

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the April 13, 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, M. Baker, S. Bhardwaj, D. Cady, E. D'Angelo, R. DeLorenzo, K. Everett, J. Kalinski, P. Kuehl, A. Lampert, K. Liu, L. Lu, B. Mehretu, C. Newell, N. Son, S. Williams, Y. Yuan, V. Valencia, M. Song, J.P. Swenson, C. Ting*
- b. *Members Excused: R. Chatterji, P. Da Silveira, G. Dong, B. Kotb, A. Lewis, J. Mayen, D. Nachman, A. Richmond*

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

- a. President V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment

IV. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. K. Everett motions to add Resolution 38 under New Business, passed by unanimous consent

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the March 30, 2023 meeting minutes
 - i. R. DeLorenzo motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

VI. Open Microphone

- a. None

VII. Announcements and Reports

- a. R. Verma states campaigning will be paused until Thursday, April 20th in light of the passing of first-year student, Matthew Friedman
 - i. C. Ting asks if an announcement will be made?
 - ii. R. Verma states one will be made after the meeting
 - iii. P. Kuehl asks if campaign materials that are up will need to be taken down?
 - iv. V. Valencia states that stuff that is already up can remain
 - v. R. Chatterji thanks him for the decision



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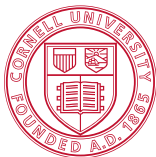
- vi. S. Bhardwaj asks if any election dates are being changed?
- vii. R. Verma states as of now, no dates are being changed
- b. B. Mehretu states some students went to DC to advocate for increased financial aid for students and went over some topics that were discussed
- c. S. Woldai states that two years ago she was one of the organizers of the CUPD disarmament campaign and plans to follow up to make sure incidents like this don't happen again if anyone is interested

VIII. Initiatives

- a. D. Cady states Resolution 28 was introduced at the University Assembly and some amendments were made and it is currently open for public comment if anyone is interested in commenting

IX. Presentation and Forums

- a. President Martha Pollack and VP Ryan Lombardi visit the SA
 - i. President Pollack acknowledges the death of first-year student, Matthew Friedman, and takes a moment of silence
 - ii. President Pollack discusses the new Cornell class of 2027 and the new task force on Undergraduate Admissions
 - iii. President Pollack discusses updates to tuition and financial aid
 - iv. President Pollack acknowledges the accomplishments of Cornell student athletes
 - v. President Pollack states she was pleased to support Resolution 22
 - vi. President Pollack states she was glad to accept Resolution 20
 - vii. President Pollack states she was not able to accept Resolution 15 because Cornell Health is a primary care clinic, so it cannot provide specialty care. Continues they don't have enough patients to keep them busy and are not able to provide surgical care. Instead, they are working to expand their partnership with Weil Cornell.
 - viii. President Pollack states she could not support Resolution 31 because of the commitment to free expression, but acknowledges it is a complicated issue
 - ix. S. Woldai states that a freshman was held at gunpoint by CUPD due to a false call and asks about what is being done to prevent this from happening again and about general campus safety updates?
 - x. VP Lombardi responds there is a new Community Response Team and the leader has been hired and they are building up a team to be able to start next fall



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- xi. K. Everett asks how the warning of triggering content prevents free expression when the speech is still happening?
- xii. President Pollack states her objection is to mandate content warnings because it'll make faculty afraid to speak because they're scared there's something they haven't thought of, so academic freedom is leaving it to the faculty to act in appropriate ways
- xiii. C. Ting provides context of where Resolution 31 came from and asks what a better solution could be?
- xiv. President Pollack states they want to work with the whole community to help solve these issues, so she would encourage those interested to get involved in working groups and they can put them in touch with faculty leadership
- xv. S. Bhardwaj asks about what is being done to address the concerns of the Basic Needs Coalition
- xvi. VP Lombardi states he's not sure about all the updates, but would be happy to have a conversation
- xvii. P. Kuehl asks if the Community Response Team could transport students?
- xviii. VP Lombardi responds they can sign the transport order
- xix. D. Cady asks how student voices and issues are going to be prioritized regarding free expression?
- xx. President Pollack responds they intend on doing a theme year on free expression and suggests that SA members start gathering student input
- xxi. B. Mehretu speaks in support of Resolution 31 and asks where the opposition is coming from?
- xxii. President Pollack states that these protections can back fire and the scientific literature isn't clear that trigger warnings are effective. It can lead to a chilling of free speech and expression
- xxiii. Community member, M. Un, asks why Cornell switched from being need-blind to need-aware for international students?
- xxiv. President Pollack states they could not afford it and when they were need-blind they could not guarantee that 100% of need would be met, so that's why the switch was made
- xxv. M. Un states that other ivies are able to be need-blind and provide other things, such as airfare home for international students
- xxvi. President Pollack responds some other ivies have a much bigger endowment per student, so they can afford that, but they can not

