

Cornell University Student Assembly

Student Assembly Meeting

AGENDA

October 12, 2023

4:45 - 6:30 p.m.

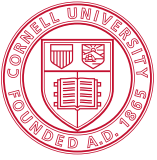
Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall/Zoom

ZOOM

Meeting ID: 927 5625 4940 | Passcode: 411537

1. Call to Order
2. Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
3. Announcements
 1. Call for Empathy and Civil Discussion
4. Open Microphone
5. [Approval of the Minutes](#)
6. Consent Calendar
7. Reports
8. Presentations
9. Old Business Calendar
10. Resolutions Calendar
 1. [Resolution 31: Towards Relief and Peace in the Middle East](#)
 2. [Resolution 30: Removing Median Grades](#)
11. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar
12. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



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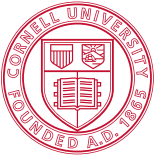
Cornell University's Student Assembly

Minutes of the October 5th, 2023 Meeting

4:45 pm – 6:30 pm

Memorial Room Willard Straight Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. P. Kuehl called the meeting to order at 4:53 pm.
 1. *Members Present (18)*: M. Bakri, L. Balestrieri, L. Barrett, A. Barry, R. DeLorenzo, K. Everett, N. Hite, C. Lederman, E. Ononye, S. Parikh, C. Platkin, P. Kuehl, I. Rezaka, S. Son, B. Terhaar, C. Ting, A. Vinson, A. Wang
 2. *Members Absent (2)*: A. Richmond, A. Talone
 3. *Also Present (9)*: A. Bangura, A. Coleman, N. Courtney, N. Maggard, A. Mulpuri, K. Rahul, J. Swenson, J. Withers, J. Zhang
- II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement
 - a. P. Kuehl stated the SA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.
- III. Open Microphone
 - a. There were no new items.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Approval of the September 28, 2023 meeting minutes
 1. The motion to approve the minutes **passed** through unanimous consent.
- V. Consent Calendar
 - a. Resolution 25: Amending Resolution 23
 1. C. Lederman introduced the Resolution to address minor errors in previous amendments and resolutions.
 2. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of 15-0-2.
 - b. Resolution 27: Technical Amendments to Resolution 20
 1. C. Lederman introduced the Resolution to address minor errors in previous amendments and resolutions.
 2. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of 15-0-2.
- VI. Announcements
 - a. P. Kuehl noted that the voting period for the Student Assembly elections had opened and encouraged voting participation.



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- b. J. Withers noted that the committee application process hosted on the website is unreliable. J. Withers stated that emails noting pending applications for Committees is being sent to Committee Chairs.
- c. P. Kuehl noted the now operational Slack channel for Student Assembly members.

VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

a. Committee Reports

1. Executive Board

1. P. Kuehl noted work developing infrastructure for a clean transition next year.
2. C. Ting noted that the campus survey on sexual violence and misconduct statistics were released. C. Ting noted collaboration with Planned Parenthood Generation Access to make an access fund for reproductive healthcare.
3. R. DeLorenzo noted work being done on the Appropriations Committee. R. DeLorenzo stated that the current reserve account balance amounts to \$127,000.
4. C. Lederman noted work done to maintain membership lists on Committees.
5. A. Barry noted interest in better understanding the climate of sexual assault on campus with the release of the campus survey.

2. Committee Chairs

1. A. Vinson stated that the Environmental Committee would be meeting that evening.
2. A. Wang stated that the Student Health Advisory Committee would resume meeting in the next week.

3. Offices

1. A. Mulpuri stated that the Office of Student Government Relations recently concluded a great round of recruitment and noted work alongside Cornell Federal Relations to setup an annual lobbying day.

b. Vice President of Finance

1. Collegiate Readership Program

1. R. DeLorenzo stated that the Collegiate Readership Program would be postponed for later in the semester.

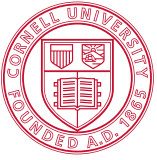
2. International Students Union

1. R. DeLorenzo gave a report on International Students Union.
2. N. Courtney questioned what the largest expenses were.



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3. R. DeLorenzo clarified that 25% of expenses were spent on ISU events, and of these expenses 75% were for Cornell Catering.
4. C. Lederman motioned to approve the recommended allocation. The motion **passed** through a unanimous vote.
3. Interfaith Council
 1. R. DeLorenzo gave a report on Interfaith Council.
 2. C. Lederman motioned to accept the recommendation of the Appropriations committee. I. Rezaka dissented.
 3. I. Rezaka questioned if a member on the Interfaith Council was present to share their opinion.
 4. A speaker from the Interfaith Council stated acknowledgement of the decided upon allocation given current surplus but noted that due to the continual growth of the organization, need for further funding will develop over time.
 5. I. Rezaka noted that many more organizations which fall under Interfaith Council are beginning to appear and noted how expensive certain events are can be but that aren't supported by current allocations.
 6. R. DeLorenzo gave clarifications on the Interfaith Council's allocation structure.
 7. C. Ting stated acknowledgement of religious and spiritual life at Cornell and questioned how challenging it would be to secure funding for small organizations that are now appearing if the recommended allocation be adopted.
 8. The speaker from the Interfaith Council noted changes made to the allocation structure to support these new needs and ensure accessibility.
 9. R. DeLorenzo clarified opinion on the need for an auditing system given the allocation structure.
 10. A. Barry motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
 11. The motion to approve the recommended allocation **passed** through a vote of 9-2-6.
 12. C. Ting motioned to suspend rules and move Resolution 29 to the agenda. The motion **failed** through a vote of 1-4-12. A roll call vote to reconsider the motion **failed** with a count of 7-4-5.



