

# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the May 4th 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 4:52pm

### II. Roll Call

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

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

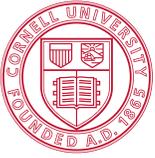
- a. President V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment

### IV. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. D. Cady motions to add Resolution 48 under New Business, passed by unanimous consent
- b. R. DeLorenzo motions to move Resolution 44 to be first under Business of the Day, passed by unanimous consent
- c. S. Williams motions to add Resolution 46 under New Business, passed by unanimous consent
- d. C. Newell motions to add Resolution 45 under New Business, passed by unanimous consent
- e. P. Da Silveira motions to add Resolution 47 under New Business, passed by unanimous consent
- f. D. Cady motions to move up Resolution 48 to be under Resolution 44, passed by unanimous consent

### V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the April 27, 2023 meeting minutes
  - i. J.P. Swenson motions to approve the meeting minutes, P. Da Silveira dissents to add the name of the community member, J.P. withdraws the motion



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- ii. P. Da Silveira motions to add the name of the Bikeshare co-sponsor, Mikhailessa, passed by unanimous consent
- iii. B. Mehretu motions to approve the meeting minutes, K. Everett dissents, B. Mehretu withdraws the motion
- iv. K. Everett motions to add “to make Cornell liable for a surplus of bikes” to their question on Resolution 42, passed by unanimous consent
- v. S. Williams motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

### **VI. Open Microphone**

- a. None

### **VII. Announcements and Reports**

- a. Election of the Office of Ethics Chair
  - i. N. Sharma give his endorsement to A. Bangura
  - ii. D. Cady motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - iii. In a vote of 20-1-2, A. Bangura is elected chair of the Office of Ethics
- b. J.P. Swenson suggests putting long resolution online because it wastes paper

### **VIII. Initiatives**

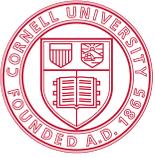
- a. None

### **IX. Presentation and Forums**

- a. None

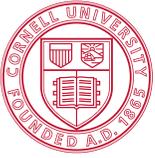
### **X. Business of the Day**

- a. R. DeLorenzo presents Resolution 36
  - i. R. DeLorenzo explains the Resolution and the changes it makes
  - ii. M. Baker motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - iii. M. Baker motions to vote, passed by unanimous consent
  - iv. Resolution 36 passes unanimously
- b. R. DeLorenzo presents Resolution 44
  - i. R. DeLorenzo explains the Resolution
  - ii. J. Kalinski motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - iii. Resolution 44 is approved



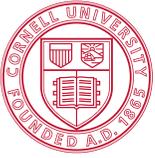
## Cornell University Student Assembly

- c. C. Lederman, D. Cady, P. Kuehl, M. Song, and M. Baker present Resolution 48
  - i. D. Cady explains the Resolution and the background behind it
  - ii. P. Kuehl stats that other SUNY schools are already doing this
  - iii. Taisa states this is especially important because the only referral that Cornell gives is to Planned Parenthood which is over an hour walk away
  - iv. Continues that Planned Parenthood of Ithaca has a lot of community members it needs to treat, so it's important that Cornell helps them out
  - v. P. Kuehl states Planned Parenthood here does get overwhelmed at times
  - vi. R. Chatterji asks if you would take the pill at Cornell Health or at home?
  - vii. Taisa responds that the first pill would be taken at Cornell Health and the second pill would be taken at home
  - viii. C. Lederman adds that this is covered under the Student Health Plan
  - ix. B. Mehretu motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - x. B. Mehretu motions to vote, passed by unanimous consent
  - xi. Resolution 48 passes unanimously
  
