

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University's Student Assembly Minutes of the October 12th, 2023 Meeting 4:45 pm – 6:30 pm Memorial Room Willard Straight Hall | Zoom

I. Call to Order

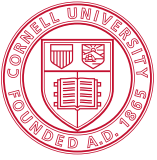
- a. P. Kuehl called the meeting to order at 4:46 pm.
 1. *Members Present (20)*: M. Bakri, L. Balestrieri, L. Barrett, A. Barry, R. DeLorenzo, K. Everett, N. Hite, C. Lederman, E. Ononye, S. Parikh, C. Platkin, P. Kuehl, I. Rezaka, A. Richmond, S. Son, A. Talone, B. Terhaar, C. Ting, A. Vinson, A. Wang
 2. *Members Absent (0)*
 3. *Also Present (8)*: A. Bangura, A. Coleman, N. Courtney, E. Kalweit, N. Maggard, J. Swenson, J. Withers, J. Zhang

II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

- a. P. Kuehl stated the SA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.

III. Announcements

- a. Call for Empathy and Civil Discussion
 1. P. Kuehl stated acknowledgement of the circumstances surrounding Palestine and Israel but emphasized the importance of courtesy and respect.
 2. C. Ting addressed the audience to emphasize empathy and respect despite divided opinions.
 3. C. Lederman outlined important procedural happenings that had occurred in the past week and would occur in the current meeting.
 4. K. Everett addressed the audience and acknowledged the range of emotions and opinions that had occurred due to the possible Resolution that had been debated being added to the agenda and emphasized her stance in support of life.
 5. R. DeLorenzo acknowledged the Appropriations Committee meeting on Saturday.
 6. Audience speakers stated thoughts.
 7. K. Everett motioned to bring the Resolution entitled "Acknowledging Palestinian Suffering Under Israeli Apartheid" back onto the agenda with amendments made to bring multiple opinions to the table. C. Lederman dissented.



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8. K. Everett emphasized the importance of facilitating discussion through the introduction of the Resolution back to the agenda.
9. C. Ting emphasized fairness in being able to bring opinions to the table through discussion.
10. C. Lederman emphasized the role of the Student Assembly and emphasized belief that the Resolution falls far from the purview of the Assembly. C. Lederman urged the need for further time and discussion before addressing the Resolution.
11. A. Richmond emphasized that no decisions are being made today but emphasized the need to step back from all the emotion which could exacerbate issues and take some time.
12. The motion to bring the Resolution to the Agenda **failed** through a vote of 7-5-7.

IV. Open Microphone

- a. There were no new items.

V. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approval of the October 5, 2023 meeting minutes
 1. K. Everett motioned to approve the meeting minutes. The motion to approve the minutes **passed** through unanimous consent.

VI. Consent Calendar

- a. There were no items.

VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

- a. There were no reports made.

VIII. Presentations

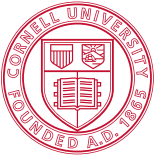
- a. There were no presentations.

IX. Old Business Calendar

- a. There were no items.

X. Resolutions Calendar

- a. Resolution 30: Removing Median Grades
 1. J. Wallen introduced the Resolution.



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2. J. Kalinski noted concerns that the Resolution wouldn't be supported by the Cornell administration and noted the need to understand the reasoning behind the initial issues that were made in 2008.
3. J. Wallen stated the original reasons behind the decision to include median grades.
4. A. Wang noted the additional impacts this Resolution would have on students in Engineering and STEM.
5. J. Wallen empathized but emphasized the fact that education be done for the love of learning.
6. A. Barry echoed the sentiments of J. Wallen and noted needs of those who come from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and stated belief that the Resolution addresses those barriers to entry.
7. J. Wallen emphasized that a student is more than their grades.
8. J. Wallen motioned to extend time by 5 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
9. N. Hite stated belief against giving people the option to include median grades and instead proposed distinction based upon colleges.
10. M. Bakri seconded N. Hite's comments and noted the viability of noting average grades based on college.
11. J. Wallen stated belief that any sort of median grades fosters competition over community.
12. P. Kuehl introduced the viability of a Referendum to glean a sense of the will of the student body.
13. C. Lederman stated support for a Referendum and questioned if an approved list of possible options from the Registrar could be cultivated.
14. J. Wallen motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
15. J. Wallen noted that the Faculty Senate would also be voting on this topic in the upcoming month.
16. S. Parikh supported distinction based upon department and emphasized the value of a Referendum.
17. M. Bakri noted that alongside a Referendum, research into inflation and deflation should be done to better understand issues.
18. A. Barry disagreed with the idea that distinctions be made based upon department and noted how many students often pursue careers that don't align with their current departments.



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19. A. Wang emphasized the importance of median grades to empower and shed light on the grades that students have worked for and noted heavy disadvantages lack of context could give to Cornell students.
20. J. Wallen stated that an emphasis on median grades is not helpful and that employers would focus on campus engagement rather than nitpicking into grades.
21. J. Wallen motioned to extend time by 5 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
22. N. Hite stated belief that without median grades there isn't enough context given on a students' grades.
23. A. Wang emphasized that median grades give understanding of a course's curve.
24. R. DeLorenzo clarified research previously done to understand the high GPAs of Dyson students. R. DeLorenzo supported a Referendum.
25. J. Wallen motioned to extend time. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
26. J. Wallen stated belief that there is too much emphasis on grades and that reduction of competitive atmosphere is important.
27. C. Lederman motioned to table the Resolution. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- b. Resolution 31: Towards Relief and Peace in the Middle East
 1. A. Vinson motioned to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
 2. C. Lederman motioned that the Resolution be postponed indefinitely. The motion **passed** through a vote of 11-3-4.

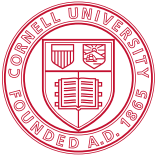
XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. Y. Moitra was sworn in as the Representative of the Dyson School, a member of the Student Assembly.
- b. Members were appointed to the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee through unanimous consent.
- c. C. Meyer was appointed to the Appropriations Committee through unanimous consent.

XII. Adjournment

- a. This meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Jenny Zhang
Clerk of the Assembly