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- a. There were no presentations.

IX. Old Business Calendar

- a. There were no items.

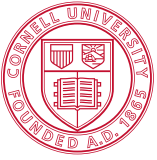
X. Resolutions Calendar

- a. Resolution 26: Promoting Engagement for the Fall 2023 Elections

1. K. Rahul presented plans for promotion to bolster engagement for current SA Elections through a raffle financed with a \$750 allotment.
2. A. Vinson stated support for the desire to increase engagement but noted research done on participation rates indicating the consistently high Fall participation rate in comparison to Spring.
3. P. Kuehl stated hopes that, should this promotion be successful, similar methods would be used in the Spring.
4. C. Lederman stated support for the Resolution.
5. K. Rahul noted the prizes of the raffle.
6. I. Rezaka questioned where allotted funds were coming from.
7. P. Kuehl noted that funds would be pulled from the Reserve account.
8. A. Barry motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
9. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of 10-1-6.

- b. Resolution 28: Creating an Ad Hoc Committee for Student Organization

1. C. Lederman introduced issues with a competitive and sometimes inequitable environment of student organizations and noted the role that a potential Committee could take on to address these concerns.
2. N. Courtney questioned who the Chair would be.
3. C. Lederman stated that a Chair could be appointed by the President.
4. I. Rezaka questioned if this Committee would investigate all student organizations on campus.
5. C. Lederman stated that there would be investigations into problems in different areas so that recommendations could be made for improvement.
6. C. Ting questioned what the intention on making these findings would be.
7. P. Kuehl noted that research is already being done into how to make recruitment into different organizations fair and equitable and emphasized the importance of Student Assembly involvement in this effort.
8. A. Wang questioned if the Committee would have actual power to control what student organizations could do, or if they would just make recommendations primarily.

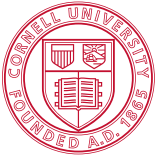


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9. C. Lederman stated focus would be on recommendations only.
10. A. Bangura questioned how the Committee would go about conducting research and auditing, particularly for recruitment.
11. C. Lederman stated this planning would be done by those in the Committee.
12. R. DeLorenzo noted the importance of considering nuances between the different organizations but emphasized the benefits of the information such a Committee could collect.
13. K. Everett questioned if an example of what this Committee's execution of reviews could look like.
14. C. Lederman stated this execution would be determined by the Committee.
15. I. Rezaka motioned to amend line 16. R. DeLorenzo dissented. The motion **passed** through a vote of 6-1-10.
16. A. Barry motioned to amend line 16. R. DeLorenzo dissented.
17. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that the Committee shouldn't be pigeonholed into only evaluating certain organizations and that research should be kept broad.
18. A. Bangura stated agreement with R. DeLorenzo's sentiments.
19. S. Parikh echoed agreement with R. DeLorenzo's sentiments.
20. The motion to amend line 16 to include the line "pre-professional organizations" **failed** through a vote of unanimous dissent.
21. N. Courtney stated belief that general trends being seen doesn't suffice opening a Committee and potentially prying into student organizations selective policies. N. Courtney stated belief that more preliminary measures first be taken.
22. A. Barry stated that many student organizations lack needed oversight.
23. C. Ting acknowledged the intention behind the Resolution but questioned the feasibility of compliance.
24. C. Lederman stated that the Committee will need to evaluate what compliance will look like.
25. S. Parikh noted the importance of asserting authority.
26. A. Barry motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
27. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of 9-0-1.

XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. Confirmation of International Student Affairs Committee New Members



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1. Members of the International Student Affairs Committee are confirmed through unanimous consent.
- b. Appointments to UA Committees
 1. J. Rosewater was appointed to the Campus Planning Committee through unanimous consent.

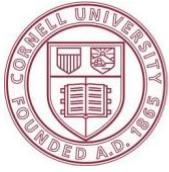
XII. Adjournment

- a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Zhang

Clerk of the Assembly



Resolution 31: Towards Relief and Peace in the Middle East

Abstract: This resolution authorizes the Assembly to run a donation drive to support relief and peace efforts in the Middle East.

