the 2016-2018 By-Line Cycle, we still noticed 150 items labeled "glassware" on their financial projections. We strongly encourage Slope Media to discontinue "giveaways" to promote brand awareness, and we are committed to working with Slope Media to find other ways to promote their brand.

To summarize, I want to highlight that we greatly appreciate the efforts that Slope Media has made, we look forward to working with them again in the future.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

| Amount | Vote |
|---------------|-------------|
| \$0.85 | 0-12-1 |
| \$0.83 | 0-12-1 |
| \$0.64 | 4-8-1 |
| \$0.60 | 5-7-1 |
| \$0.50 | 8-3-1 |

Respectfully submitted,

Gabe Kaufman

Vice President for Finance



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|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Organization | Haven |
| 2016-2018 Allocation | \$3.50 |
| 2018-2020 Request | \$3.80 |
| Appropriations Recommendation | \$3.80 |

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding Haven: The LGBTQ+ Student Union at \$3.80 for the 2018-2020 By-Line Funding Cycle. The Committee felt that Haven provides an invaluable service to the student body at Cornell through programming based on promoting awareness for LGBTQ+ students and issues. The Committee does want to note that it hopes that Haven will be able to address some of the discrepancies in its financial statements from previous years, but nonetheless, we strongly support funding Haven at their full request and look forward to working with them in the years to come.

Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

| Amount | Vote |
|--------|--------|
| \$3.80 | 13-0-1 |

Respectfully submitted,

Gabe Kaufman
Vice President for Finance



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|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Organization | EARS |
| 2016-2018 Allocation | \$1.50 |
| 2018-2020 Request | \$1.50 |
| Appropriations Recommendation | \$1.50 |

Rationale of the Committee

The Appropriations Committee recommends funding EARS at \$1.50 for the 2018-2020 By-Line Funding Cycle. EARS has shown consistently that they provide an enormous benefit to the Cornell community by supporting students in their time of need through anonymous counseling services. The students who volunteer as EARS Counselors appeared knowledgeable, driven, and ready to serve the student body. By listening to over 800 cases per year, we know that EARS is one of the most important and impactful organizations receiving by-line funding. We are proud to fund EARS at their full request for the next by-line cycle.

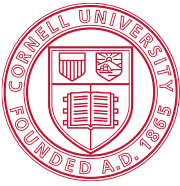
Vote Totals

The Committee votes down, from the highest number proposed to the lowest, to give the group the advantage. The vote totals from the Committee were as follows:

| Amount | Vote |
|--------|--------|
| \$1.50 | 14-0-1 |

Respectfully submitted,

Gabe Kaufman
Vice President for Finance



Cornell University Student Assembly

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| Originally Presented on: | 10/26/2017 |
| Type of Action: | Recommendation |
| Status/Result: | New Business |

S.A. Resolution #16 Median Grade Reporting

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4 ABSTRACT: This Resolution recommends that the University Faculty direct the University
5 Registrar to report median grades on transcripts based on instructor, in those courses where multiple
6 sections with different instructors are offered.

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8 **Sponsored by: Osai Egharevba '21**

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10 **Whereas**, course grades and student grade point averages (“GPAs”) derived from grades should
11 serve as reliable indicators of student grasp of course material; and

12
13 **Whereas**, employers and graduate school admissions rely heavily on grades to filter and select
14 candidates; and

15
16 **Whereas**, many of the University’s peer institutions have publicly acknowledged that their grades
17 are inflated, and in 1996 the Faculty Senate voted to publish median grades on student transcripts in
18 an acknowledgement of the University’s grading practices; and

19
20 **Whereas**, median grades have been posted on University transcripts since 2008; and

21 **Whereas**, many courses offered by the University are taught in multiple “sections,” with different
22 groups of students and different instructors; and

23
24 **Whereas**, the quality and style of instruction, the approach to grading, and the instructor’s fluency in
25 english all necessarily vary between instructors; and

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27 **Whereas**, those students whose instructors write exams may have an advantage over those whose
28 instructors do not;

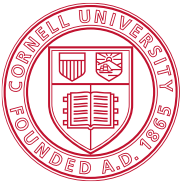
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30 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that the Faculty Senate direct the
31 University Registrar to report median grades on transcripts by *section*, so that all sections of a
32 particular course wholly taught by the same instructor during the same academic term are treated as
33 independent “courses” for the purpose of calculating and reporting median grades on University
34 transcripts; and

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36 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly recommends that this change be applied to all
37 multiple-instructor, multiple-section courses from Fall 2018 onwards; and

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39 **Be it finally resolved**, that this resolution be conveyed to the Dean of Faculty and to the Faculty
40 Senate.

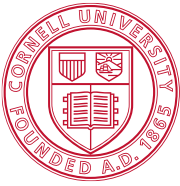
41
42 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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44 Osai Egharevba '21,



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 45 *Freshman Representative, SA*
- 46
- 47 Christopher Schott '18
- 48 *International Students Liaison At-Large, Student Assembly*
- 49
- 50 Nathan Weierich, '18
- 51 *Member, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*
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- 53 *Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 13-0-1, 10/22/2017*



Cornell University Student Assembly

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| Originally Presented on: | (11/02/2017) |
| Type of Action: | Sense-of-the-Body |
| Status/Result: | New Business |

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S.A. Resolution #17 Declaring Support for Wind Development on Campus

ABSTRACT: This resolution details and declares support for the development of wind turbines on or near Cornell’s campus.

