



Cornell University  
Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, March 25, 2021 Meeting  
4:45pm via Zoom

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:47pm (EST).
- b. Roll Call
  - i. *Members Present:* L. Abd Elmagid, M. Baker, J. Bansah, C. Castillo, U. Chukwukere, L. Contreras, A. Gleiberman, S. Kapoor, A. Lampert, A. Miramontes Serrano, E. Perez, T. Reuning, K. Santacruz, M. Shardow, L. Smith, C. Templeman, V. Valencia, N. Watson, S. Woldai, V. Xu, Y. Yuan, R. Zohar, L. Zumpano, S. Zverev, C. Huang
  - ii. *Members Absent:* K. Butler

### II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation)

- a. Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:nq' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York State, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogohó:nq' dispossession and honor the ongoing connection of the Gayogohó:nq' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

### III. Announcements and Presentations

- a. A. Ononye stated they are currently taking applications for the Office of the Student Advocate. They are staffing the student advocate, chief of staff, all director positions, case worker positions and OSA ambassador positions.
- b. P. Mehler stated that SA elections are officially underway as of Monday, 3/22. There were two information sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, 3/23 and 3/24, that are recorded for anyone interested. P. Mehler strongly encouraged to ask others if they are interested in running for positions and there is still plenty of time left to run.
- c. A. Miramontes Serrano and C. Templeman stated they have been gathering input from their constituents regarding housing and asked for input from SA members.
  - i. A. Miramontes Serrano explained there has been many complaints about security in the kitchens and food being stolen. To combat this, they are thinking about proposing having security cameras implemented in the kitchens. Another idea is renewing the facilities of North Campus, as they are



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- not as nice as West Campus yet pay the same amount. They also received many complaints about laundry and lighting
- ii. C. Templeman stated that many students have complained about paying for laundry and was interested in pursuing this as an initiative to help make campus become more equitable.
  - iii. C. Huang encouraged to become in contact with the Infrastructure Committee.
  - iv. T. Reuning stated that the security cameras in the kitchen is a difficult conversation. As someone that lived on campus without a meal plan and have food stolen, they sympathize with the reasoning. But, it would be have cameras in peoples' living spaces and you do not want people to feel like they are being surveilled in the place that they live in.
  - v. Y. Yuan asked about the legality issues of adding cameras in private living spaces, especially in dorm rooms.
  - vi. M. Shardow asked how big of an issue people stealing other people's food.
    1. A. Miramontes Serrano stated that around 20% of constituents said they have had things stolen and around 80% of constituents said they had food stolen.
    2. C. Huang asked how many people voted in general.

### IV. Open Microphone

- a. No Speakers present at open microphone.

### V. Approval of the Minutes

- a. March 18, 2021
  - i. Motion to approve the March 18<sup>h</sup> minutes – **approved** Unanimous Consent

### VI. New Business

- a. SA R35: Calling on Cornell to End all Ties with ICE
  - i. Abstract: This resolution is calling on Cornell to absolve all ties with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), including but not limited to recruitment, education, training, research, and technological equipment and software.
  - ii. S. Linardi stated that this resolution is calling on Cornell to absolve all ties with ICE. Cornell has historically invited organizations to participate on campus recruitment that has assisted ICE in tracking, detaining, and deporting migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Cornell has multiple contracts to ICE-affiliated companies for education, training, services, and technological equipment. Cornell Tech has been suspected of providing facial recognition software to ICE and ICE-affiliated companies. ICE has a long and well-documented history of brutality, including deportations, family separation, destruction of families who have lived in the country and communities for decades, and has consistently posed a threat to individual civil liberties. Cornell cannot live up to its principle or its motto "any person, any study" while aiding and abetting the US government agencies that oppress, persecute, and deport undocumented community members. A statement from the DREAM team deeply implores that the Student



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Assembly pass Resolution 35 and 36. The many years of increased harassment and persecution of undocumented people in New York, in the Ithaca area, and on campus are evident of the pressing needs to pass these resolutions to support the undocumented community.

