

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the March 23, 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 4:47pm

II. Roll Call

- a. *Members Present [21]: S. Ali, S. Bhardwaj, R. Chatterji, R. DeLorenzo, K. Everett, J. Kalinski, B. Koth, P. Kuehl, A. Lampert, A. Lewis, K. Liu, L. Lu, B. Mehretu, C. Newell, A. Richmond, S. Williams, Y. Yuan, V. Valencia, M. Song, J.P. Swenson, C. Ting*
- b. *Members Excused: M. Baker, J. Mayen, D. Nachman, D. Cady, E. D'Angelo, P. Da Silveira, G. Dong, N. Son*

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. Richmond motions to add Resolution 32 to the agenda, passed by unanimous consent

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the March 16, 2023 meeting minutes
 - i. J.P. Swenson motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

VI. Open Microphone

- a. A member of Cornell Votes speaks on behalf of the organization to reconsider Resolution 29
 - i. B. Mehretu thanks her for her comments

VII. Announcements and Reports

- a. C. Taylor announces that the Disability Advocates Union launched a campus wide survey on accessibility and accommodations and there's a link on their social media and flyers if people are interested
- b. R. DeLorenzo states there was a special projects funding request for a trip to nationals for the figure skating team, but it did not pass the executive committee



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- i. J. Kalinski asks if it's the club or Varsity team
 - ii. R. DeLorenzo responds it's the club team
- c. J.P. Swenson states there's a mandatory campaign meeting at 7:30 at Rockefeller Hall tonight for those running for SA, but it doesn't say what room
 - i. A. Lampert states she'll try to figure it out
 - ii. S. Bhardwaj clarifies that the mandatory campaign meeting is for April 11th, but the form online is for 2022, so that is why there's confusion about the date
- d. C. Ting states she's excited to see familiar faces running for SA again and hopes for a fair election season
- e. N. Sharma states the Office of Ethics has unanimously recommended that Resolution 29 be amended back to the way it was originally and provides their reasoning
- f. M. Song announces that Big Red Heads is recruiting for their first ever dating show
- g. K. Everett announces that Cornell Anti-Detention Alliance and Mexican Students Association are co-hosting a pen pal letter campaign for individuals who have been wrongfully detained on March 28th if anyone is interested
- h. N. Son announces that there will an International Students Union gala tomorrow at Statler if anyone is interested

VIII. Initiatives

- a. None

IX. Presentation and Forums

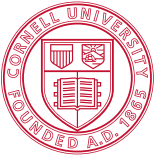
- a. None

X. Business of the Day

- a.

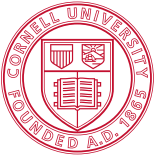
XI. New Business

- a. Resolution 31 is presented by C. Ting and S. Williams
 - i. C. Ting provides an overview of the Resolution and its intention
 - ii. S. Williams shares a personal story of her experience with triggering and violent content in the classroom
 - iii. J. Kalinski asks what they hope to accomplish with this Resolution
 - iv. S. Williams states it's important to have warnings listed in the syllabus and perhaps a warning when enrolling in classes as well and also a warning on the Canvas calendar would be helpful



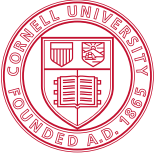
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- v. C. Ting agrees the syllabus would be the most ideal place and advanced warning or notice via email would also be something to explore
 - vi. K. Everett states they have also dealt with this in class and asks how it is ensured that students who opt-out are not penalized?
 - vii. S. Williams states she can work with the University Assembly on implementation, but this is more of a statement right now to incite some action
 - viii. B. Mehretu agrees that he's also dealt with this in class and this Resolution is important
 - ix. B. Mehretu motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
 - x. J. Kalinski motions to vote, passed by unanimous consent
 - xi. Resolution 31 passes unanimously
- b. Resolution 32 is presented by A. Richmond
- i. A. Richmond provides a summary of the Resolution
 - ii. B. Mehretu states the Office of Ethics just said how harmful this can be
 - iii. A. Richmond states slating is looked on favorably by the majority of the assembly, so time is better spent with how we can prevent it from getting out of hand
 - iv. P. Da Silveira states this Resolution is just amending a technicality
 - v. S. Bhardwaj states that slating will create groups that have more power than others and exclude marginalized groups
 - vi. C. Taylor clarifies that we are just debating this Resolution
 - vii. A. Richmond states the resolution that introduced slating passed, so all we can do is improve the wording and this would at least do that
 - viii. A. Lampert motions to amend Resolution 32 to bring the wording back to how it was in Resolution 29
 - ix. R. DeLorenzo states there have been horror stories of slating on both sides. The majority of the assembly wanted to approve this already, so the goal is now to just clarify the language to prevent a technicality
 - x. M. Song states there is no perfect solution, but slating would help make the SA more accessible
 - xi. P. Da Silveira states this was already passed by a large majority and it's a dangerous precedent to set to overturn this. We just need to work on making slating better now
 - xii. S. Williams states when amendments are introduced on Resolutions that haven't been read by everyone it can make it difficult for people to make up their minds, so another vote could be helpful



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- xiii. J. Kalinski asks if there are significant differences between the number of people here today and last week that a vote would have a different outcome?
 - xiv. V. Valencia responds they'll have to look back the attendance
 - xv. C. Ting asks why more advanced notice wasn't given to people who couldn't attend last week's meeting because of how important this was. Continues that slating reduces accessibility and is dangerous because groups such as Turning Point USA could influence elections
 - xvi. B. Mehretu states he didn't want to vote for this and we need to protect the SA from outside sources and influences who are trying to get us to side a certain way
 - xvii. C. Lederman motions to make another amendment to A. Lampert's amendment to insert in Article 1, section E, subsection 4, "The elections committee shall for the purposes of the Spring 2023 elections be able to adopt binding regulations to enforce the election guidelines, with such regulations having equal weight as the dually adopted rules, and, with respect to the election guidelines, interpret any such rules. Any regulations adopted under this section shall be published by the Director of Election"
 - xviii. D. Cady states that whatever we do here, we'll need to work with the Elections Committee
 - xix. S. Bhardwaj states this will allow the Elections Committee to make rules however they want and they will not have any check
 - xx. A. Richmond states Resolution 29 was passed before the election started, so in theory the best solution is to leave Resolution 29 as is and not make any changes, but there is a technicality in it right now
 - xxi. P. Da Silveira states the suggestion by C. Lederman would make this a completely different issue
 - xxii. C. Lederman withdraws the motion
 - xxiii. In a vote of 13-8-5, the amendment passes
 - xxiv. A. Richmond states right not we're setting a precedent that we can change rules in the middle of an election, so we should be careful
 - xxv. P. Da Silveira motions to withdraw the Resolution
 - xxvi. In a vote of 12-7-13, the motion passes
 - xxvii. Resolution 32 is withdrawn
- c. B. Mehretu motions to amend Resolution 29
- i. B. Mehretu motions to amend Resolution 29 to bring the wording back to how it originally was



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- ii. J. Kalinski asks if an ad-hoc meeting could be scheduled with the Office of Ethics to understand these amendments
- iii. C. Ting states people would appreciate advance notice and discussion before the Resolution is in the box, so this does not occur again
- iv. P. Kuehl states he's running for re-election so he's going to abstain because it's a conflict of interest
- v. S. Bhardwaj states this amendment will revert everything back to the way it originally was
- vi. In a vote of 10-9-5, the motion fails

XII. Adjournment

- a. A. Lampert motions to adjourn
 - i. In a vote of 15-8-4, the motion passes
 - ii. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Megan Birmingham
Clerk of the Assembly