



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University's Student Assembly

Minutes of the March 7<sup>th</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 4:54pm.
    1. *Members Present (22)*: D. Akkiraju, L. Balestrieri, A. Barry, S. Chan, R. DeLorenzo, Z. deRham, K. Everett, N. Hite, C. Kim, P. Kuehl, C. Lederman, F. Meng, Y. Moitra, S. Parikh, C. Platkin, I. Rezaka, S. Son, D. Suarez, B. Terhaar, A. Vinson, C. Ting, A. Wang
    2. *Members Absent (8)*: A. Akpan, L. Barrett, F. Berry, D. Diao, C. Flournoy, A. Helkowski, K. Jordan, C. Kim
    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 29 meeting minutes
    1. J. Swenson motioned to approve the minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- V. Consent Calendar
  - a. Resolution 55: Amending the Previously Adopted Resolution 27
    1. P. Kuehl noted the differences in the amendments made onto the Resolution.
    2. K. Everett questioned the lack of inclusion on HAVEN.
    3. C. Lederman stated that the original Resolution preceded the HAVEN resolution and only relates to Article 4 of the Charter.
    4. The motion to approve **passed** through unanimous consent.
- VI. Announcements
  - a. Executive Vice President Ting



## Cornell University Student Assembly

1. Trustee Meeting Presentation
  1. C. Ting noted attendance at the University Assembly meeting where an opportunity was mentioned to share materials with President Shelby Williams to be presented to the Board of Trustees.
  2. P. Kuehl noted that he would also have a presentation opportunity with the Board of Trustees.
  3. F. Meng noted a presentation from CML that would be incorporated into the upcoming presentation.
  4. J. Swenson noted follow-up from Dean Love concerning an in-person meeting on the new Interim Policy and highlighted the need to compile questions in preparation. J. Swenson noted a future presentation with the Board of Trustees concerning the freshman experience.
  5. P. Kuehl motioned to suspend the rules and add Resolution 60 and Resolution 63 to the agenda.
2. Referendum Presentation
  1. P. Kuehl gave context and information on the proper implementation and use of referendums in comparison to a ballot survey.
  2. I. Rezaka questioned if abstains are included within the Assembly vote to allow a referendum to pass.
  3. S. Parikh asked for clarification on where in the Charter the Student Assembly is disavowed from initiating a referendum.
  4. P. Kuehl clarified that the first step of the referendum process begins with collection of student signatures. P. Kuehl clarified that the Student Assembly helps direct referendums but doesn't initiate.
  5. C. Lederman highlighted further differences between referendums and ballot surveys.
  6. I. Rezaka asked for clarification on the first step signature process.
  7. P. Kuehl clarified that the first step just focuses on signature collection without gauging yes or no opinion.

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

- a. Student Wellbeing Council
  1. Y. Moitra noted a meeting where different discussion around wellbeing evaluation for students and staff occurred.
- b. Internal Operations Committee



## Cornell University Student Assembly

1. N. Hite noted a correspondence to assembly members to collect contact information.
2. C. Lederman noted an upcoming meeting and highlighted work down in the previous meeting to prepare for transition and noted an upcoming speaker series for the Assemblies. C. Lederman noted the SUNY Student Assembly conference coming up and asked for interest.

### VIII. Presentations

- a. There were no presentations.

### IX. Old Business Calendar

- a. There was no business.

### X. Resolutions Calendar

- a. Resolution 60: Gender Neutral Bathrooms
  1. K. Everett introduced the premise of the Resolution.
  2. A representative from the CALS DEI Committee noted that, while working to increase accessibility to gender neutral bathrooms, there is not currently a large understanding of what people's challenges are, thus leading to desire for a survey to gauge student thoughts.
  3. K. Everett noted existing history of Student Assembly's work towards gender neutral bathrooms in previous resolutions.
  4. S. Parikh motioned to amend line 68 in the Resolution to state "Qualtrics survey" and strike "referendum".
  5. I. Rezaka noted that the administration only officially recognizes Qualtrics and questioned if administration would take Campus Groups seriously.
  6. K. Everett stated belief that Qualtrics be more fitting in terms of maintaining student privacy.
  7. C. Lederman questioned the possibility of removing writing on the specific questions to leave the door open for needed changes in the future.
  8. The representative stated that keeping the questions constant would make data more beneficial.
  9. R. DeLorenzo highlighted the need to ensure that there aren't any duplicate submissions.
  10. P. Kuehl highlighted that when using SSO, Qualtrics only allows surveys to be submitted once.
  11. The motion to approve the amendment **passed** through a vote of unanimous consent.



