

Cornell University
Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, September 9, 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 4:48pm (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, J. Bansah, J. Jiang, J. Mullen, K. Santacruz, L. Smith, M. Louis, M. Baker, N. Overton, N. Reddy, P. Gronemeyer, V. Valencia, Y. Logan
 - ii. *Members Absent:* E. Yan, K. Thakkar, H. Wade

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

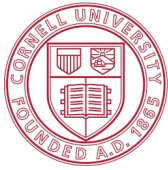
- a. September 2, 2021
 - i. L. Smith explained that amendment of Resolution 15 that asked the SA Financial Aid Review Committee to hold an investigation in conjunction with the Financial Aid Office was not included in the minutes.
 - ii. Motion to amend minutes to reflect this amendment in the discussion on Resolution 15 – **amended** by a vote of 21-0-1
 - iii. D. Eisman noted that in the discussion of Resolution 13, the minutes state that the Research & Accountability Committee's budget would go to a third account if the committee were to be dissolved when it should state that the money would go to a reserve account.
 - iv. Motion to amend minutes to state "reserve account" inside of third account" – **amended** by a vote of 21-0-1.
 - v. Motion to approve the September 2nd minutes – **approved** by Unanimous Consent

IV. Open Microphone

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

V. Initiatives Announcement

- a. P. Gronemeyer thanked everyone for their commitment to wearing masks and following guidelines, noting that the number of positive cases on campus have decreased.

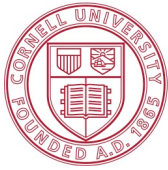


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- b. P. Mehler stated that the first information session for the freshman elections is tonight, Sept. 9, in RPCC and the second information session will be tomorrow, Sept. 10, in Room 402 in Willard Straight Hall.
- c. J. Mullen wished Representative A. Williams a happy birthday.
 - i. A. Williams expressed gratitude to J. Mullen.
- d. D. Cady stated that members would most likely be able to attend both the event at the Law School and the elections information session tonight.
- e. L. Smith asked P. Mehler if there is an elections calendar.
 - i. P. Mehler stated that information is on the Office of the Assemblies website. The information sessions are first, the deadline for registration is Sept. 20 and there is a mandatory campaigning meeting that night, the candidate form is Sept. 23, and voting begins on Sept. 28 and closes on Sept. 30. The earliest results will be announced would be Oct. 1.
- f. A. Lampert stated they are working with the Sexual Wellness Advisory group and they are thinking of changing their part on the Cornell Health Website. A. Lampert asked that members be on the lookout for a message in the Slack channel regarding this.
- g. P. Gronemeyer asked P. Mehler asked if any help is needed tonight for the information session.
 - i. P. Mehler stated that help is not needed tonight but asked members to share any information regarding the elections with anyone you can.
- h. A. Lampert asked if there are any social media slides they can share.
 - i. P. Mehler explained there are slides on the Cornell Student Assembly Instagram that can be shared.
- i. A. Ononye asked all members to speak into the microphone really clearly. The SA will have booth for ClubFest this Sunday, Sept. 19, from 3pm to 5pm. If there is anyone willing to volunteer, please reach out.
- j. There was a motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 23 – amended by Unanimous Consent
- k. There was a motion to amend agenda to begin debate on Resolution 23.
 - i. L. Smith dissented and asked for it to be later in the agenda so there is time to read through the resolution.
 - ii. The motion was rescinded.
- l. W. Treat asked for the resolution to be added to the Box so it can be displayed on the projector.
- m. A. Ononye stated that members can use their computers to read resolutions only.

VI. New Business

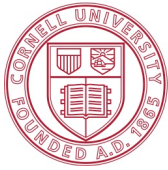
- a. There was a motion to amend the agenda to move Resolution 17 after Resolution 23 – **amended** by a vote of 20-0-2.
- b. SA R18: Calling on the Cornell University Administration to Publicly Support the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation) Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers Demands
 - i. Abstract: This resolution calls for the Cornell University Administration to release a statement voicing support for the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation) Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers demands, urging the Bureau of Indian Affairs to remove Clint Halftown as the Gayogohó:nq, Cayuga Nations'



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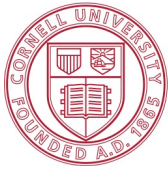
federal representative, establishing support for the Cayuga Nation Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers as the legitimate government, and urging President Biden to meet with Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers.

