



## Cornell University Student Assembly

# Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, April 8, 2021 Meeting  
4:45pm via Zoom

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:46pm (EST).
- b. Roll Call
  - i. *Members Present:* L. Abd Elmagid, M. Baker, J. Bansah, K. Butler, C. Castillo, U. Chukwukere, L. Contreras, S. Kapoor, A. Lampert, E. Perez, T. Reuning, K. Santacruz, M. Shardow, L. Smith, C. Tempelman, V. Valencia, N. Watson, S. Woldai, V. Xu, R. Zohar, L. Zumpano, S. Zverev, C. Huang
  - ii. *Members Absent:* A. Gleiberman, A. Miramontes Serrano, Y. Yuan

### 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. P. Mehler stated that the debates are today, next Tuesday, and next Thursday for the upcoming SA election. There are substantially more candidates running for office this semester than past years.
- b. Anabel's Grocery Spring 2021 Updates Presentation by K. Chan and P. Aguirre
  - i. Anabel's Grocery is a grocery store located in Anabel Taylor Hall that is dedicated to providing fresh, nutritious food that is affordable. Early in the semester, during the sales week period of March 1 to March 8, Anabel's Grocery's had a total sale of \$2,229.17, with the average order value of about \$13. The most recent sales week period, March 22 to March 29, Anabel's Grocery had a total sale of \$2,846.04, with the average order value of about \$16. The top selling items were the vegetable boxes and the fruit boxes, which are a combination of different groceries purchased. There have been a few low selling items, such as rice vinegar and cornmeal, but one solution to this that Anabel's Grocery has been experimenting is recipe boxes, where students can buy a box that has all the ingredients for a recipe. One recipe box they have created was Polenta box and it did sell out. Overall, the financial sustainability seems to be good this semester, as Anabel's Grocery is able to maintain and is making more money than what it costs to buy the groceries. Additional initiatives Anabel's Grocery has taken this semester is Cook-Along sessions over Zoom and Meal Kits. The goal of these initiatives is to teach kitchen literacy and help student cook fresh meals with affordable local ingredients. Anabel's Education and Collaboration Committee



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- volunteers lead weekly virtual cooking sessions on Saturdays at 4pm. If you are interested in co-hosting a cook-along within your community, reach out to Anabel's Grocery. Anabel's Grocery is also sending out a survey revolved around campus food and grocery insecurity and encouraged SA members to share the survey with their constituents.
- ii. C. Huang asked if there were any things on social media the SA can share to help share the survey.
    1. K. Chan stated that they will be coming out early next week.
  - c. Cornell and the War in Yemen Presentation by J. Mullen '24
    - i. The War in Yemen has been going on for several years now, but it is worth nothing that there is ongoing action right now. This week, for example, a group of Yemeni activists that are on Day 10 of a hunger strike that is demanding the Biden administration push to end the Saudi blockade. Since 2014, there has been an ongoing war between a coalition of nations that's been led by Saudi Arabia, with support from the United States and the United Kingdom, to support Abdrabbuh Mansur-Hadi, the dictator of Yemen, in a civil war against the Houthis, an opposing political faction. The Yemeni people have been cut in the crossfire, where Saudi Arabia has committed a variety of atrocities from bombing school buses and hospitals and engineering a man-made famine. In 2021, President Biden announced he would suspend American support for the Saudi coalition. As of right now, there have been 8,338 civilian war deaths, where 1,283 were children. There have been 22,701 coalition bombings. 85,000 children have dead from the engineered famine, where 130 children are dying each day and 10 million are at risk of famine. Cornell University does have partnerships in Saudi Arabia. The two most prominent are the Cornell University-KAUST Center for Research and Education, which was a \$25 million production, and the Cornell Johnson School partnership with Global Business School in Jeddah. Saudi Arabia is actively profiting off Cornell's relationship, where they are consistently posting using Cornell's logo and imagery and use to advertise using their reputation to lend more credibility to the brand of these schools. In 2018, Cornell professors and faculties asked the University to disclose all donations from Saudi Arabia and did not get a response. Another aspect of Cornell's involvement is that Cornell Engineering is partnered with weapons manufacturers that are selling to Saudi Arabia. This includes BAE (British arms manufacturer), which sold \$15 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia and is now being accused of being party to war crimes, Northrop Grumman, which had a \$2.5 billion deal with Saudi Arabia and is a major supplied to the Saudi Royal Air Force, Lockheed Martin, which supplied the bombs used by Saudi Arabia in the Dhahyan airstrike that bombed a school bus and killed 40 children, and Boeing, which received a \$2.6 billion contract in 2020 to sell missiles to Saudi Arabia but the deal was cancelled by the Biden administration. There will be a resolution coming to the SA floor that will be demanding immediately end all Cornell partnerships with Saudi institutions,



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disclosing all grants and donations from Saudi Arabia and reinvesting them in organizations fighting for the Yemeni people, immediately ending Cornell Engineering's corporate partnerships with arms manufacturers listed previously, reinvesting donations from arms manufacturers into humanitarian groups, following the ethical practices established by Resolution #39, never allowing these major arms manufacturers to recruit at Cornell again, and publicly condemning the War in Yemen and cease business with any company profiting from the war.

- ii. L. Smith stated their appreciation for this presentation and asked if administration has responded to Resolution #39.
  1. C. Huang stated there has not been a response from administration on the resolution.
- iii. K. Farhat expressed their appreciation for this presentation and stated they had never seen someone tackle it so thoroughly.

### **IV. Open Microphone**

- a. M. Shardow stated that they have learned that the Ivy Room is being closed and wondered if there was anyone interesting in making a resolution to try to prevent that.

### **V. New Business**

- a. There was a motion to table Resolution #41 indefinitely.
  - i. Motion to table – **tabled** Unanimous Consent

### **VI. Approval of the Minutes**

- a. April 1, 2021
  - i. Motion to approve the April 1<sup>st</sup> minutes – **approved** Unanimous Consent

### **VII. Adjournment**

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:23pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ciara Shanahan*

Clerk of the Student Assembly