

## Cornell University's Student Assembly

Minutes of the February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 4:45pm.
    - Members Present (24): D. Akkiraju, A. Akpan, L. Barrett, A. Barry, F. Berry, S. Chan, D. Diao, Z. deRham, K. Everett, C. Flournoy, A. Helkowski, K. Jordan, C. Kim, P. Kuehl, C. Lederman, F. Meng, Y. Moitra, S. Parikh, C. Platkin, I. Rezaka, S. Son, D. Suarez, A. Vinson, C. Ting. A. Wang
    - 2. Members Absent (5): L. Balestrieri, R. DeLorenzo, C. Kim, N. Hite, B. Terhaar
    - 3. *Also Present (10)*: D. Almeida, A. Bangura, A. Coleman, E. Kalweit, N. Maggard, A. Mulpuri, J. Swenson, L. Thomas, J. Wallen, J. Zhang
- II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement
  - a. P. Kuehl stated the SA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.
- III. Open Microphones
  - a. There were no speakers.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. Approval of the February 15 meeting minutes
    - 1. J. Swenson motioned to approve the minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- V. Consent Calendar
  - a. There were no items.
- VI. Announcements
  - a. Executive Vice President Ting
    - 1. Spring Elections
      - 1. C. Ting noted the upcoming Spring Elections. C. Ting urged members of the Assembly to consider re-running for election to help represent their communities.
    - 2. Expressive Activity Policy link to University Assembly page for Public Comment



- 1. C. Ting urged members to give comments on the Expressive Activity Policy.
- 2. J. Wallen motioned to suspend the rules to bring Resolution 57: Suspending the Cornell Interim Expressive Activity Policy to Promote Freedom of Expression onto the top of the Resolutions agenda. The motion **passed**.

## VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

- a. Internal Operations Committee
  - 1. N. Maggard noted work done on the resolution to amend the Charter.
- b. Elections Committee
  - 1. L. Thomas noted work being done to prepare the upcoming Election's Elections Calendar.
- c. Student-Elected Trustee
  - J. Swenson noted correspondence with Dean Love on the possibility of a forum held using pre-submitted questions to discuss the Interim Expressive Activity Policy. J. Swenson stated hope that this forum could occur in person rather than on Zoom to engage in conversation.
  - 2. K. Everett questioned if all members could submit a question and have it answered.
  - 3. J. Swenson stated hope that the forum could be moderated in this way.
  - 4. P. Kuehl gave additional context leading to the forum.
  - 5. C. Ting stated lack of amenity with having the forum take place on Zoom.
  - 6. S. Parikh concurred with C. Ting's statement. S. Parikh stated that while there should be pre-submitted questions, there should also be the possibility of questions on the spot.
  - 7. I. Rezaka stated hope that the forum could occur during a Student Assembly meeting so that it could be open to the public.
  - 8. A. Barry questioned if there was amenability to editing the Policy itself.
  - 9. P. Kuehl stated that this is currently unclear.
  - 10. C. Lederman stated the importance of providing line-level edits to the Policy.
  - 11. K. Everett stated belief that it would be productive to have representatives from different student organizations give diverse input.
  - 12. J. Swenson summarized members' comments. J. Swenson stated belief that the administration has an obligation to ask questions and give transparency.



- VIII. Presentations a. There were no presentations.
  - IX. Old Business Calendar
    - a. There was no business.
  - X. Resolutions Calendar
    - a. Resolution 56: Affirming the Responsibility to Shared Governance in Upholding Freedom of Expression
      - 1. Item was taken as reference for Resolution 58.
    - b. Resolution 57: Suspending the Cornell Interim Expressive Activity Policy to Promote Freedom of Expression
      - J. Wallen introduced the intent of the Resolution to suspend the Policy and highlighted the overwhelmingly negative opinion towards the Interim Policy and the methods with which it was implemented, leading to a lack of opportunity to engage constituents. J. Wallen noted the hypocrisy of the Policy considering the year's theme of Freedom of Expression.
      - 2. K. Everett stated support for the Resolution. K. Everett clarified if the administration consulted any Assemblies.
      - 3. P. Kuehl stated that the Assemblies were consulted, but feedback was not considered.
      - 4. J. Wallen gave further context.
      - 5. C. Lederman stated appreciation for the sentiment of the Resolution but emphasized that no matter what, a policy will exist and a line needs to be drawn between what is acceptable within said policy.
      - 6. C. Lederman motioned to amend the Resolution to strike all text and substitute the text of Resolution 56 and add to Resolution 56 unique statements from Resolution 57. S. Parikh seconded.
      - 7. I. Rezaka stated that the amendment does not explicitly explain what will be adopted in Resolution 56 instead.
      - 8. J. Wallen stated hope that the two Resolutions could be compared by the members to understand what might be missing from Resolution 57.
      - 9. C. Lederman noted the need to include explicit history on how the Policy was rolled out and recognize limits due to shared governance. C. Lederman stated that specific opinions on the Policy should not be given until actual comments from the students have been collected.