X. Business of the Day



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- a. None

XI. New Business

- a. Resolution 35 is presented by R. DeLorenzo
 - i. R. DeLorenzo explains the Resolution
 - ii. J. Kalinski asks if anything in the Resolution will help the Environmental Committee to do their job since their budget is only \$25?
 - iii. R. DeLorenzo responds it will hopefully be helped by collaborating with SAIFC and the SAIFC funding could be used in collaboration
 - iv. M. Baker asks why none of the SA internal budget goes to the Environmental Committee?
 - v. V. Valencia states it could, but they used the same budget as the year before since there wasn't a VP of finance at the time
 - vi. M. Baker suggests drafting a resolution to amend the budget to give more money to the Environmental Committee
 - vii. J. Kalinski motions to postpone to next week, passed by unanimous consent
- b. R. DeLorenzo presents Resolution 36
 - i. R. DeLorenzo explains the Resolution
 - ii. S. Bhardwaj asks about MCFAB not being included under ALANA?
 - iii. R. DeLorenzo states since MCFAB primary puts on concerts and events that they are now under the programming council
 - iv. D. Cady asks how adding new organizations would work?
 - v. R. DeLorenzo states their mission would determine where they would be put
 - vi. V. Valencia asks if he's been in communication with the byline organization?
 - vii. R. DeLorenzo states he's talked to some that have reached out, but has not told everyone
 - viii. V. Valencia states it would be good to reach out to everyone
 - ix. P. Kuehl asks if this will inhibit newer organizations from receiving larger amounts of funding?
 - x. R. DeLorenzo responds that it won't inhibit them. It will incentivize them to work up within the tiers of SAIFC, interfaith, and club sports council
 - xi. S. Bhardwaj asks if the concert organizations are allowed to share funds?
 - xii. R. DeLorenzo states they will be able to share funding
 - xiii. P. Da Silveira motions to postpone to next week, passed by unanimous consent



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- c. Resolution 37 is presented by P. Da Silveira and M. Un
 - i. P. Da Silveira explains the Resolution and why is it necessary to reconsider the stance that is currently employed by the University
 - ii. M. Un highlights some of the most shocking statistics
 - iii. P. Da Silveira highlights the other universities with need blind policies
 - iv. Y. Yuan brings up some of the challenges of this, including that Cornell is both a private and public university
 - v. M. Un states this resolution wants either the current policy to be kept and every student to receive 100% of the aid that they need or that they go to a need-blind policy
 - vi. M. Hoy asks what need-blind is and why it's so important
 - vii. M. Un explains the concept
 - viii. J.P. Swenson suggests line 2 being deleted, a citation for line 11, deleting line 33 and 34, and changing the title
 - ix. J.P Swenson motions to strike line 2, passed by unanimous consent
 - x. J.P Swenson motions to strike lines 33-34, M. Un dissents to look into the statistics and come back to it, J.P. Swenson withdraws the motion
 - xi. S. Bhardwaj motions to postpone to next week, passed by unanimous consent
- d. S. Bhardwaj motions to extend time by 10 minutes, passed by unanimous consent
- e. K. Everett and C. Ting present Resolution 38
 - i. K. Everett presents the Resolution
 - ii. J. Kalinski sates the clauses of 47-52 are somewhat vague and asks what they want specifically?
 - iii. K. Everett states they were thinking about having an option where students could opt in/out to receive emails about different identity-based resources
 - iv. P. Kuehl suggests having some organizations get involved in managing these different resources
 - v. S. Williams suggests utilizing housing and residence life to help distribute these resources
 - vi. P. Da Silveira commends the practicality of the Resolution and asks what they meant by line 21?
 - vii. K. Everett states some students have expressed hesitation reaching out for help because they didn't know which practitioners could relate to their identities



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- viii. C. Ting motions to change the wording from “faculty” to “medical staff,” passed by unanimous consent
- ix. S. Bhardwaj motions to extend time by 5 minutes, passed by unanimous consent
- x. M. Hoy asks about the 5 abstentions from the D&I committee
- xi. M. Song responds it was an email vote and not everyone was reachable
- xii. S. Bhardwaj motions to amend line 23 from “sex” to “gender,” passed by unanimous consent
- xiii. C. Ting motions to add after line 68 “Be it Further resolved, for Cornell Administration to further collaborate with Housing and Residential Life to further promote LGBTQ resources,” passed by unanimous consent
- xiv. D. Cady motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
- xv. K. Everett motions to pass the Resolution, passed by unanimous consent
- xvi. Resolution 38 passes unanimously

XII. Adjournment

- a. D. Cady motions to adjourn, passed by unanimous consent
 - i. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Megan Birmingham
Clerk of the Assembly