



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell Student University Assembly

Minutes of the October 6, 2022 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

407 Willard Straight Hall

### I. Call to Order

- a. Chair V. Valencia called the meeting to order at 4:49pm

### II. Roll Call

- a. *Members Present: S. Ali, S. Bhardwaj, D. Cady, K. Chan, E. D'Angelo, P. Da Silveira, R. DeLorenzo, J. Kalinski, A. Lampert, J. Lee, A. Lewis, L. Lu, B. Luckow, JP. Swenson, C. Ting, S. Williams, V. Valencia, M. Baker*
- b. *Members Excused: G. Dong D. Edelman, B. Kotb, J. Mayen, D. Nachman, N. Son, M. Song*

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

- a. Chair V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment

### IV. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. D. Cady motions to move visit from President Pollack and VP Lombardi above Late Additions to the Agenda, passed with unanimous consent
- b. D. Cady wrote resolution 7 to amend the budget to allocate money to Anabel's. Motions to add Resolution 7 to the Agenda under Business of the Day, R. DeLorenzo seconds, passes 16-0-2

### V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the September 29, 2022 meeting minutes
- b. S. Bhardwaj motions to approve the meeting minutes, passes by unanimous consent

### VI. Open Microphone

- a. None

### VII. Announcements and Reports

- a. V. Valencia announces S. Williams as the new Arts and Sciences Representative
  - i. S. Williams is sworn in
- b. P. Da Silveira states that him and A. Lampert will work to get funding for a Manual pilot through SAFC
- c. P. Da Silveira states that they're working the App Dev project team to bring back a polling software app



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- i. They will be asking the deans of each college to distribute a form to faculty about their opinions on this matter
  - ii. K. Chan states that there's going to be a spreadsheet about reaching out to faculty about Pollo
- d. P. Da Silveira states that the SAFC is undertaking a project to get outlets in the basement of Olin
- e. K. Chan states that next meeting she'll be doing a crash course about how to run a program

### **VIII. Initiatives**

- a. None

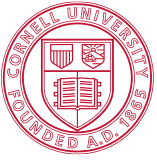
### **IX. Presentation and Forums**

- a. President Pollack and VP Lombardi
  - i. Talks about new Mui Ho center for cities and architectural planning, new center for engineering innovations in medicine, and new Baker program for real estate which will link AAP and the Johnson College of Business, and new center for racial, just, and equitable futures
  - ii. Just celebrated 10-year anniversary of the active learning program
  - iii. Professor Gomez in information and computer science received a prestigious award for founding the field of computational sustainability
  - iv. A grad student also received an award for his dissertation in computer science. It was the one award from the most prestigious organization in the field
  - v. The 2-year residency program is in effect with the first class of second year students all living on campus or in affiliated housing
  - vi. New universal dining plan is also in effect at the same cost at the 14-meal plan, fully covered by financial aid
  - vii. Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards has replaced the old office of the Judicial Administrator. The new Student Code of Conduct is also in effect
  - viii. Veteran's program house is entering its second year and continue to try to increase the number of veterans on campus
  - ix. The David Einhorn Center for Community Engagement provides opportunities for students to connect locally and globally
  - x. North Campus Residential Expansion is now complete and the next phase is to renovate existing halls, starting with Balch, and to continue annual upgrades



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- xi. Cornell Academic Materials Program launched this semester. Provides undergrads with all course materials at a flat free of \$220, fully funded by financial aid, 70% of undergraduates opted in
- xii. New director of Cornell Career Services and the majority of career fairs are going to remain virtual because it's both more equitable for students and preferred by employers
- xiii. Care and Crisis team is now Student Supported Advocacy Services and is intended to help students navigate challenging issues in all facets of their lives
- xiv. Student Disability Services started a testing support program. It's a one-year pilot that supports faculty with logistical needs for accommodated testing and provides proctors.
- xv. Continued to implement recommendations of the 2021 Public Safety Advisory Committee report. New Division of Public Safety and a Community Response team, doing a complete review of Cornell University police service calls, developing position descriptions of the unfilled positions of unarmed campus service officers. Overall, the goal is to create a safer and more equitable public safety framework at Cornell
- xvi. Hired a telehealth therapy service called Mantra Health that has cut wait times from 12.2 days to 2.3 days this Spring, got a 1.2-million-dollar gift to continue this program
- xvii. Announced new director of Director of Counseling and Psychological Services
- xviii. Going to adopt Okanagan charter to focus on being a health promoting university
- xix. Exploring Earth source heating to achieve goal of Carbon neutrality. Completed geothermal dig this summer and temperatures were what was expected, done massive environmental testing
- xx. V. Valencia opens it up to questions
- xxi. S. Bhardwaj yields her time to community member Alejandra Gonzales from the Basic Needs Coalition
- xxii. Alejandra speaks on behalf of the Basic Needs Coalition about issues seriously effecting low-income and first-generation students on campus
- xxiii. Conducted a Basic Needs Survey that found that students overwhelmingly feel that their basic needs are not met by the university
- xxiv. Many of their needs are not met by financial aid alone and current resources are inaccessible, ineffective, or inadequate