- iii. L. Smith asked if there has been any pushback from the Graduate and Professional students who are more likely to do research with ICE-affiliated companies.
  1. S. Linardi stated that they have been in contact with the law school and the professors at Cornell Tech who have been supporting the causes. The DREAM team has not heard of any dissent from graduate students.
  2. T. Reuning explained that they do have support from the Faculty Senate. If faculty are not willing to do research with ICE, graduate students would not be able to complete research without a faculty supervisor.
- iv. M. Shardow thanked the co-sponsors and expressed support for the resolution. M. Shardow asked how strictly they want to enforce the clause that asks Cornell to boycott ICE and ICE-affiliated organizations from recruitment on campus.
  1. S. Linardi stated the idea is to start with Palantir and Anduril who are companies that have been found guilty of human rights abuses. If the definition of ICE-affiliated companies continues to expand, this will continue to be discussed at Cornell and at the national level. Hopefully by doing this and pressuring companies not to work with ICE, it will have a positive impact on the national community.
- v. There was a motion to vote on Resolution #35 through unanimous consent.
  1. Motion to approved Resolution #35 – **passed** Unanimous Consent
- b. SA R36: Calling on Cornell to Establish Itself as a Sanctuary Campus
  - i. Abstract: This resolution is calling on Cornell to establish itself as a sanctuary campus for undocumented students, faculty, and staff.
  - ii. S. Linardi stated this resolution is calling on Cornell to establish itself as a sanctuary campus for undocumented students, staff, and faculty. The term sanctuary campus is inspired form the sanctuary city movement and refers to any college or university that influences policies to protect students, faculty, and staff who are undocumented immigrants. The actions of sanctuary campuses do not conflict with their legal obligations and it is not a federal offense to refuse admission to officers that are without a valid judicial warrant. There has been ICE scares in the past in Ithaca, and CUPD has also disclosed that they have no formal protocol in the event that a student or a member of the Cornell community is detained or deported by ICE. CUPD said they rely on an informal and undisclosed system of communication regarding crisis situations involving ICE. Cornell University must commit to fostering a safe and nourishing environment for undocumented students by establishing a sanctuary campus including, but not limited to, barring ICE



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ICE officers from campus unless they possess valid judicial warrants, instructing campus police to cooperate with ICE against members of the campus community when an official judicial warrant is unavailable, refusing to share information about faculty or students immigration status with ICE, implemented a don't ask, don't tell policy on student or faculty immigration status, facilitating ally workshops to educate students, faculty, and staff, providing confidential legal support for students with immigration law questions and issues, and establishing an undocumented resource center overseen by the Associate Director for the Student Empowerment. Resolution 36 must be passed in order to foster a more positive environment for undocumented students on campus.

- iii. A. Arteaga, a co-sponsor and DREAM Team member, read a statement regarding the need for this resolution based on their personal experiences.
- iv. C. Huang thanked S. Linardi and the DREAM team for all the work they have done on campus and these resolutions.
- v. There was a motion to vote on Resolution #36 by unanimous consent.
  1. Motion to approve Resolution #36 – **passed** Unanimous Consent
- c. SA R37: Creating a More Accessible Process for Student Assembly Religious Accommodation
  - i. Abstract: This resolution seeks to create a more accessible process to request an excused absence for religious reasons, or request accommodations for meetings in the event of a religious conflict.
  - ii. C. Huang explained that this resolution seeks to make the process of asking for religious accommodations more accessible. The resolution states that the Executive Committee will be responsible for creating the annual schedule and required to check if any of the Thursday meeting dates conflict with religious holidays. If a member of the Student Assembly is observing a religious holiday that isn't recognized by the calendar, they can request an excused absence by contacting Internal Operations before the start of the weekly meeting.
  - iii. There was a motion to vote on Resolution #37 by unanimous consent.
    1. Motion to approve Resolution #37 by Unanimous Consent
- d. SA R38: Adding the Students with Disabilities Representative At-Large to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee
  - i. Abstract: This resolution seeks to add the Students with Disabilities Representative At-Large to the list of the Assembly members required to sit on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.
  - ii. R. Zohar stated that this resolution seeks to add the Students with Disability Representative to the list of Assembly members required to sit on the