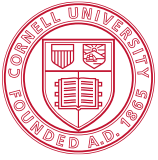
Cornell University  
Student Assembly

12. J. Swenson motioned to approve the Resolution. The motion **passed** through a vote of unanimous consent.
- b. Resolution 61: Referendum on the ILR School's 18-Credit Enrollment Limit
  1. S. Parikh introduced the premise of the Resolution.
  2. L. Thomas emphasized that questions like these keep constituents engaged and increase turnout.
  3. C. Ting stated support for removal of the 18-Credit Limit. C. Ting questioned what ILR administration perspective was.
  4. S. Parikh stated that administration doesn't want students to finish the ILR degree quickly, especially given the removed residency limit.
  5. R. DeLorenzo noted previous issues the Dyson School had with early graduation and the fixes the School implemented through necessary courses only offered at certain times. R. DeLorenzo noted the need to consider perspective on why this limit was implemented.
  6. S. Parikh stated agreement and noted that the survey is intended to begin conversation.
  7. J. Wallen stated support for the Resolution but noted the need to be careful to ensure students don't feel pressure to take an increased credit amount.
  8. C. Platkin noted that ILR student government has had similar concerns but has struggled to gain acknowledgement from ILR administration.
  9. D. Akkiraju questioned what the petition process looks like in ILR.
  10. C. Lederman stated that for most students, excluding ROTC and student athlete, there is almost no ability to petition for even half a credit more.
  11. I. Rezaka motioned to amend the Resolution to strike all mentions of "referendum" and replace with "ballot initiative". The motion **passed** through a vote of unanimous consent.
  12. J. Swenson motioned to approve the Resolution. R. DeLorenzo dissented. The motion **failed**.
  13. R. DeLorenzo highlighted that in Dyson there are many inequity issues for accessing popular classes leading into popular professional tracks. R. DeLorenzo stated that there would be a need to rearrange administrative concerns within course planning to support supply and demand.
  14. P. Kuehl called the resolution to question. The motion **passed** through a vote of unanimous consent.
- c. Resolution 62: Course Statistics at Cornell



## Cornell University Student Assembly

1. N. Hite introduced the premise of the Resolution. N. Hite highlighted the intent of utilizing this data to address issues where grades for classes a student has retaken are retained on transcripts.
  2. J. Swenson motioned to amend the Resolution to strike all colleges and include a “be it therefore resolved” clause including all colleges. The amendment **passed** through unanimous consent.
  3. I. Rezaka questioned if the request was made from Student Assembly or University Assembly.
  4. P. Kuehl clarified that the data request is from Student Assembly.
  5. J. Swenson motioned to amend the Resolution to insert a whereas clause highlighting the Student Assembly’s power to request information and state “if a course is repeated and completed in full”.
  6. C. Lederman suggested to amend the Resolution to include period of time and phrase the Bowers College effectively.
  7. P. Kuehl called the amendments to question. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  8. A. Wang motioned to amend the Resolution to strike “retaken” and state “taken” in the “be it therefore resolved” clause.
  9. D. Akkiraju questioned how removing grades would work in cases such as counting credits for graduation.
  10. P. Kuehl stated that the credits would retain on the transcript with a “U” grade.
  11. I. Rezaka stated belief that collecting 10 years of data could be good.
  12. I. Rezaka motioned to amend the Resolution to include “in the last 10 years”. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  13. K. Everett motioned to end debate. The motion **passed**. The motion to approve the Resolution passed through a vote of unanimous consent.
- d. Resolution 63: Approving Budget for Cornell Student Assembly Merchandise
1. S. Chan introduced the premise of the Resolution.
  2. P. Kuehl questioned how many assembly members submitted a survey.
  3. S. Chan stated that only 17 responses have been given.
  4. K. Everett questioned when the orders would come in.
  5. S. Chan stated that this is currently unknown.
  6. R. DeLorenzo noted the possibility of utilizing different manufacturers.
  7. P. Kuehl suggested inclusion of 5 more Office of the Assemblies staff into the order.
  8. J. Swenson questioned what the design would entail.



## Cornell University Student Assembly

9. S. Chan gave further details and noted the possibility of work to edit the design.
10. K. Everett questioned if future members would be supported.
11. P. Kuehl stated that new members could create a new Resolution to order merchandise in upcoming years.
12. S. Chan motioned to amend the Resolution to state "\$7,417.44". The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
13. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of unanimous consent.

### XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. There were no items.

### XII. Adjournment

- a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jenny Zhang*

Clerk of the Assembly