



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the April 27, 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 4:51pm

### II. Roll Call

- a. *Members Present [20]: S. Ali, M. Baker, S. Bhardwaj, D. Cady, R. Chatterji, P. Da Silveira, R. DeLorenzo, K. Everett, J. Kalinski, P. Kuehl, A. Lampert, B. Mehretu, 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. Koth, A. Lewis, K. Liu, L. Lu, J. Mayen, 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. Juan motions to move Resolution 39 to the first item, passed by unanimous consent
- b. P. Da Silveira motions to move Resolution 42 after Resolution 39, passed by unanimous consent

### V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the April 13, 2023 meeting minutes
  - i. S. Bhardwaj motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

### VI. Open Microphone

- a. None

### VII. Announcements and Reports

- a. None

### VIII. Initiatives

- a. D. Cady states if anyone is interested in joining the University Assembly that they can reach out to him or S. Williams



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### IX. Presentation and Forums

- a. Office of Ethics: Code of Ethics Changes Presentation
  - i. N. Sharma explains the changes that were made
  - ii. S. Bhardwaj asks what happens if someone brings an accusation of sexual assault, but doesn't want to go to a university body?
  - iii. N. Sharma states it has to be recommended by a university body because of liability issues
  - iv. B. Mehretu asks if the Office of Ethics is recommending expulsion?
  - v. N. Sharma clarifies that a university body has to recommend expulsion
  - vi. P. Da Silveira asks what another university body is and how it would get to the Student Assembly?
  - vii. A. Bangura states it allows for communication between the Office of Ethics and another university body, such as the title ix office
  - viii. S. Williams suggests to change line 42 from "title xi to title ix"
  - ix. A. Richmond asks about sub-section i?
  - x. A. Bangura responds that both i and ii have existed for a while, but it is focused on the abuse of the SA brand
  - xi. S. Bhardwaj what happens if someone is accused of sexual assault, but doesn't go through university channels?
  - xii. A. Bangura responds that the university body is necessary to handle this, so that they don't pre-emptily act on a rumor
  - xiii. P. Da Silveira asks why the Office of Ethics would have information from university body decisions?
  - xiv. A. Bangura states the Office of Ethics would not have access to that information, but it is to leave the door open in case a situation arises
  - xv. A. Richmond asks about the power and checks on the Office of Ethics?
  - xvi. A. Bangura responds the checks are in the Standing Rules and the Bylaws and anything they do is not final. It is just a suggestion

### X. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 39 is presented by C. Ting and A. Juan
  - i. A. Juan states this was passed by the University Assembly
  - ii. C. Ting provides background information and explains the Resolution
  - iii. A. Juan expands on the specific measures recommended by the Resolution
  - iv. J. Kalinski if this also pertains to dry events and if they would do it through Campus Groups?
  - v. C. Ting responds they are thinking of going through Campus Groups



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- vi. K. Everett asks about adding drug testing strips to this Resolution as well
  - vii. A. Juan states the drug testing strips have been difficult for Cornell Health to obtain and Cornell was unsure about going this route when this Resolution was started, but they've been looking at adding it now
  - viii. C. Ting states these test strips could be added in the Plan B vending machines
  - ix. D. Cady states administration and Cornell Health is very ready to work on this Resolution with us
  - x. C. Ting states if anyone else is interested in working on this they can reach out to both of them
  - xi. A. Richmond asks if people may think that providing these resources would promote substance use?
  - xii. C. Ting states providing these resources does not promote substance use and we already promote safe use of alcohol and other things
  - xiii. R. Chatterji asks if we count as a public college that is required to have Naloxone in certain facilities?
  - xiv. A. Juan states he doesn't think so because we technically have contract colleges
  - xv. P. Kuehl states Cornell is required to have Naloxone in certain spaces
  - xvi. S. Williams suggests adding "Student Assembly partners with Residential Student Congress and the Office of Housing and Residential Life to work on implementation," passed by unanimous consent
  - xvii. M. Song motions to change the spelling of "Nalaxone" to "Naloxone" throughout the Resolution, passed by unanimous consent
  - xviii. R. DeLorenzo motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - xix. R. DeLorenzo motions to approve Resolution 39, passed by unanimous consent
  - xx. Resolution 39 passes unanimously
- b. Resolution 42 is presented by P. Da Silveira and P. Kuehl
- i. P. Da Silveira explains the Resolution
  - ii. A. Richmond asks about the safety of having these bikes on campus
  - iii. A co-sponsor responds that Cornell allows bikes on campus already, so that would be a broader issue
  - iv. D. Cady asks about requesting some sort of reports or dates for this from Cornell Administration?
  - v. P. Kuehl states the biggest issue for Bikeshare is placing bikes on campus, so this will not take much time or money from administration