- d. C. Lederman, D. Cady, and M. Song present Resolution 40
  - i. D. Cady explains the Resolution and highlights that changes that have been made
  - ii. C. Lederman motions to amend the Resolution to the printed version, A. Lampert dissents to have them go over the changes, C. Lederman explains the changes, passed by unanimous consent
  - iii. D. Cady expands on what the Resolution intends to do
  - iv. K. Everett asks if there's any specific reason that we don't have a speaker now and why it is the way it is?
  - v. C. Lederman responds he doesn't really know, but it has been that way since the mid 90s
  - vi. M. Song responds that this position already exists at many other schools
  - vii. M. Baker motions to amend lines 23, 62, 63, 350 and anywhere this occurs from "deputy speaker" to "vice speaker," passed by unanimous consent
  - viii. A. Lampert explains her position against the Resolution
  - ix. D. Cady states the President is a position of influence and power that is more powerful than drafting a speaker's list and that it is relatively easy to reverse any decision made by the speaker, so there isn't really a power imbalance
  - x. C. Lederman states that the President would also have the right to first recognition



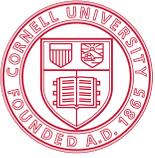
## Cornell University Student Assembly

- xi. C. Taylor states that there is a significant amount of power in the chair and while their decisions can be overturned, that power is not often used because Robert's Rules are not well-understood by the majority of this assembly
- xii. D. Cady states the person who is the most well-versed on Robert's Rules should be the one making decisions about Robert's Rules, which would be the speaker
- xiii. C. Lederman states that it is the safe election process as any other officer
- xiv. C. Taylor states that the speaker role cannot be elected, so that is an important difference between other officer roles
- xv. V. Valencia states it would be different from other internal elections because this person would not have been elected by the student body first
- xvi. D. Cady states that this is similar to the fact that the majority of members here were elected un-opposed
- xvii. S. Bhardwaj states it seems like a bad idea to have any person who is a member of the community be in this position, so they would be more in favor of this if the speaker was an elected position
- xviii. M. Song states the speaker does not have that much power though because they are still held to Robert's Rule. This is more about allowing the President and VP to be able to work on their platforms
- xix. P. Da Silveira asks if the President and VP are allowed to vote and speak?
- xx. V. Valencia states the chair only votes in the case of a tie and there is nothing prohibiting them from speaking
- xxi. R. Chatterji asks what the President will do if they aren't chair and what the speaker will do?
- xxii. C. Lederman states the President will be able to comment on and introduce resolutions like any other member and the speaker will help with the speakers list and introducing resolutions
- xxiii. M. Baker asks if there's a good reason why the speaker position is open to anyone in the Cornell community?
- xxiv. C. Taylor states that just allows anyone who comes in here to be able to participate in debate
- xxv. M. Baker asks if lines 12-22 could be changed to "Cornell undergraduate community?"
- xxvi. C. Taylor states that this would be ok
- xxvii. K. Everett asks them if the President and VP are unable to support their campaign promise in their current position?
- xxviii. V. Valencia responds no



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- xxix. D. Cady responds the issue is that chairing the assembly meeting requires some impartiality that is not required in making campaign promises, so this makes it easier for them
- xxx. C. Ting asks if they have someone in mind for speaker and vice speaker?
- xxx. C. Lederman responds that he doesn't want to be speaker, but the goal is to find someone who is well-versed in Robert's Rules
- xxxii. J.P. Swenson asks them to acknowledge some potential negatives
- xxxiii. C. Lederman responds it'll take some time to transition and it'll be important to recruit people who are well-versed in Robert's Rules and that can be a challenge
- xxxiv. B. Mehretu motions to end debate, J. Kalinski dissents to have further discussion
- xxxv. In a vote of, 7-11-2 the motion fails
- xxxvi. C. Taylor states that the chair is supposed to be impartial, but this would make them able to not be. However, the President does usually say their opinion and no one has objected
- xxxvii. D. Cady states we are currently not following our own rules by letting the President speak and not being impartial, so what they are doing is putting this into codified language that makes sense
- xxxviii. P. Kuehl asks how many of her campaign promises she's been a sponsor on this semester?
- xxxix. V. Valencia responds that student assembly work takes time and while we didn't get to everything, we did get to a lot of it
  - xl. M. Song states this Resolution is revealing that the assembly is not well-versed in Robert's Rules and that the President and VP are treated as "glorified secretaries"
  - xli. J. Kalinski if they have any people in mind or if this will just be a vacant spot?
  - xlii. C. Lederman states this will not be elected in Executive Session, so anyone is eligible. There are some other undergraduate parliamentarians and people on Cornell Votes who could do this
  - xliii. P. Da Silveira motions to table this until the end of the meeting, K. Everett dissents to just move into voting
  - xliv. In a vote of 5-12-3, the motion fails
  - xlv. M. Baker motions for a straw poll
  - xlvi. C. Newell motions to end debate
  - xlvii. In a vote of, 15-3-3 the motion passes
  - xlviii. In a vote of, 9-10-2 the Resolution does not pass