- ii. C. Leon explained that the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation) is currently being threatened by Clint Halftown, who was named the federal representative for the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation) by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In the resolution, there is more information regarding Halftown's atrocious actions. This resolution is to show support for the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation) Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers. Since May, there has been a renewed sense of urgency and there has been a lot of organizing efforts in conjunction between the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation) and allies.
- iii. A. Williams stated that after meeting with one of the chiefs from the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation), there are a few amendments to the resolution.
- iv. Motion to amend the resolution to strike the first two whereas statements and replace with "Whereas, the Two Row Wampum (a treaty initially established between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and Dutch Settles in 1613, and later extended to the fledgling United States) commits to noninterference in one another's government affairs while proceeding in relationships of peace and friendship, and Whereas, in accordance with the Two Roe Wampum, the Gayogohó:nq' have put forth various requests for help, including within the May 15 letter from the Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers, for those within the United States to be holding the U.S. government accountable on this issue.", to add "and Clan Mothers" after every time "Council of Chiefs" is stated, to amend the title of the resolution to state "Calling on Cornell University Administration to Publicly Support the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation) Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers' Demands" to amend the abstract of the resolution to state "This resolution calls for the Cornell University Administration to release a statement voicing support for the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation) Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers demands, urging the Bureau of Indian Affairs to remove Clint Halftown as the Gayogohó:nq, Cayuga Nations' federal representative, establishing support for the Cayuga Nation Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers as the legitimate government, and urging President Biden to meet with Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers.", and to add to the resolution "Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly is in support of the Cayuga Nation Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers' statement, subsequent demands, and is convinced of the merits of their case." – amended by a vote of 21-0-1.
- v. L. Smith thanked the co-sponsors of the resolution, but stated they have an interest in local political and one of the talking points was that Clint Halftown has a 60% approval rating around 2016.
 1. C. Leon asked if this statistic is from 2016.



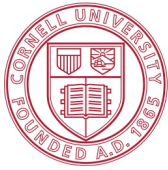
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2. L. Smith stated they cannot remember the exact year of the statistic but knew the approval rating was 60%.
3. C. Leon stated that the year of that statistic is important as Halftown burned down schoolhouses, homes, and businesses in 2020 and this resolution is supporting the Gayogohó:nq, Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers' demands.
4. Y. Logan explained that there was initially a high approval rating, as Halftown was young. Overtime, dissatisfaction has grown. Information for 2016 would not be very reliable.
- vi. J. Jiang asked if this is because of the lawsuit mentioned in the resolution.
 1. C. Leon stated that the lawsuit plays a part into it, but there is not one specific reasoning for the disapproval of Clint Halftown.
 2. J. Jiang asked for clarification that the Gayogohó:nq originally supported Halftown, but his actions have made the Gayogohó:nq no longer support them.
 - a. A. Williams stated that this correct and the people themselves do not have the power to remove him, as he is a federal representative.
 - b. J. Jiang asked if there is someone to replace him.
 - i. A. Williams stated that it is federal position, but there are many on the Gayogohó:nq Council of Chiefs and Clan Mothers who are qualified for the position.
 - c. J. Jiang asked if Chiefs are appointed by federal government, not elected.
 - i. A. Williams stated it is a traditional process, but it is similar to an appointment by other leaders in the communities.
- vii. J. Mullen commended the resolution and asked if it were possible to vote on the resolution.
 1. Motion to vote to end debate – approved by a vote 17-3-2.
- viii. Motion to vote on Resolution 18 – approved by a vote of 21-0-1.
- c. SA R19: Amending and Ratifying the Student Assembly Charter
 - i. Abstract: This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Charter for the 2021-2022 academic year.
 - ii. A. Ononye stated that there are no changes made to the charter.
 - iii. There was a motion to vote.
 1. L. Smith dissented on behalf of P. Mehler, stating that there is a typo on Line 660 with there is two non-discrimination clauses.
 - iv. D. Eisman asked if the SA will have to wait a week to vote on the resolution if it is amended.
 - v. There was a motion to table – tabled by Unanimous Consent
- d. SA R20: Amending and Ratifying the 2021-2022 Student Assembly Standing Rules