- 10. P. Kuehl stated a possible path forward considering the two differing Resolutions.
- 11. J. Wallen agreed with P. Kuehl's sentiments but questioned what Resolution 57 misses, noting it is more succinct.
- 12. J. Swenson stated belief in the key difference between the Resolutions where Resolution 56 thoroughly explains the history of shared governance at Cornell and notes considerations given during a previous meeting with the administration. J. Swenson highlighted that Resolution 56 focuses on the rollout of the Policy rather than the contents itself because there has not been an opportunity for large outreach to gauge opinions of the community.
- 13. S. Parikh noted the importance of giving context of the events leading to the current circumstances surrounding the Policy and highlighted the need for legitimacy of opinions from constituents.
- 14. C. Ting noted that Resolution 57 primarily serves as a voice from the community from the body up, while Resolution 56 focuses more from the student government perspective. C. Ting questioned what input from community leaders helped shape the Resolution.
- 15. J. Wallen stated more issue with the Policy than the events leading to the Policy. J. Wallen stated the importance of passing the Resolution with community sponsors to represent student input.
- 16. S. Parikh stated agreement with J. Wallen's statements but highlighted the importance of giving thorough reasoning for the Resolution based on information gathered from constituents.
- 17. K. Everett questioned if, in inverse to the current amendment, Resolution57 stays intact with content from Resolution 56 added in.
- 18. J. Wallen stated amenability to have Resolution 56 have "suspend" in the title despite lack of community sponsors.
- 19. S. Parikh stated that while community sponsors should be acknowledged, Resolution 56 focuses more on governance concerns.
- 20. P. Kuehl noted that having 2 Resolutions would seem like a lack of a unified, singular voice.
- 21. C. Flournoy noted that as the two Resolutions acknowledged separate viewpoints, it could be beneficial to pass both Resolutions. C. Flournoy questioned, should there be attempts to merge the two Resolutions, how the timeline of editing this Resolution would play out.
- 22. C. Lederman stated belief that recommendations should not be included in the Resolution until concrete feedback from constituents have been



received. C. Lederman highlighted that Student Assembly was created to protect shared governance and represent input from students.

- 23. J. Wallen highlighted that Resolution 57 also aligns closely to this history due to the suppression of minority groups.
- 24. P. Kuehl motioned to recess for 6 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- 25. P. Kuehl noted the possibility of creating opportunities for recognition of undergraduate seniors on campus.
- c. Resolution 58: Suspending University Policy 4.23 to Affirm the Responsibility of the Shared Governance System and Uphold Freedom of Expression
  - 1. S. Parikh motioned to amend the Resolution to strike lines 43-55. K. Everett dissented.
  - 2. K. Everett stated the importance of noting the specific parts students disagree with.
  - 3. I. Rezaka stated amenability to amend a different line due to the importance of giving context.
  - 4. P. Kuehl motioned to amend the amendment to include "including but not limited to". The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - 5. S. Parikh motioned to amend the Resolution to strike lines 73-75 due to the duplicatory nature. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - S. Parikh motioned to amend the Resolution to strike lines 70-72 to state "whereas this policy has a chilling effect on campus". J. Wallen dissented. J. Wallen stated belief that noting that the Policy was created in reaction to rising protests is important.
  - 7. C. Ting stated agreement with J. Wallen.
  - 8. S. Parikh motioned to amend the amendment to state "whereas the intention of the interim Policy appears to create a chilling effect on protests, rallies, and demonstrations on the Ithaca campus".
  - 9. I. Rezaka stated belief that this amendment does not fully encompass intent.
  - 10. P. Kuehl motioned to amend the amendment to state "whereas the interim Policy appears to be in direct reaction to the rise of protests, rallies, and demonstrations, and creates a chilling effect among the Cornell community on the Ithaca campus". The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - 11. P. Kuehl called the approval of the Resolution to question. The motion **passed** through a vote of unanimous consent.



- XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendara. There were no items.
- XII. Adjournment
  - a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jenny Zhang Clerk of the Assembly