



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the March 2, 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 4:53pm

II. Roll Call

- a. *Members Present [19]: S. Ali, M. Baker, S. Bhardwaj, D. Cady, R. Chatterji, P. Da Silveira, R. DeLorenzo, K. Everett, J. Kalinski, P. Kuehl, A. Lampert, K. Liu, C. Newell, A. Richmond, N. Son, M. Song, C. Ting, S. Williams, Y. Yuan, V. Valencia*
- b. *Members Excused: E. D'Angelo, G. Dong, B. Kotb, A. Lewis, L. Lu, J. Mayen, B. Mebretu, D. Nachman, J.P. Swenson*

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

- a. President V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment

IV. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. A. Lambert motions to add Resolution 24 under New Business, passed by unanimous consent
- b. S. Bhardwaj motions to add Resolution 25 under New Business, passed by unanimous consent

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the February 23, 2023 meeting minutes
 - i. S. Williams motions to list S. Williams under “members present” in the roll call, passed by unanimous consent
 - ii. S. Bhardwaj motions to change “might not be able to” to “refuses” under Presentation and Forums, passed by unanimous consent
 - iii. S. Bhardwaj motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

VI. Open Microphone

- a. None

VII. Announcements and Reports



Cornell University Student Assembly

- a. S. Williams states she met with the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education and the office is exploring new ways to promote academic programs given the ideas in Resolution 18.
 - i. Continues there is also an experience.cornell.edu platform that has opportunities that people can share
- b. D. Cady states himself and some others will be meeting with VP Lombardi on Monday to discuss the Plan B vending machine resolution
 - i. C. Ting asks what resolution is under consideration
 - ii. D. Cady responds the Plan B vending machine resolution exclusively for now
 - iii. S. Bhardwaj asks if he'll bring up the MD-gynecologist resolution
 - iv. D. Cady responds he recently had another meeting on Friday about that and is going to follow up, but those are separate conversations right now
- c. A. Lampert states there's a mental health app called Real and Cornell students get 1 month free if you'd like to promote it
- d. V. Valencia states President Pollack and VP Lombardi will be coming to the assembly April 16th and people can send in questions

VIII. Initiatives

- a. S. Williams states they're working on an initiative with ConsentEd to give them some more funding and support if anyone is interested

IX. Presentation and Forums

- a. John Burdick the VP for Enrollment gave a presentation about financial aid at Cornell and current updates
 - i. J. Burdick fields questions from the assembly about the past and present financial aid situation at Cornell as well as what can be expected in the future

X. Business of the Day

- a. None

XI. New Business

- a. Resolution 24 is presented by P. Da Silveira
 - i. P. Da Silveira gives historical background and context on the Resolution
 - ii. P. Da Silveira goes over the amendments that would be made to the bylaws
 - iii. V. Valencia asks if this position would be a voting member on exec?
 - iv. P. Da Silveira responds yes and clarifies the reasoning
 - v. V. Valencia provides historical context on the VP of Infrastructure role



Cornell University Student Assembly

- vi. P. Da Silveira states even though VP of infrastructure was put in by mistake it has been an on-going conversation for some time
- vii. P. Da Silveira goes over the changes that have been made to the Resolution since last week
- viii. M. Song asks what they see as the point of establishing an exec board position versus just better defining the roles and responsibilities
- ix. M. Baker states she thought it legitimized the position and made it flow nicely in the past
- x. P. Da Silveira states there's zero oversight for the SAIFC from the assembly and having the VP of Infrastructure would make it more responsible to the assembly
- xi. A. Lampert clarifies that everything the SAIFC approves has to be looked over by Dean Love
- xii. D. Cady asks if this position will strengthen the exec board or empower the infrastructure committee?
- xiii. M. Baker states the VP position is important to make sure the 75k is allocated and to hold that person in the SAIFC chair position accountable
- xiv. P. Da Silveira agrees the VP title does incline people to be more active. It will not make the infrastructure committee more powerful, but give it more attention and help and makes it responsible to the whole assembly
- xv. C. Taylor states it might be a good idea to make it more clear the type of oversight he hopes to achieve for the SAIFC
- xvi. C. Ting states she recommends making VP of Infrastructure a non-voting member
- xvii. P. Da Silveira states if the assembly is in favor of this, he is open to it, but he also doesn't want to minimize the position who controls 75k
- xviii. M. Baker states she thinks making it a non-voting member would not encourage the same participation as making it a voting member
- xix. S. Bhardwaj states in order to make the SAIFC chair more accountable it may make more sense to amend the charter, so that the SA could overturn a ruling of the SAIFC
- xx. P. Da Silveira responds that it would be very difficult to have the VP of Finance oversee the SAIFC, but would be open to having the SA be able to overturn SAIFC decisions
- xxi. V. Valencia asks if the chair of SAIFC would no longer exist because chair of SAIFC is mentioned in the charter