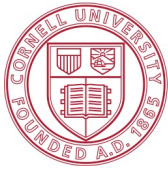
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- i. Abstract: This resolution amends and ratifies the 2021-2022 Student Assembly Standing Rules.
- ii. A. Ononye stated that this resolution amends the standing rules, however nothing has changed.
- iii. Motion to vote on Resolution 20 – **approved** by Unanimous Consent
- e. SA R21: Amending and Ratifying the Student Assembly Bylaws
 - i. Abstract: This resolution amends and ratifies the Student Assembly Bylaws. Notable amendments include: creating separate ex-officio positions for the different Tri-Council constituencies and creating a Student Athlete ex-officio position.
 - ii. A. Ononye granted members permission to look at the resolution on computers, as the notes and changes did not print.
 - iii. A. Ononye stated that the changes are straightforward. One change is that the ex-officio seat for the Tri-Council will be changed to three different ex-officio positions for each of the Tri-Council constituencies. While campaigning, many people in these groups complained that the rotational cycle does not give them the opportunity to come to the SA and don't feel they have the ability to participate. The second change is adding an ex-officio seat for Student Athletes.
 - iv. L. Smith expressed concern for the additional Tri-Council ex-officio seats. Ex-Officios rarely attend meetings regularly and the SA meetings are open to the community every single week. Expanding the ex-officio positions for Greek life does not make much sense as they are only a third of students.
 1. A. Ononye replied that this change comes from Greek life itself wanting more representation and opportunity to participate in the SA.
 - v. E. Bentolila asked how the Student Athlete Ex-Officio would attend meetings if they have practice.
 1. A. Ononye stated that the ex-officios are not required to attend meetings and can be involved with advocacy outside of the meetings. Additionally, there are different times for different practices.
 - vi. A. Gleiberman voiced support for L. Smith statements, stating that the ex-officio already does not attend the meetings who already represents the community, there is no reason to add two more positions.
 - vii. K. Santacruz asked for clarification for adding the ex-officio seats.
 1. A. Ononye stated that the Tri council have been they have been campaigning for more representatives that could open to a lot of conversation and opportunity.
 - viii. J. Mullen voiced their support for the two additional positions, citing that there a huge difference between being a community member and being a part of the SA. Additionally, many of the members present ran with adding more ex-officio seats on their platform and stated that they should following through with those promises.