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- vi. D. Cady suggests having a report returned by the end of the summer
  - vii. K. Everett asks if there is an issue with Cornell giving the money for Bikeshare?
  - viii. P. Kuehl states they are not asking for funding. They just want to be able to leave the bikes on more locations on Ithaca's campus
  - ix. B. Mehretu motions to end debate, A. Richmond dissents to fix two spelling issues, B. Mehretu withdraws the motion
  - x. A. Richmond motions to change "bike share" to "bikeshare," passed by unanimous consent
  - xi. D. Cady motions to add "Cornell University Transportation and Delivery Services will leave a report by the end of Fall 2023 semester with an update on Bikeshare implementation," passed by unanimous consent
  - xii. R. DeLorenzo motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - xiii. R. DeLorenzo motions to approve Resolution 42, passed by unanimous consent
  - xiv. Resolution 42 passes unanimously
- c. Resolution 35 is presented by R. DeLorenzo
- i. R. DeLorenzo provides a summary of the Resolution
  - ii. D. Cady motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - iii. D. Cady motions to approve Resolution 35, passed by unanimous consent
  - iv. Resolution 35 passes unanimously
- d. Resolution 36 is presented by R. DeLorenzo
- i. V. Valencia states 20 voting members are needed to vote on this Resolution
  - ii. Roll call occurs and 18 members are present
  - iii. M. Baker asks if non-voting members could be classified as voting members
  - iv. C. Taylor states it would be against the rules and if President Pollack sees it, she could reject it
  - v. D. Cady asks if we could get two members currently not present on the zoom?
  - vi. R. DeLorenzo motions to put Resolution 41 next, then Resolution 36, passed by unanimous consent
  - vii. M. Baker asks which representatives are not here?
  - viii. J. Withers responds that E. D'Angelo, G. Dong, B. Kotb, A. Lewis, K. Liu, L. Lu, J. Mayen, D. Nachman, J.P. Swenson, S. Bhardwaj, and J. Kalinski are not present



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- e. R. DeLorenzo presents Resolution 41
  - i. R. DeLorenzo explains the Resolution and states it would be giving the Nigerian Student's Association \$2,000
  - ii. The VP of Internal Affairs for the Nigerian Student's Association talks about how the event went
  - iii. S. Williams motions to end debate, P. Kuehl dissents to ask if these costs are to cover what has already been spent, passed by unanimous consent
  - iv. Resolution 41 passes unanimously
- f. R. DeLorenzo motions to move Resolution 36 after Resolution 40, passed by unanimous consent
- g. C. Lederman and M. Song present Resolution 40
  - i. C. Lederman gives background on the Resolution and explains its purpose
  - ii. C. Taylor states if this passes then the two most powerful positions on the SA, the Speaker and the Director of Elections, would be unelected
  - iii. C. Ting asks what the current process is for designating a chair?
  - iv. C. Taylor responds that the governing documents state that the President is the Chair at all meetings they are present
  - v. M. Baker states the EVP and VPI are next to be chair if the President isn't there
  - vi. K. Everett states there could be issues of perceived bias if the President can vote and debate
  - vii. C. Lederman states there is precedent to support this and it has worked well at other schools
  - viii. P. Kuehl states it seems counterintuitive that the President runs on a platform to win students over and then assumes a position of neutrality
  - ix. M. Song states that was her issue with it as well
  - x. A. Richmond asks about the selection process for the speaker?
  - xi. C. Lederman states it would be the same procedure as electing people to the Executive Committee
  - xii. N. Sharma states that an issue with this is that the President could just choose a speaker that supports their issues
  - xiii. A co-sponsor responds that the speaker would be elected like the Director of Elections, not appointed by the President
  - xiv. V. Valencia states it doesn't seem fair to take the power away from the students and give it to the assembly in Executive Session



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- xv. C. Lederman responds that this is the person who is making sure everything it fair and impartial
- xvi. V. Valencia states there are already checks on the President to ensure this
- xvii. C. Taylor asks who would make the decision in the case of a tie on a resolution that is out of order? Would anyone be able to hold the speaker accountable?
- xviii. C. Lederman states if it is 50-50 then that would fail
- xix. P. Kuehl asks if the President currently has tie breaking power?
- xx. C. Taylor responds yes, it would just be the speaker with the power instead
- xxi. C. Lederman clarifies that there is no tie breaking power for the speaker in this
- xxii. A. Lampert motions to extend time to 6:40, C. Ting dissents because it would be more productive to table this
- xxiii. In a vote of 10-4-2, the motion passes

### **XI. New Business**

- a. None

### **XII. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Megan Birmingham  
Clerk of the Assembly