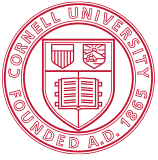
Cornell University Student Assembly

- xxii. C. Taylor states if he wants the position he's creating to be the chair of the SAIFC then there wouldn't be an issue, but he also should probably amend Appendix C of the charter to match
- xxiii. M. Baker motions to amend line 89 to add "the Vice President of infrastructure will serve as the chair of the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission," passed by unanimous consent
- xxiv. P. Kuehl states the goal is to make the 75k benefit the most students, so if this Resolution would do that it seems like a no brainer
- xxv. S. Bhardwaj asks for opinions on having the SA being able to overturn any decision made by the SAIFC
- xxvi. M. Baker asks if there is any opportunity for the SA to overturn SAIFC decisions already
- xxvii. V. Valencia states the SAIFC decides and then just presents it to the SA
- xxviii. A. Lampert states it is done in the form of presentation and Dean Love has the opportunity to overturn it
- xxix. C. Taylor states the main oversight is that the SAIFC is bound to the Charter and Appendix C
- xxx. V. Valencia states if we want to make a change to how the SAIFC is allocated we would have to make an amendment to Appendix C
- xxxi. S. Bhardwaj states it makes the most sense to have a charter amendment, but this position seems redundant
- xxxii. P. Da Silveira asks why it seems redundant
- xxxiii. S. Bhardwaj states it doesn't seem to do a lot for oversight, but it is added to the exec board to just legitimize the position
- xxxiv. P. Da Silveira states it would legitimize the position and also get people to actually do work that can make a difference
- xxxv. C. Ting asks how a charter amendment would be done?
- xxxvi. V. Valencia responds it would have to be another resolution that is presented one week and voted on the next
- xxxvii. P. Da Silveira motions for a straw poll on Resolution 24
- xxxviii. S. Williams asks if there's any initiatives he hopes to see if this position is created
- xxxix. P. Da Silveira responds that he's hoping to see some work with project teams or roofie testing kits
 - xl. A. Lampert motions to postpone to next week, passed by unanimous consent
 - xli. Resolution 24 is postponed to next week



Cornell University Student Assembly

- b. Resolution 25 is presented by S. Bhardwaj
 - i. S. Bhardwaj summarizes the Resolution
 - ii. A. Lampert asks if they did end up paying taxes would tuition be raised for students?
 - iii. S. Bhardwaj responds she doesn't think so
 - iv. C. Lederman continues it's a relatively small expenditure for the university
 - v. D. Cady responds it could cause a raise in tuition from conversations he has had. He agrees with the sentiment, but doesn't know if this is in the best interest of all students given the possible implications for tuition
 - vi. S. Bhardwaj states in previous years when the MOU was re-negotiated it did not have an effect on tuition being increased and this did not happen at other Ivy League schools who did this either
 - vii. J. Kalinski asks what OSGR will feasibly be able to do to support this given their work force?
 - viii. S. Bhardwaj states she is willing to get involved with OSGR and help them with recruitment. She can also possibly help them to foster relationships with more students
 - ix. A. Richmond asks why Cornell should be treated any differently than any other non-profit organization?
 - x. S. Bhardwaj responds that Cornell disproportionately uses the city's resources without paying for them and that isn't fair
 - xi. P. Kuehl states he can't find anything about the Make Cornell Pay Campaign
 - xii. S. Bhardwaj states it's the 2023 campaign for the Ithaca DSA and the rollout of their materials is beginning soon. If it would be more comfortable, we could remove the association with the campaign and just keep the ideas
 - xiii. P. Kuehl responds that would make him more comfortable
 - xiv. S. Bhardwaj motions to amend line 66 to remove "emphatically supports the Make Cornell Pay Campaign," passed by unanimous consent
 - xv. S. Williams provides anecdotes about the teat difficulties that community members are facing
 - xvi. D. Nachman asks about the other movements at Ivy league schools
 - xvii. S. Bhardwaj states the footnote goes into more details, but they have been successful
 - xviii. C. Lederman states this Resolution is about equity and finding ways for Cornell to support the city
 - xix. M. Song states that at other schools nothing happened to tuition
 - xx. M. Baker motions to straw poll
 - xxi. M. Baker motions to end debate, D. Cady dissents to continue debate



Cornell University
Student Assembly

- xxii. In a vote of 14-5-1, the motion passes
- xxiii. In a vote of 11-3-2, Resolution 25 passes

XII. Adjournment

- a. S. Williams motions to adjourn, passed by unanimous consent
 - i. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Megan Birmingham
Clerk of the Assembly