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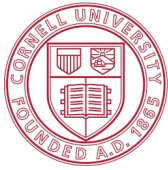
1. A. Ononye stated that it was part of their campaign but does not want to force the assembly to approve the additional seats if they do not approve it.
- ix. A. Williams asked what the process for the appointing of the ex-officio for student athletes is.
 1. A. Ononye stated that in resolution line 32 -33 clarifies this, that the Student Athlete Advisory Committee will appoint and chose someone.
 2. A. Williams stated that they understand both sides of the argument but is hesitant because the application process to Greek life is selective and people do get cut. It is not representative of the whole body.
 - a. A. Ononye explained that there are a lot of the ex officio seats are pretty selective and nearly focused.
- x. J. Fief voiced support for the changes as each of the constituencies have their own needs and an equitable distribution will allow for as much representation as possible. Additionally, there is no harm in adding two seats if they don't use them.
- xi. D. Cady voiced their support for the resolution, as the sole reason of the SA is to be very representative of the Cornell committee. Greek life is very much a part of the campus and it would be great if they could be more involved in the Student Assembly.
- xii. N. Overton voiced their support D. Cady's sentiments. It would be beneficial for the Tri-Council to have appropriate representation.
- xiii. Motion to end debate - **failed** by a vote of 13-7-2
- xiv. D. Eisman asked if this resolution has to be tabled for a week before it can be voted on if it.
 1. A. Ononye said it will have to be tabled.
- xv. L. Smith stated they appreciate discussion; however the Tri-Council already represents all of Greek life on campus, it is not just the IFC.
- xvi. Motion to amend the resolution to state that the Tri-Council will only have one ex-officio seat.
 1. Motion to amend – **failed** 8-11-2
- xvii. There was a motion to table Resolution #21 – **tabled** by a vote of 19-0-1.
- f. Motion to amend agenda to begin discussion on Resolution 23 – **amended** by a vote of 21-0-1
- g. SA R23: Support for Reproductive Rights
 - i. Abstract: This resolution is in reaction to Texas Senate Bill 8 (SB8), a recently passed piece of legislation that limits access to healthcare in the form of abortion, infringing upon the constitutionally protected reproductive rights of Americans and endangering the health of pregnant people.
 - ii. S. Heller stated that this resolution is in reaction to Texas Senate Bill 8, which was enacted last week in Texas. It is closest thing to an abortion ban since Roe v. Wade. This resolution is here to say that the Cornell



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Student Body is opposed to this and supports the right to terminate pregnancy and stands with those in Texas. Since the bill prohibits abortions after six weeks, 85% of abortions in Texas are illegal, which disproportionately affects marginalized and low-income communities who cannot afford to travel to another state for an abortion.

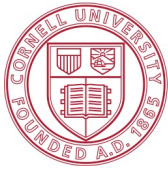
- iii. H. Brittain added that the bill does not have exception to those who experienced rape or incest.
- iv. A. Ononye expressed gratitude for the co-sponsors and their work.
 - v. L. Smith expressed thanks and stated that the resolution puts things into in perspective and is a powerful testament. However, in line 56, it states that the SA speaks behalf on the student body, which is not needed since that is the entire purpose of the SA.
 - vi. Motion to amend line 56 to read “speaking on behalf of the student body” – **amended** by a vote of 18-0-4.
 - vii. A. Gleiberman thanked the co-sponsors for their work.
 - viii. Motion to vote on Resolution #23 – **approved** by a vote of 20-0-2.
- h. SA R22: Dissolving the Research and Accountability Committee and Creating the Office of Ethics
 - i. Abstract: This resolution is intended to dissolve the Research & Accountability Committee and create the Office of Ethics to preserve accountability measures.
 - ii. M. Baker stated that this resolution is born out of the discussion from last week’s meeting regarding the dissolving of the R&A committee. This resolution creates a new system that would ensure accountability, which is called the Office of Ethics. The mission of the Office of Ethics is pursuing any necessary ethic concerns of SA and directly elected representatives. The Office will evaluate all requests submitted by community members that are against any SA members. It is an external committee, and it follows the structure of other external committees, like the Office of Student Government and Office of the Student Advocate. It will start with the SA and eventually become independently functioning. There is also a vote of confidence, which will help the Office of Ethics remain accountable. One of the first tasks that the Office of Ethics could complete is the expanding and review the SA Code of Ethics.
 - iii. Line 80 Mission, rules responsibilities and restrictions
 - iv. Motion to amend Part C subsection E part 2, line 149 to state “if possible” – **amended** by a vote of 21-0-1.
 - v. D. Cady stated that the resolution was born out of Resolution 13, which removed accountability entirely. The Office of Ethics is essentially a checks and balance independent body. Accountability works best when it is not done by people who are supposed to be the ones being held accountable. The vote of confidence will allow the SA to fix any problems with the office.
 - vi. J. Feit stated there was definitely flaws with the Research and Accountability Committee and hopes the Office of Ethics will correct



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these issues. J. Feit encouraged the co-sponsors to see if the Office of Ethics could be tasked with overseeing the challenges from the SA elections.

