



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, August 26, 2021 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. A. Ononye called the meeting to order at 4:50pm (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present:* A. Williams, A. Lampert, A. Gleiberman, A. Ononye, C. Tempelman, C. Leon, D. Ilango, D. Eisman, D. Cady, E. Bentolila, E. Yan, H. Wade, J. Bansah, J. Jiang, J. Mullen, K. Santacruz, L. Smith, M. Baker, N. Overton, N. Reddy, P. Gronemeyer, V. Valencia, Y. Logan
 - ii. *Members Absent:* K. Thakkar, M. Louis

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)

- a. Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq̓ (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:nq̓ 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:nq̓ dispossession and honor the ongoing connection of the Gayogohó:nq̓ people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

III. Approval of the Minutes

- a. July 1, 2021
 - i. Motion to approve the July 1st minutes – **approved** by Unanimous Consent

IV. Open Microphone

- a. There were no speakers present at open microphone.

V. Announcements and Presentations

- a. A. Ononye stated that there is a mandatory orientation is on Sunday, August 29, at 11:30am. Additionally, A. Ononye explained that the Sept. 16 meeting on the SA meeting schedule is a mistake and asked for the meeting to be removed from the schedule.
 - i. Motion to amend the Student Assembly meeting schedule – **amended** by Unanimous Consent

VI. New Business

- a. SA R2: Adding Two Reserved Seats for First-Year Students to the Appropriations Committee
 - i. Abstract: This resolution adds two reserved seats for first-year students to the Appropriations Committee. This addition will help to ensure the continued functions of the Appropriations Committee in the future.
 - ii. M. Baker stated that this resolution is intended to give opportunities for first year members to join the Appropriations Committee, especially because they are the future of committee.

- iii. D. Cady asked if this resolution created two seats on the committee or if it will take seats away from upperclassmen.
 - 1. M. Baker stated this resolution will add new spots and will not take away any seats.
 - 2. D. Cady asked for clarification on lines 43-47 in the resolution, in regard to why it specifies one seat for freshman and one seat for transfer students.
 - a. M. Baker clarified that at least one of the seats should be held by an actual freshman who can be on the committee for four years.
- iv. Motion to approve Resolution #2 – **approved** by a vote of 20-1-1.
- b. SA R3: Amendments to the Student Activities Funding Commission's Governing Documents 4
 - i. Abstract: This resolution affirms the changes that were made to the Student Activities Funding Commission's Governing Documents.
 - ii. M. Baker motioned to amend the resolution to add A. Gleberman as a co-sponsor.
 - 1. Motion to amend Resolution #3 – **amended** by Unanimous Consent
 - iii. M. Baker explained that the SAFC documents were originally confusing, and these changes are designed to make the document more user friendly
 - iv. A. Gleberman stated that this resolution will allow clubs more flexibility with how they spend their funds, one of the biggest changes is that clubs can use their funds for food and apparel. There is also a list of prohibited expenses in one place and there is a simplified list of four categories for permitted expenses.
 - v. N. Overton asked if food was allowed under COVID-19 guidelines.
 - 1. M. Baker stated that all clubs under SAFC funding must follow COVID-19 guidelines.
 - vi. A. Williams questioned if clubs have to comply with the behavioral compact
 - 1. M. Baker explained that clubs need to follow all university policies to receive SAFC funding.
 - 2. A. Williams asked if there are any repercussions if an organization does not.
 - 3. A. Ononye stated a point of information that there is no behavioral compact this year.
 - vii. A. Gleberman stated that clubs have to be in good standing with the university to receive SAFC funding.
 - viii. L. Smith communicated that there is a reason why food has not been permitted in the past because funding is meant to be used on mission-specific items. It is undesirable for organizations to spend lots of money on food and not the organizations goal.
 - 1. A. Gleberman stated that clubs have to submit their budgets by September 17 and why penalize clubs for spending money on food. The issue is the tier system that decides how much money an organization receives, not overspending. How much money an organization receives is based on how long an organization has been receiving money. There are already plans in place to address this issue.

