



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the February 9, 2023 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

407 Willard Straight Hall

### I. Call to Order

- a. President V. Valencia called the meeting to order at 4:49pm

### II. Roll Call

- a. *Members Present [24]: S. Ali, M. Baker, S. Bhardwaj, D. Cady, K. Chan, P. Da Silveira, G. Dong, A. Lampert, A. Lewis, R. DeLorenzo, L. Lu, J. Mayen, D. Nachman, J. Kalinski, M. Song, V. Valencia, S. Williams, K. Liu, B. Mehretu, A. Richmond, J.P. Swenson, N. Son, C. Ting, C. Newell, K. Everett*
- b. *Members Excused: R. Chatterji, E. D'Angelo, D. Edelman, B. Kotb, B. Luckow, Y. Yuan*

### III. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohó:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)

- a. President V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment

### IV. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. R. DeLorenzo motions to add a minute of silence for the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, passed by unanimous consent
- b. A. Lampert motions to add swearing in the new members under Announcements and Reports, passed by unanimous consent
- c. A. Lampert motions to change the name of Resolution 21 to Resolution 13, P. Da Silveira dissents because Resolution 13 was rejected
  - i. V. Valencia clarifies it was returned, not rejected
  - ii. In a vote of, 14-2-6 the motion passes
- d. C. Lederman motions to change the order of New Business to Resolution 23, 20, 18, 19, 13, 22
  - i. S. Bhardwaj clarifies what Resolution 23 and 22 are
  - ii. C. Lederman withdraws the motion
- e. S. Bhardwaj motions to add Resolution 23, passed by unanimous consent
- f. S. Bhardwaj motions to add Resolution 22, passed by unanimous consent
- g. C. Lederman motions to change the order of New Business to Resolution 23, 20, 18, 19, 13, 22, passed by unanimous consent

### V. Consent Agenda

- a. Moment of silence for the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey



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- i. V. Valencia encourages everyone to reach out to anyone you know effected by the earthquake and the Turkish Student Association is also holding a fundraiser
- b. Approval of the February 2, 2023 meeting minutes
  - i. S. Williams motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

### **VI. Open Microphone**

- a. None

### **VII. Announcements and Reports**

- a. Swearing in of the new members
  - i. C. Newell and K. Everett are sworn-in
- b. I. Chasen announces his resignation from the Director of Elections position at the completion of this Special Election and reads his resignation letter
  - i. I. Chasen endorses Rahul Verma to take-over the role
  - ii. V. Valencia thanks him for his service
  - iii. M. Song thanks him for his work and wishes him the best
- c. N. Son announces that the Turkish Student Association is looking for donations to help with the aftermath of the earthquake
- d. M. Song announces that the DEI committee will be meeting weekly at 7pm on Sundays
- e. M. Song announces that the contribution project is now accepting applications until the 15<sup>th</sup> and winners will be randomly selected and given \$400 in funding with the goal of students doing the “greatest good”

### **VIII. Initiatives**

- a. S. Williams states she has a meeting coming up with the title ix coordinator to do some work in that area
- b. S. Williams states that the academic policy committee survey has launched and she'll share the link and it'll also be included in the newsletter
- c. S. Williams states that the Vice Provost for undergraduate education is conducting some academic policy revisions, so she'll be meeting with her next week to discuss and bringing that back to the Academic Policy Committee if anyone is interested
- d. C. Lederman announces they're still working on bringing food to the assembly and hope to introduce a resolution and have more information next week

### **IX. Presentation and Forums**



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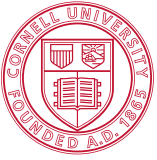
- a. None

### **X. Business of the Day**

- a. R. DeLorenzo presents Resolution 17
  - i. R. De Lorenzo reads the Resolution aloud
  - ii. C. Lederman motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - iii. In a vote of 17-1-5, the motion passes
  - iv. In a vote of 20-0-3, Resolution 17 passes

### **XI. New Business**

- a. S. Bhardwaj, S. Khan, and Z. Johnson-Berman present Resolution 23
  - i. S. Bhardwaj reads the Resolution aloud
  - ii. Z. Johnson-Berman states that the atrocities committed towards the Uyghur people have been declared a genocide by the UN
  - iii. Continues that at their rally they will be hosting Uyghur speakers who have survived the genocide and they will share their stories. All of them still have family interned in China, and will speak to their struggles, and what actions we can take to take down the genocide and support the Uyghur people
  - iv. Z. Johnson-Berman states that various Cornell and Ithaca groups will be coming together to rally for Uyghur rights on Capitol Hill this Saturday
  - v. Continues that they are focused on rising awareness about the Uyghur genocide by sharing words of survivors and advocates and gaining support for the humanitarian rights of Uyghurs by pushing for the Uyghur Rights Human Rights Projection Act and the Uyghur Policy Act
  - vi. S. Khan states 1.8 million Uyghurs are currently detained in the concentration camps and 1.4 million is the population of San Diego
  - vii. Continues that Uyghurs have experiences horrific crimes against humanity in the form of mental and physical violence, torture, abuse, and forced labor
  - viii. S. Khan states that on March 10<sup>th</sup>, a Cornell graduate, whose brother was detained in one of the camps in 2017, and is still detained, took a courageous step to share her story in our community
  - ix. Continues that almost half of the attendees walked out booing, taunting, and even laughing at her
  - x. S. Khan states that she urges Cornell to condemn the genocide and provide an apology, not only verbally, but also through concrete action that can make a difference for 1.8 Uyghur victims detained in the concentration camps