- vii. Motion to amend the resolution to strike line 49-67 – **amended** 19-0-3.
- viii. C. Tempelman commended the co-sponsors and stated that as a former member of the R&A committee, there was not a lot to do when there were no questions of ethics or accountability.
 - 1. L. Smith stated that this was something they considered a lot, as an idle committee is not a good committee. However, many other universities have similar committees.
- ix. E. Bentolila stated the fact that is an external body is good and asked if the chair has the sole ability to staff the committee.
 - 1. M. Baker explained that the office would internally pick one director of the office of ethics. At the end of this academic year, the voting members will chose the next office.
 - 2. E. Bentolila asked what happens to the budget of the R&A committee.
 - a. M. Baker stated that it will qutomatically go to the SA reserve account.
- x. A. Williams asked if there is going to be a budget for Office of Ethics.
 - 1. D. Cady stated that as of right now, there is not a reason to give them a budget.
- xi. K. Santacruz asked what the method of recruitment and approval is.
 - 1. M. Baker stated that there is usually two ways, it is either just the president, or the SA votes on that person.
 - 2. K. Santacruz asked if you can only appoint one person
 - a. M. Baker stated that you can appoint more than one, just one at a time.
 - b. D. Cady make it as broad as a process, open and simplistic, assume doing this only once
- xii. Motion to table Resolution #22 – **tabled** by a vote of 21-0-1.
- i. There was a motion to table Resolution 17.
 - i. A. Williams dissented and stated that there is not an SA meeting for two weeks.
 - ii. M. Baker stated they wanted to table the resolution as they wanted to see the expenses per category for the event. It is a virtual event and they asked for \$4,200 and M. Baker wanted clarification for the reasoning before granting approval.
 - iii. The motion was rescinded.
- j. SA R17: Approving Special Projects Funding Request for Art with Impact
 - i. Abstract: This resolution approves \$4,200 of Special Projects Funding to the nonprofit organization Art with Impact for their mental health within the Black community programming.
 - ii. M. Baker stated that this resolution is approving special project funding for Art with Impact. Originally, M. Baker was under the assumption that



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the event was in-person, which was the reasoning for why it was \$4,200. However, they have recently been told that the event is virtual. Because of this, M. Baker would like clarification for the what the categories are that the funding is going to, as it is a significant portion of the special project funding's budget.

- iii. N. Overton asked if the meeting would need to be extended.
- iv. Motion to extend meeting by 10 minutes – **extended** by Unanimous Consent
- v. J. Mullen stated that, as the event is specifically for mental health, the approval should not be delayed. It is very unlikely that this funding is being manipulated.
- vi. A. William asked how M. Baker found out it was virtual.
 - 1. M. Baker stated that Selam said it was virtual.
- vii. There was a motion to end debate
 - 1. D. Eisman dissented, stating that it unclear where the \$4200 is going. If they have been planning this event since the summer, how is it that this information has not been clarified.
- viii. C. Leon stated that unless something has happened, Selam is under the impression that this is an in-person event.
- ix. D. Cady motioned to amend the resolution to state that say we will not give out the funds until the budget is submitted.
- x. Motion to add in line 37 “Be it further resolved, that the once the budget is submitted” – **amended** by 22-0-2.
- xi. P. Gronemeyer asked who would be approving the budget.
 - 1. Motion to amend the line 37 in the resolution to state “Be it further resolved that once the budget is submitted conveyed to the assembly – **amended** 20-0-2
- xii. J. Jiang expressed confusion to how the budget will be approved and if it will just be automatically approved it once it has been conveyed.
 - 1. M. Baker said that the assumption is that the budget will be good, and the budget will be sent through email
- xiii. Motion to approve Resolution #17 – **approved** by a vote of 18-0-4.

VII. Adjournment

- a. A. Ononye adjourned the meeting at 6:36pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,
Ciara Shanahan
Clerk of the Student Assembly