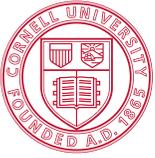


## Cornell University Student Assembly

- xlix. Resolution 40 does not pass
  
- e. C. Newell motions to move Resolution 45 to be next, passed by unanimous consent
  
- f. Resolution 45 is presented by C. Newell
  - i. C. Newell asks for a Youtube video to be played
  - ii. C. Newell explains the Resolution
  - iii. Erik, the Director of the Physics Bus, explains what they do and that they'd like to have a relationship with Cornell
  - iv. Lori, the Director of Free Science, states the point of this program is to address the economic disparity in Ithaca
  - v. C. Newell states they are asking for \$2,500 per semester and it is a great way for students and Cornell to get involved in the community
  - vi. J. Kalinski motions to extend time, passed by unanimous consent
  - vii. S. Bhardwaj asks if there are alternative funding sources?
  - viii. Erik responds that funding sources cannot be solicited by them, but have to come through proper channels
  - ix. J. Kalinski states his support
  - x. D. Cady motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - xi. D. Cady motions to vote, passed by unanimous consent
  - xii. Resolution 45 passes unanimously
  
- g. Resolution 43 is presented by C. Newell
  - i. C. Newell reads the Resolution
  - ii. R. Chatterji that are some studies that show negative effects of fluoride and Ithaca voted against it before, so we shouldn't force them
  - iii. C. Newell states she brought up the vote to highlight that it was a close vote
  - iv. C. Ting thanks her for the Resolution emphasizes the oral health benefits of fluoride
  - v. M. Baker motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - vi. M. Baker motions to vote, passed by unanimous consent
  - vii. Resolution 43 passes unanimously

### **XI. New Business**

- a. Resolution 46 is presented by A. Lampert
  - i. A. Lampert states she is presenting on behalf of S. Williams and Cornell  
Votes



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- ii. M. Baker motions to amend line 7 to read “recommendation,” passed by unanimous consent
  - iii. S. Bhardwaj motions to amend line 4 to correct the spelling to “Elena,” passed by unanimous consent
  - iv. D. Cady motions to extend time by 5 minutes, passed by unanimous consent
  - v. D. Cady motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - vi. D. Cady motions to vote, passed by unanimous consent
  - vii. Resolution 46 passes unanimously
- b. Resolution 47 is presented by P. Da Silveira
- i. P. Da Silveira thanks C. Taylor for all they have done
  - ii. J.P. Swenson thanks C. Taylor for their work and patience
  - iii. D. Cady thanks C. Taylor their work on Student Assembly and for students with disabilities
  - iv. C. Ting thanks C. Taylor for their time
  - v. P. Kuehl compliments C. Taylor
  - vi. B. Mehretu commends C. Taylor for their knowledge
  - vii. B. Mehretu motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
  - viii. B. Mehretu motions to vote, passed by unanimous consent
  - ix. Resolution 47 passes unanimously

### **XII. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49pm
  - i. C. Taylor motions to adjourn, passed by unanimous consent

Respectfully Submitted,  
Megan Birmingham  
Clerk of the Assembly