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- xxv. Basic Needs Coalition has put together a list of demands to share with President Pollack and VP Lombardi
- xxvi. President Pollack responds that they're committed to access and inclusion and that The Dean of Students Office is working with the Basic Needs Coalition and encourages them to continue their conversations with Marla Love and with Dannemart Pierce. They don't have plans to create a Basic Center Needs because they believe that they already provide many of those resources. Want to make sure that students are aware of them and can access to them rather than creating yet another center
- xxvii. V. Valencia asks why CRT was stalled because right now armed officers are coming to the door for mental health emergencies
- xxviii. VP Lombardi responds that people who were in those positions left and they are currently re-hiring. One of the new requirements is that these folks have licensure so that police won't need to come.
- xxix. President Pollack emphasizes that they're deeply committed to public safety and this is just a transition period
- xxx. D. Cady asks about updates on the pool facilities
- xxxi. President Pollack responds that they know that a pool would be a real asset and the current ones have problems, but that a pool would cost tens of millions of dollars and they don't have the funding right now. Expands that they're prioritizing people, financial aid, and mental health first
- xxxii. They're working on a solution, but it will probably be a 7-10 year timeframe. Right now, the pools are performing adequately and there aren't the same problems as last semester and they're developing a back-up plan in case they fail
- xxxiii. C. Ting states that the ILR curriculum has moved to be Human Resources centered and students are concerned that it has moved away from the labor relations side
- xxxiv. President Pollack responds that she wasn't aware of the curriculum change because the faculty is mostly responsible for it. She'll raise the issue with the Provost and urges the students to talk with the Dean
- xxxv. A. Chowdhury states that there's only one staff in charge of first generation and undocumented students and it's beyond the capacity of the office right now. Asks how we can expand financial aid as it is not adequately covering students right now
- xxxvi. President Pollack states that one of the main goals of the philanthropic campaign now is to raise half a billion dollars for financial aid. They're working hard at that.



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- xxxvii. In the short term, we need to have a conversation with Marla and Dannemart to see what can be done
- xxxviii. VP Lombardi states that he talked with Marla and that he's searching for another person to support undocumented students and they're trying really hard to recruit right now
- xxxix. V. Valencia asks what the timeline will be for the waiver for the Summer Expectation Fee
  - xl. President Pollack states that she hopes to implement it this summer
  - xli. D. Cady asks about how students will be involved in the 2022 Mental Health Review
  - xlii. VP Lombardi states that they've formed a Mental Health Coalition and a Council on Well-Being and invite more students to join
  - xliii. Lillian is here from the Women's Resource Center and Haven and asks about what financial aid is doing for upperclassmen student housing and lag in financial aid as students are currently homeless and struggling
  - xliv. President Pollack responds that she didn't know about a delay in the financial aid office, but she'll look into the lag tomorrow
  - xlv. Lillian asks what about financial resources for middle class students who don't qualify, but are struggling
  - xlvi. President Pollack responds that there's emergency funds, but they're bound to need based aid
  - xlvii. VP Lombardi responds that there's housing available on campus for any homeless students and he can get them in a bed tonight
  - xlviii. Shahad from the Basic Needs Coalition asks when they can expect a response from their demands
  - xlix. President Pollack responds that they need to work with Marla and Dannemart
    - l. Yasmine asks if they're aware about student leaders' efforts to establish a standardized DEI toolkit and DEI training and what it might take to get that implemented
    - li. VP Lombardi responds that there's a draft website, they're waiting for some additional multimedia, but they're hoping for it to be live soon
    - lii. Yasmine asks about the standardized DEI training requirement
    - liii. VP Lombardi states that it has been authorized, but he's not sure where it is in implementation
    - liv. V. Valencia states we're at time and thanks them both for coming
- b. A. Lampert introduces Cody Semrau from BetterMynd