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- x. M. Baker motions to amend line 42 to say "...Resolution 39: Calling upon Cornell to Uphold its Ethical Guidelines for International Engagements," passed by unanimous consent
  - xi. J.P. Swenson motions to pass the resolution, M. Song dissents to add an amendment, J.P. Swenson withdraws the motion
  - xii. M. Song motions to amend the abstract to say "Chinese government's genocide," D. Cady dissents, states it should be "CPP" to be most correct
  - xiii. In a vote of 11-2-7, the motions passes
  - xiv. J.P. Swenson motions to pass the resolution, passed by unanimous consent
  - xv. Resolution 23 passes by unanimous consent
- b. D. Cady, A. Richmond, S. Williams, S. Bhardwaj, P. Da Silveira, M. Levy, and K. Esterl present Resolution 20
- i. M. Levy introduces herself and states she's a member of Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA) and a lead for the emergency contraceptive vending machine project
  - ii. K. Esterl states introduces herself and states she's co-president of PPGA
  - iii. M. Levy states the project came to be after she came across a post of an emergency contraceptive vending machine at Boston University. She got in contact with the leads of the project there and then got in touch with K. Esterl
  - iv. M. Levy states that Cornell Health can't be open at all times to provide emergency contraception and that other options can be far and expensive
  - v. K. Esterl states that PPGA was very excited to work on this project and they've been talking to Cornell Health and students and found a real demand for this kind of service
  - vi. M. Levy states they conducted a survey on Qualtrics with over 700 responses that found that this vending machine is something students wanted, would use, and trust
  - vii. D. Cady and S. Williams read part of the Resolution aloud
  - viii. P. Da Silveira that the background on this resolution is the recent expansion of these vending machines to other universities, such as GWU, and the recent legislative action and judicial rulings. This is an opportunity for Cornell to expand a fundamental right for its community
  - ix. Continues we pay for the Student Health Plan and health fees, so it makes sense that this is part of what we are entitled to as Cornell students
  - x. P. Da Silveira states that Cornell Health is far away from North and East campus, and with its operating hours, makes accessing it very difficult



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- xi. P. Da Silveira states that only 17.82% of undergraduate students said they accessed emergency contraception at Cornell Health, which is in part due to the location and hours
- xii. S. Williams states that Cornell Health only operates during business hours, but medical care is needed during all hours
- xiii. D. Cady states we should follow in the footsteps of our ivy league peers to increase essential reproductive healthcare access
- xiv. A. Richmond states that Cornell has over 300 vending machines on campus and 12 of them are made by a company called Vengo Labs and these machines already have the ability to dispense certain over the counter medications
- xv. Continues that Standard University uses almost the exact same machines made by Vengo Labs and distributes emergency contraceptives and over the counter medications, so the infrastructure is already there
- xvi. A. Richmond and S. Bhardwaj read the closing lines of the Resolution aloud
- xvii. D. Cady thanks the co-signers, Planned Parenthood Generation Action, and the other organizations that have shown support
- xviii. P. Da Silveira states that emergency contraceptives at Cornell Health are \$10 vs. \$50 for Plan B. Getting the generics in vending machines would increase accessibility and affordability
- xix. A. Richmond states that Ezra Cornell said “Cornellians are united by a shared purpose to do the greatest good” and this is an opportunity to do the greatest good and uphold that ideal
- xx. J. Kalinski asks what the distance goal for someone to access these machines would be?
- xxi. K. Esterl states the goal is to have 4 spread out across campus, they will start with one or two maybe on North campus or by Cornell Health on central campus and then if it works it can be expanded
- xxii. B. Mehretu thanks them for presenting the resolution. Asks if there’s anywhere in the resolution asking Cornell to make a commitment to add more of these machines?
- xxiii. D. Cady states the intention of this resolution is to create a pilot program and suggests that Cornell already has access to these 12 machines on campus, but that the vending machine doesn’t need to be these specific ones
- xxiv. Continues that the intent of this resolution is to continue the work and get more people involved and then they can focus more on the location of the machines