- ix. D. Eisman asked that if the tier system is still in place, what will be stopping clubs from spending all the money on the system
 - 1. A. Gleiberman explained that the tiers have not change and there is significant surplus this year because many organizations did not need as much money in the last academic year.
 - 2. M. Baker clarified that money on food can only be spent for programs and event, not private meetings, it is intended to attract students to these events.
- x. P. Gronemeyer asked if were possible to add a definition for performance in the document.
 - 1. A. Gleiberman stated that performance is common terminology and clarification is not needed.
- xi. H. Wade asked where 75 came from for the number of publications.
 - 1. The SAFC co-chair, D. Glickman, explained that 75 has been used for a while, there is no scientific reasoning for the amount. It is intended to be enough so the publications can be distributed around all of campus.
- xii. J. Mullen asked why the chairs of the SAFC can suspend organizations unilaterally but needs the vote of the executive committee for full revocation. Additionally, J. Mullen asked if this the SA Executive Committee or the SAFC Executive Committee.
 - 1. M. Baker clarified it is the executive committee of the SAFC, not the SA.
 - 2. D. Glickman explained that this has not occurred during their time at the SAFC, but that if a club needs to be suspended, it typically has to be done very quickly and Co-chairs need to act swiftly. However, putting all the power into two people is scary, so full removal is decided by the executive committee.
- xiii. A. Williams questioned why apparel purchased can only go to club members and not eligible for use in marketing tactics.
 - 1. D. Glickman stated that it is tempting to spend money on food for club meetings, so it is not allowed. Clothing and apparel are more expensive, thus money for apparel can only be used for club members and not used for giveaway items. want it to be for members and not allowed to be just e board
- xiv. Motion to approve Resolution #3 – approved by Unanimous Consent
- c. SA R4: Amendments to the Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service's Governing Documents
 - i. Abstract: This resolution affirms the changes that were made to Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service's constitution to add the following new services/roles: EARS Peer Mentors, EARS Liaisons, and Empathy Chairs,
 - ii. M. Baker stated that EARS has been reorganized and reframed and the changes have been reflected in this resolution.
 - iii. P. Gronemeyer asked if A. Gleiberman needed to be added a co-sponsor to this resolution.
 - 1. A. Gleiberman stated they are not a co-sponsor of this resolution.
 - iv. Motion to approve Resolution #4 – approved by Unanimous Consent
- d. SA R5: Amendments to the Class Councils' Governing Documents

- i. Abstract: This resolution affirms the changes that were made to Class Councils' constitution to account for its separation from the Convocation Committee.
 - ii. M. Baker stated that the change convocation to something
 - iii. Motion to approve Resolution #5 – **approved** by Unanimous Consent
- e. SA R6: Amendments to the Convocation Committee's Appendix B Guidelines
 - i. Abstract: This resolution seeks to amend the Convocation Committee's Appendix B Guidelines to reduce the number of guaranteed Convocation Committee seats offered to senior Student Assembly members.
 - ii. Motion to table Resolution #6 indefinitely – **tabled** by Unanimous Consent
- f. SA R7: Amendments to the Interfaith Council at Cornell's Governing Documents
 - i. Abstract: This resolution affirms the changes that were made to the Interfaith Council at Cornell's constitution to account for the name change, the addition of three officers' positions, and the clarification of some of the responsibilities.
 - ii. M. Baker stated the only changes made is the name change, clarification of duties, and the addition of 3 officers.
 - iii. A. Williams asked if there was a reason for the name change.
 - 1. M. Baker explained they did not ask for reasoning for the name change.
 - iv. Motion to approve Resolution #7 – **approved** by Unanimous Consent.
- g. SA R8: Amendments to Appendix B of the Student Assembly Charter
 - i. Abstract: This resolution seeks to amend Appendix B of the Student Assembly Charter by updating outdated terms, adding mission statements, and changing methods of operation.
 - ii. A. Gleiberman informed the SA that the changes to Appendix B include language changes to reflect current names of organizations, the inclusion of a clause regarding umbrella organization, the movement of spending limitations text to its own clause, updated attendance tracking language, the first cause under every organization is their mission statement, every byline organization is now included in Section 4 and all dollar values were changed to percentages.
 - iii. M. Baker stated that members can follow along with changes in the meeting packet.
 - iv. A. Gleiberman explained one of the changes was codifying expectations about the main source of a club's spending. This is not a prominent issue, as in the last year, only seven clubs under umbrella organization spent SAFC money. The purpose of the formation of new umbrella organizations is to move clubs from under SAFC to umbrella organizations that will better understand their needs. Additionally, another amendment to Appendix B is to include language that encourages organizations to use new attendance features built into Campus Groups. Attendance is important for the Appropriations Committee to ensure organizations are using money wisely. Most of the changes in the document were submitted the organizations themselves.
 - v. A. Williams asked why there are still some dollar values in Appendix B and stated that some of the percentages are listed in a confusing manner.