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- Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The position is still very new to the assembly and that students with disabilities are marginalized on campus.
- iii. There was a motion to vote on Resolution #38 by unanimous consent.
    1. Motion to approve Resolution #38 – **passed** Unanimous Consent
  - e. SA R39: Calling Upon Cornell to Uphold its Ethical Guidelines for International Engagement
    - i. Abstract: This resolution calls upon Cornell University to uphold its ethical values when collaborating with international institutions.
    - ii. L. Abd Elmagid stated this resolution calls upon Cornell to uphold ethical guidelines for international engagements. There is currently a proposed program between the School of Hotel Administration and Peking University in China, referred to as PKU. When this program was proposed to the Cornell Faculty Senate, a bunch of issues and concerns were raised during meetings. A major issue is the history of academic freedom violations that PKU has. PKU has a history of academic freedom violations and some faculty members actually had personal accounts when they were teaching or when some of their students were attending PKU or other universities in the area. They felt like they could not bring up sensitive topics and had to walk on eggshells when answering questions that were deemed controversial questions, such as questions about Taiwanese independence or the protests in Hong Kong. Another major issue is the Labor Movement suppression and many young labor activists have protested for better workers' rights. PKU officials have cracked down on their own students, detaining them overnight for questions. In 2018, Cornell cut ties with Renmin University, which was accused of many similar things. Additionally, there is the larger issue of engaging with a State accused of pursuing genocide. The Chinese government is currently committing a human rights violation. There is currently over 1 million Uighur Muslims detained in concentration camps. In these camps, Muslims are forced to renounce Islam, learn Mandarin, and pledge loyalty to the Chinese government. There have been reports of torture, psychological torment, abuse, systematic rape, and forced sterilization to limit the population. Both Canada and the Netherlands have declared this a genocide and both the outgoing and current US Secretaries of State have declared the same. Cornell has ethical guidelines for collaborating with international institutions and it would be hypocritical of Cornell to partner with PKU and ignore its own guidelines.
    - iii. Y. Yuan stated that as the International Students Representative, they would like to be informed about resolutions like these before meetings. Y. Yuan asked for clarification on Demand 5 that asked for Cornell to suspend or terminate all programs where academic freedom is in question in places like China, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.
      1. L. Abd Elmagid explained that this resolution is in response to the ongoing Faculty Senate discussions. This resolution calls for Cornell



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to not start this program as well as reexamine current relationships that violate the same ethical principles.

- iv. L. Smith expressed interest in the Faculty Senate side of things, and it appears that the Vice Provost for International Affairs seems in favor of moving forward with the dual degree.
  1. L. Abd Elmagid stated that when this was first brought to the Faculty Senate, it wasn't brought for any sort of approval more of a notification that it was happening because it was approved by the School of Hotel Administration, but the debates have spanned over a month now.
- v. There was a motion to vote on Resolution #39.
  1. Motion to approve Resolution #39 – passed 18-0-4.
- f. There was a motion to add M. Shardow, C. Castillo, and S. Zverev as co-sponsors on Resolution #39.
  - i. Motion to amend Resolution #39 – amended
- g. There was a motion to amend the agenda to include Resolution #40.
  - i. Motion to amend the agenda – amended
- h. SA R40: Approving Special Projects Request for Sexual Violence Prevention Network
  - i. Abstract: This resolution approves \$10,400 of Special Projects funding to the Sexual Violence Prevention Network for their Sexual Assault Awareness Month programming.
  - ii. U. Chukwukere stated that the Sexual Violence Prevention Network requestion \$10,400 from the SA Special Projects fund. In years past, they normally do a week of Sexual Assault Awareness, but they are expanding it this year to make it the entire month of April with many events and prominent speakers. This is the first approval of Special Projects funding, and it is because any amount larger than \$1500 needs to be approved by the Assembly by a majority vote.
  - iii. A. Miramontes Serrano asked if the programming was virtual this year.
    1. U. Chukwukere stated that it will be virtual this year and encouraged members to attend.
  - iv. There was a motion to vote on Resolution #40 by unanimous consent.
    1. Motion to approve Resolution #40 – passed Unanimous Consent

### VII. Adjournment

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:39pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Ciara Shanahan*  
Clerk of the Student Assembly