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- xxv. P. Da Silveira states another university just added Plan B as an option in their vending machines, so they're not asking for a solely Plan B vending machines. They can build on infrastructure and also provide other over the counter medicines in these machines as well
  - xxvi. M. Song thanks them for their work and asks if there's a plan for the vending machines to accept BRBs?
  - xxvii. M. Levy states they discussed that, but Cornell Health said that might be a bit of a barrier and something that the machines might not be able to do, at least in the pilot program. There are also restrictions on what BRBs can be used.
  - xxviii. K. Esterl continues that the machines might likely have a Cornell Bursar charge possibility and cash and credit card possibility and it would show up as a "Cornell health" or a "Cornell vending" charge
  - xxix. M. Song thanks them for considering the initiative and states she asked because in other vending machines BRBs can be used
  - xxx. K. Everett asks them what the plan is for checking in on vending machine health, so people know that this is something they can rely on?
  - xxxi. M. Levy states that time would be spent checking and updating the vending machines and people would be committed to doing that. Showing when they're last updated is something that they have also discussed
  - xxxii. K. Esterl states the Cornell Pharmacists are also committed to this project and seeing it go through themselves
  - xxxiii. J. Kalinski asks if Cornell Health would have full jurisdiction or would it be a joint-project?
  - xxxiv. M. Levy states the idea is for PPGA and other organizations to support Cornell Health and this project. It is led and financially supported by Cornell Health, but other organizations would be supporting it throughout the lifespan
  - xxxv. S. Williams draws attention to lines 140-143 and states they've also discussed having SHAC heavily involved in this as well
  - xxxvi. C. Lederman motions to pass the Resolution, passed by unanimous consent
  - xxxvii. Resolution 20 passes by unanimous consent
- c. S. Williams presents Resolution 18
- i. S. Williams states it was passed by the Academic Policy Committee in a vote of 5-0-2
  - ii. S. Williams reads the Resolution aloud
  - iii. S. Williams states this Resolution also has the support of the presidents of the First Generation Student Union



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- iv. D. Cady thanks her for the resolution and opportunity for the student assembly to get more involved in academic policy
  - v. S. Williams states she realizes the two programs listed are in Arts & Sciences, but that's just because those are the ones she's participated in. She's seen this breakdown in communication multiple other times and in other colleges as well
  - vi. J. Kalinski asks if she'll be speaking with each college directly or if this will be more of an over-arching thing?
  - vii. S. Williams states lines 34-36 mention platforms and social media that can be used for advertising. She thinks that the best method of communication will be getting professors to use these platforms and social media sites
  - viii. B. Mehretu motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - ix. B. Mehretu motions to pass the Resolution, passed by unanimous consent
  - x. Resolution 18 passes by unanimous consent
- d. C. Lederman motions to suspend the rules and stop with the reading of the resolutions
- i. D. Cady states that it is not in the rules, but personal preference
  - ii. C. Lederman withdraws the motion
- e. N. Son, P. Da Silveira, and L. Lu present Resolution 19
- i. N. Son introduces the Resolution and states it has been reviewed by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and is ready for discussion
  - ii. L. Lu and N. Son read the Resolution aloud
  - iii. P. Da Silveira states this is different from past legislation because this is a direct modification of the bylaws, so this will be voted on next week
  - iv. Continues that this will be a review committee, which our bylaws charge us with reviewing all policies, programs, and actions that regard student life
  - v. P. Da Silveira states the chair will be voted on and membership will be determined from an application process through the chair and want the VP DEI c and VP of External Affairs to participant as ex-officio members
  - vi. N. Son states the establishment of an International Students Affairs Committee will go a long way in addressing the needs and concerns of our international student community and urges the assembly to support this resolution and help make a difference
  - vii. S. Bhardwaj states that the DEI committee has certain representatives who need to be on the committee. Would you be open to having the International Students Liaison being required to be on the committee?



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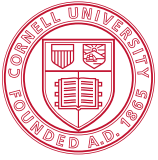
- viii. P. Da Silveira responds yes
  - ix. M. Baker motions to amend line 49 to say "... and International Students Liaison at-Large shall serve as a member of the committee," passed by unanimous consent
  - x. D. Cady suggests adding a footnote indicating where Cornell is ranked 5<sup>th</sup>, the addition of an "originally presented date," and quotations on lines 30-32 and 30-34
  - xi. B. Mehretu motions to postpone to next week, passed by unanimous consent
- f. A. Lampert motions to move Resolution 22 above Resolution 13 to give the Office of Ethics more time to get here, passed by unanimous consent
- g. Resolution 22 is presented by S. Bhardwaj and A. Lampert
- i. S. Bhardwaj states that they both live in co-op housing and mosey is coming up, so that inspired this resolution
  - ii. S. Bhardwaj reads the Resolution aloud
  - iii. J. Kalinski asks if they would like a communication via the SA Instagram
  - iv. S. Bhardwaj responds yes, they were going to do that
  - v. D. Cady responds he thought being in a co-op was really cool. Asks if there's any other institutional way to convey messaging around this?
  - vi. S. Bhardwaj states she's be in contact with the Dean for First Generation and Low-Income Students and she works in Student and Campus Life and is working with their social media team to post the graphics everywhere
  - vii. Continues that beyond that it's primarily communication with the Housing Office, but also with Student and Campus Life
  - viii. D. Cady motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - ix. B. Mehretu motions to pass the Resolution, passed by unanimous consent
  - x. Resolution 22 passes by unanimous consent
- h. A. Lampert motions to postpone Resolution 13, passed by unanimous consent

### **XII. Adjournment**

- a. N. Son motions to adjourn, passed by unanimous consent
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Megan Birmingham  
Clerk of the Assembly





Cornell University  
Student Assembly