Sponsored by: Patrick Kuehl '24

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 10/11/2023

Type of Action: Legislation

Originally Presented: 10/12/2023

Current Status: Introduced

Whereas, the Student Assembly believes it should stay neutral on issues that do not directly affect the student body;

Whereas, a key mission of Cornell University is “to do the greatest good”;

Whereas, the Student Assembly recognizes the tremendous amount of suffering that has happened and is currently happening in the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine;

Whereas, the Student Assembly believes in a conflict free world;

Whereas, the Student Assembly aims to pass legislation that has a material impact on the student body and the world at-large;

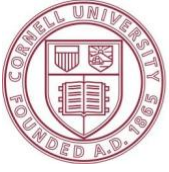
Whereas, Cornell students are from and have family on both sides of this conflict;

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly will run a drive to raise donations from the Cornell community to support independent relief efforts in the Middle East;

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly will allocate 25% of the proceeds to the Alliance for Middle East Peace, which works towards fostering a peaceful resolution to this conflict, 25% to Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) to provide lifesaving care to the wounded, 25% to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent to support their relief efforts, and 25% to Save the Children to secure corridors of safety and provide essential services to the children affected by this conflict.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Kuehl '24



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29 *President, Student Assembly*



Resolution 30: Removing Median Grades

1
2 **Abstract:** This resolution requests Cornell University ceases the practice of reporting median grades
3 on official transcripts.

4 **Sponsored by:** Jahmal Wallen '24, Niles Hite '26, Marwa Bakri '24, Aissatou Barry '24, Imani
5 Rezaka '24, Ebreez Elbishir '24, Tamara Frith '24, Tokunda Chikuvire '26, Jennifer Sarprong '24,
6 Himma Aklilu '25, Amara Chiedu '24, Samuel Tadmiri '24, Milan Broughton '24, Rachel Richards
7 '24, Kayla Drew '25, Aissata Maiga '25, Jackson Thoby '25, Angelo Del Toro '24, Jaida Enekwe '25,
8 Devin Gordon '24, Hector Hurtado '24, Muhamadou Jobarteh '25, Kenneth González '24, Pryor
9 Simon '24, Ukana Basseyy '25, Asara Milton '24, Devyn Bryant '25, Justice Hoff '24, Shanzai Ikhlal
10 '24, Micheal Abaseber '26, Aden Belay '24, Delina Selam '25, Leule Ashenafi '26, Lydia Yilekal '26,
11 Venezia Ayalew '26, Cyan Crayton '25, Anatasia Assenso '25, Maia Lee '24, Delesa McCruter '25,
12 Ebenezer Eshetu '24, Nayomi Asghedom '25, Madeline Ortiz '24, Ahmed Suliman '24, Patrick
13 Kuehl '24, Nicholas Maggard '26.

14 **Reviewed by:** Academic Policy Committee, 10/11/2023, 10-0-0

15 **Type of Action:** Recommendation

16 **Originally Presented:** 10/12/2023

17 **Current Status:** New Business

18 **Whereas,** Cornell University introduced the calculation and inclusion of median grades on
19 undergraduate student records in 2008, in response to a student assembly resolution.

20 **Whereas,** Prior to 2008, median grades were calculated and posted on the Office of the University
21 Registrar's (OUR) website, but this practice ceased when median grades began printing on
22 transcripts.

23 **Whereas,** Students typically discover the practice of reporting median grades only upon ordering
24 official transcripts.

25 **Whereas,** Cornell is anomalous in its practice of recording median grades on transcripts; of the 71
26 member institutions of the Association of American Universities, Cornell is one of only four
27 institutions that record median grades on transcripts

28 **Whereas,** The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, in its 2020
29 Academic Records and Transcript Guide, does not list calculating or posting median grades on
30 transcripts as a recommended component.

31 **Whereas,** Cornell's practice of including median grades on transcripts disadvantages and
32 demoralizes students, devalues academic accomplishments in the classroom, detracts from learning,



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33 fosters unhealthy student competition, negatively impacts student mental health, discourages taking
34 academic risks and undermines holistic education and individual growth.

35 **Be it therefore resolved,** Cornell University shall immediately discontinue the practice of including
36 median grades on official transcripts.

37 **Be it further resolved,** The OUR shall revise its policies and procedures to eliminate the posting of
38 median grades on official transcripts.

39 **Be it further resolved,** The Registrar's website shall be updated to reflect the removal of median
40 grades from official transcripts, providing clear information to students regarding this change.

41 **Be it finally resolved,** The university will consider providing additional developer resources to the
42 OUR to investigate the possibility of retroactively removing median grades from official transcripts.

43

44 **Respectfully Submitted,**

45 Jahmal Wallen '24

46 *Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly, Student Assembly*

47

48 Niles Hite '26

49 *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Representative, Student Assembly*

50 *Chair, Academic Policy Committee, Student Assembly*