1. M. Baker stated that some organizations have not provided this information, but when they respond, the information will be updated.
- vi. N. Overton asked if this means the SA will be amending this Appendix B again.
 1. A. Gleiberman communicated that it will most likely be amended again by the end of the semester. There may be more modifications depending on the Appropriations Committee and the organizations.
 2. M. Baker stated that this process will be easier as it returns in in-person functioning.
- vii. D. Cady asked how many organizations they are waiting to hear back from.
 1. M. Baker stated about half of the organizations. Every organization has been emailed several times.
 2. We've already reached out many times
- viii. L. Smith suggested that the Club Sports Council be removed from the Appendix until it is approved.
- ix. Motion to amend the resolution to remove Section 4D from Appendix B – amended by Unanimous Consent
- x. D. Eisman asked for clarification on how fraternities lose SAFC funding.
 1. M. Baker stated that organizations under umbrella organizations have much more tailored guidelines for funding. They are subject to SA approval. If there is evidence of them misusing their funds, they are subject to suspension.
 2. D. Eisman asked if it were possible for one member in each of the organizations to be represented.
 3. A. Ononye stated a point of information that there is a president's council where all the presidents of the fraternities receive a vote.
- xi. L. Smith asked if there was a language change in Section 4W where it now states that the PFC will provide diversity statistics if available, where it used to be a requirement.
 1. A. Gleiberman explained that the PFC provided this themselves.
- xii. Motion to amend to remove "if provided" and "if available" from Section 4W subsection 3 of Appendix B – amended by Unanimous Consent
- xiii. A. Williams asked if there was any possibility this resolution could be tabled until it is complete and has the percentages from the organizations that have not submitted theirs yet. Here anyway we could table this to have a full extent of what this is when it is ready for.
 1. M. Baker stated the final documents will come in by September 17, but there are close estimates to the percentages. The resolution should be addressed today to avoid organizations being in violation of Appendix B.
- xiv. L. Smith stated that the mission statement of Students Helping Students is not the correct mission statement for the organization.
- xv. Motion to amend Appendix B Section 4BB Subsection 1 to include the mission statement of Students Helping Students Fund and Summer Experience Grants– amended by Unanimous Consent
- xvi. A. Williams explained that there are a few discrepancies in the document and suggested tabling the resolution to allow members to look through the document more closely.

- xvii. J. Bansah apologized for sending the meeting agenda late and will send the agendas and meeting packets earlier to allow members more time to review the documents.
- xviii. Motion to table Resolution #8 – **tabled** by a vote of 19-1-2.
- h. SA R9: Amendments to the Cornell Concert Commission’s Governing Documents
 - i. Abstract: This resolution affirms the changes that were made to the Cornell Concert Commission’s constitution charter, and bylaws to allow for co-executive directors of the organization
 - ii. M. Baker stated that the only change in these documents is removing the clause “only one person should serve one committee” is striking out clause that states that there is only one person. This document does not reflect this change and asked for a motion to amend.
 - iii. There was a motion to amend Article 4, Section 1, Part A of the Cornell Concert Commission’s Governing Documents to remove “one person should serve one committee”, as the Cornell Concert Commission does not have as many experienced members due to the pandemic.
 - 1. Motion to amend Resolution #9 – **amended** by a vote of 21-0-1.
 - iv. Motion to approve Resolution #9 – **approved** by Unanimous Consent
- i. P. Mehler stated that freshman and transfer student elections will be begin in September and there will not be a special election.

VII. Adjournment

- a. A. Ononye adjourned the meeting at 5:57pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,
Ciara Shanahan
 Clerk of the Student Assembly