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- i. Started BetterMynd five years ago because of his own experiences struggling with mental health as a college student
- ii. It's an online therapy program that has a network of diverse counselors
- iii. 50min sessions are available to students within 1-2 days of registering on the platform on days, nights, and weekends
- iv. Work with around 65 schools and a number of schools in New York
- v. Students rate experience 9.3/10 and their counselors 9.5/10
- vi. Want to set-up a unique portal that would allow students to sign up with their email address, they'd answer a few questions to get matched with counselors, and then be able to schedule right away
- vii. Can get everything up and running within 3 weeks
- viii. J. Kolinski asks what the timeline would be to implement it
- ix. Cody responds that it only takes about 3 months to get it up and running on a new campus
- x. S. Bhardwaj asks how this would be different from the online telehealth stuff that Cornell already has
- xi. A. Lampert adds that she doesn't see the need with adding another resource especially one not affiliated with Cornell Health
- xii. Cody adds that the confidentially aspect of it is different and they only share aggregate data with the school
- xiii. A. Lampert adds that students would also get it for free
- xiv. P. Da Silveira asks how much the pilot program would cost
- xv. Total it would be about \$55,000 for about 500 sessions, which is less than the cost of having one counselor on campus. Additional sessions can also be purchased as needed
- xvi. M. Baker asks how many sessions each student would get
- xvii. A. Lampert answers 500 total sessions
- xviii. M. Baker asks if each student can schedule as many as they want until the total 500 is gone
- xix. Cody answers they can work with the school to distribute the credits. An option is to set a cap so students have a certain number of sessions available to them
- xx. K. Chan asks what type of training the counselors get
- xxi. Cody responds that licensing for counselors varies state by state and they specialize in different areas
- xxii. D. Cady asks if there's been any contact with admin about funding this and if other university assemblies have funded this



## Cornell University Student Assembly

- xxiii. They have had a few student governments fund this, but this is not the typical case
- xxiv. D. Cady asks which universities
- xxv. Cody responds that he could get the names of those school
- xxvi. S. Ali asks how long we can expect the 500 credits to last
- xxvii. Cody said it depends on what the cap is per student. On average, for students who use the sessions, they use 4-5 sessions, so it would be over 100 students who could access it
- xxviii. K. Chan asks if students are able to have an initial meeting with a therapist before fully committing
- xxix. Cody responds that students can message the counselor and after the first session they can easily select another counselor
- xxx. V. Valencia thanks Cody for coming

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

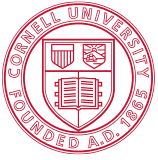
- a. D. Caddy presents Resolution 7
  - i. M. Baker motions to amend line 20 to say “2022 to 2023” and line 26 to say “2023 to 2024,” passed by unanimous consent
  - ii. M. Baker asks if this resolution would directly amend the budget
  - iii. D. Caddy answers that no, it tells the VP of Finance that the assembly believes that Anabel’s should be funded the money
  - iv. A. Lampert motions to say “2022 to 2023” in line 32 and put line 33 on two lines, passed by unanimous consent
  - v. M. Baker motions to make the resolution actually amend the operating budget to give \$8,000 to Anabel’s, passed by unanimous consent
  - vi. M. Baker motions to suspend the standing rules, passes 16-0-2
  - vii. M. Baker motions to end debate, passes 16-0-2
  - viii. Voting to approve Resolution 7, passes 16-0-2

### **XI. New Business**

- a. D. Cady motions to extend time of meeting by 5min and to move into Executive Session
  - i. P. Da Silveira dissents and recommends that the assembly adjourns and V. Valencia appoints committees
  - ii. P. Da Silveira motions for a straw poll

### **XII. Adjournment**

- i. D. Cady motions to adjourn



Cornell University  
Student Assembly

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Megan Birmingham  
Clerk of the Assembly