Sponsored by: Jesse Pollard '17 and Dale Barbaria '19

Whereas, the NYSERDA REV (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority – Reforming the Energy Vision) Campus Challenge administers the Energy to Lead 2017 competition, which awards \$250,000-\$1,000,000 to colleges and universities with leading solutions for increasing clean energy generation;

Whereas, Professor Rebecca Barthelmie of the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering has signaled intent to submit a proposal for the development of small scale wind turbines on—or within close proximity of—campus;

Whereas, Weaver Wind Energy, a local wind developer with years of collaborative research experience with Cornell University, is an ideal candidate for partnership on this project;

Whereas, this project would not only generate clean energy but also provide invaluable, accessible research opportunities for undergraduate students in the development of high fidelity noise models, vibration models, icing and wake loss analyses, grid integration techniques, blade design optimization, socioeconomic policy research, and more;

Whereas, Climate Justice Cornell and Engineers for a Sustainable World have committed to actively participating in the development of a wind turbine(s) on campus;

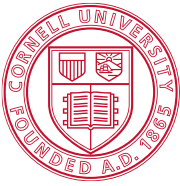
Whereas, undergraduate student projects and collaboration with Weaver Wind Energy and Professor Barthelmie would assist in the pre-construction assessment of the project;

Whereas, the project stands as an innovative partnership between faculty, students, and Weaver Wind Energy;

Whereas, this project affirms Cornell’s commitment to carbon neutrality and sustainability integrated curricula;

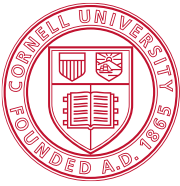
Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly affirms its support for Professor Barthelmie’s wind turbine project and increased interdisciplinary renewable energy research, collaboration, and engagement between students, faculty, and Weaver Wind Energy;

Be it finally resolved, that the Student Assembly asks that this resolution be forwarded to the Dean of Faculty and the Faculty Senate.



Cornell University Student Assembly

- 45 **Respectfully Submitted,**
46
47 Jesse Pollard '17
48 *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*
49 *Chair, Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission*
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51 Sarah Barr Engel '18
52 *President, Engineers for a Sustainable World*
53
54 Julie Kapuvári '19
55 *Officer, Climate Justice Cornell*
56
57 Dale Barbaria
58 *College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*
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61 *Reviewed by: Infrastructure Fund Commission, 10-0-0, 10/29/2017*



Cornell University Student Assembly

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| Originally Presented on: | (11/02/2017) |
| Type of Action: | Internal Policy |
| Status/Result: | New Business |

S.A. Resolution #18

Expanding the Collegiate Readership Program to include the Wall Street Journal

ABSTRACT: This resolution requests the Student Assembly to allocate funds from the Collegiate Readership Program (CRP) surplus toward an undergraduate-wide subscription to the Wall Street Journal. Such a subscription would provide professors of said students free access as well.

Sponsored by: Varun Devatha '19

Whereas, the Collegiate Readership Program (CRP) has sought to enhance Cornell's learning environment since 2004;

Whereas, CRP encourages lifelong learning, creating newspaper readership habits, and increasing student awareness of local, national, and international events;

Whereas, CRP has traditionally maintained a relationship with USA Today and the New York Times;

Whereas, CRP allocated \$5.00/student/year in the 2016-2018 byline cycle;

Whereas, CRP currently maintains a surplus in excess of \$100,000 after ending the relationship with USA Today;

Whereas, students across business courses are currently required to purchase Wall Street Journal (WSJ) access at a semester cost of \$15;

Whereas, numerous employers require knowledge attained from member-only articles in the WSJ;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly use the funds originally intended for the USA Today subscription to expand the Collegiate Readership Program by partnering with the WSJ;

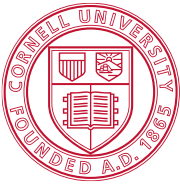
Be it finally resolved, the SA allocate funds from aforementioned surplus toward an undergraduate-wide subscription of the WSJ at \$1.75/student/year with professors of said students gaining free access.

Respectfully Submitted,

Varun Devatha '19

Executive Vice President, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 5-0-0, 10/29/2017)



Cornell University Student Assembly

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|--------------------------|----------------|
| Originally Presented on: | (11/02/2017) |
| Type of Action: | Recommendation |
| Status/Result: | New Business |

S.A. Resolution #19

Preventing the Use of University Resources for Political Purposes

ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to recommend that the administration discourage instructors from using university resources to encourage the attendance of events that endorse political positions.

Sponsored by: Osai Egharevba '21

Whereas, the Cornell University Student Assembly recognizes the pedagogical value of speakers and events, in those cases where they are directly germane to course material; and

Whereas, the Cornell University Student Assembly recognizes and supports the right of instructors to freely express their political views, the use of class time or course resources to encourage the attendance of events that endorse political positions is inappropriate and unethical; and

Whereas, University policy already states that “[political] activities must be done in a personal capacity, and not imply in any way that the university supports, opposes, or otherwise endorses any candidate for public office.” (University Policy 4.18 on political campaign activity); and

Whereas, for this resolution, “university resources” are defined as resources that are present to facilitate the course including, but not limited to: class time, email list-servs, discussion sections, and online platforms such as Blackboard; and

Whereas, the use of university resources by instructors to encourage students to attend political events intimidates students who do not share the same political views; and

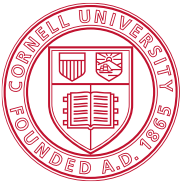
Whereas, instructors have a unique role in developing a student’s way of thinking and in grading; and

Whereas, the use of university resources to encourage students to attend events that endorse a political position or belief inherently elevates certain political positions over others, which is in violation of university policy.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Cornell University Student Assembly, recommend that the Board of Trustees, Faculty Senate, University Relations and President Martha Pollack prevent instructors from using university resources to encourage the attendance of political events.

Respectfully Submitted,

Osai Egharevba '21
Freshman Representative, Student Assembly



Cornell University
Student Assembly

45 (Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, VOTE, 10/29/2017)