

Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly Minutes of the November 3, 2022 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 4:53pm

II. Roll Call

- a. *Members Present [26]: S. Ali, D. Cady, K. Chan, P. Da Silveira, G. Dong, A. Lampert, J. Lee, A. Lewis, R. DeLorenzo L. Lu, J. Mayen, J. Kalinski, M. Song, V. Valencia, S. Williams, R. Chatterji, K. Liu, B. Mebretu, A. Richmond, Y. Yuan, E. D'Angelo, B. Luckow, N. Son, C. Ting, JP. Swenson, M. Baker*
- b. *Members Excused: S. Bhardwaj, D. Edelman, B. Kotb, D. Nachman*

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

- a. President V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment

IV. Late Additions to the Agenda

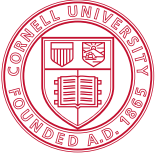
- a. R. De Lorenzo motions to move Critical Response Team report under Presentations and Forums, passed by unanimous consent
- b. P. Da Silveira motions to move resolution 11 above resolution 9, passed by unanimous consent

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Resolution number 7 was acknowledged by the president
- b. Resolution number 5 was acknowledged by the president and she added that she appreciated the commitment to belonging and consent
- c. Approval of the October 27, 2022 meeting minutes
 - i. R. De Lorenzo motions to strike line xxxii under section B in Presentation and Forums, passed by unanimous consent
 - ii. A. Lampert motions to change “October 20th to October 27th,” passed by unanimous consent
 - iii. K. Chan motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

VI. Open Microphone

- a. None



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VII. Announcements and Reports

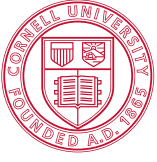
- a. K. Chan gives an update on the Privacy Pod pilot program
 - i. Privacy pods are sound proof booths in Gates Hall
 - ii. Meant to address the increase in telehealth appointments and lack of private spaces on campus
 - iii. Had a meeting to talk about the project. The administration is going to do some number crunching and determine the location of the pods, suggests them being in libraries, but ultimately the administration will decide
 - iv. Reach out to K. Chan or A. Lampert if interested in this project and working on it with administration

VIII. Initiatives

- a. None

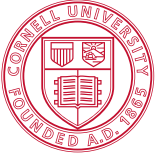
IX. Presentation and Forums

- a. R. De Lorenzo gives a PSAC initiative update
 - i. Goes over the background of the PSCA committee. It was formed in July 2020 with the goal of evaluating and reimagining the university safety and security protocols through a methodical, open, and inclusive process
 - ii. In 2021, they focused on gathering community feedback on campus recommendations
 - iii. Completed the public statement and commitment to enacting anti-racist policy
 - iv. Now they're developing and implanting an alternative public safety response model
 - v. This alternative response model is known as the Community Response Team and it's used for mental health crisis on campus
 - vi. They are continuing to gather data and refine recommendations, doing a comprehensive review of CUPD calls, diversifying the membership of PSAC, and preparing to launch a search for CRT clinician and program manager
 - vii. They announced a new Public Safety Organization in spring 2022 and are preparing to launch
 - viii. Goes over what the AVP of Public Safety will oversee: technical operations, CU police, emergency management, alternative response, administrative operations, emergency medical services



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- ix. Goes over update from the Community Response Team. Key changes are that a new director will be a supervisory mental health clinician, team will be able to respond campus wide, and fully integrated part of 911 calls and responses
- x. Currently searching for a new director and the team that will be able to respond
- xi. It was launched quickly, so now they're trying to approve upon it with CRT 2.0
- xii. CRT clinician search and case worker search is underway with the goal to have them staffed and ready to go by Spring 2023
- xiii. The search community is composed of members from housing and residential programs, Cornell counseling and psychological services, Cornell ems, Cornell care and crisis services
- xiv. Goal is to restart CRT for the Spring 2023 semester
- xv. There's a new Public Safety Communications Center that takes its own 911 calls
- xvi. In 2021, they had 7,741 calls for service and 42, 250 calls into and out of the 911 center
- xvii. The Office of Emergency Management has also moved under the Division of Public Safety
- xviii. The Office of Emergency Management operates on the 4-phase framework of prevention-mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery
- xix. B. Mehretu asks if he knows how far they've gotten in filling up the CRT team
- xx. R. De Lorenzo states the original team was only available in dorms, but they're trying to expand it. They're looking for a director currently and then they'll build the rest of the team
- xxi. C. Ting asks if there's an estimate when CRT will be back in commission
- xxii. R. De Lorenzo states interviews are lined up to happen and they'll hopefully be staffed and ready to start by early Spring
- xxiii. S. Williams asks about the composition of the interview teams
- xxiv. R. De Lorenzo says he believes the search and interview team is separate and its being done by high-ranking Cornell admin and possibly students
- xxv. C. Ting asks who is responding while CRT is out of commission
- xxvi. V. Valencia responds that its CUPD
- xxvii. B. Mehretu asks who compromises the CRT team

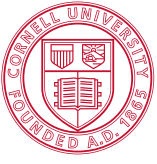


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- xxviii. R. De Lorenzo states he believes it will be staffed by trained professionals, but there might be potential for students to also obtain the same training and also be able to respond

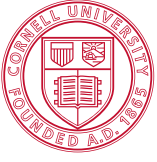
X. Business of the Day

- a. B. Mehretu, A. Chowdhury, and S. Woldai present Resolution 11
- i. The goal of establishing a Basic Needs Center is to have more support for first-gen and low-income students on campus
 - ii. Currently, the resources on campus are decentralized and inaccessible
 - iii. This resolution calls for Cornell to establish a Basic Needs Center and overhaul financial aid, which includes expanding aid for housing, food, and transportation because of the high cost of living in Ithaca
 - iv. This resolution calls for Cornell to centralize information via website, hotline, email, and phone
 - v. Calls for the expansion of the Access Fund and the creation of a Basic Needs Fund
 - vi. Create a yearly systematic review of the campus resources and address any access or equity issues identified in the survey
 - vii. A survey was sent out over the summer and found that of the respondents nearly 1/3 had difficulty with food security and nearly 60% had difficulties with housing and financial security
 - viii. A. Lampert motions to change resolution 12 to resolution 11, passed by unanimous consent
 - ix. B. Mehretu motions to amend the co-sponsor section to add Undergraduate Student Trustee Selam Woldai, passed by unanimous consent
 - x. J. Kalinski asks how the Basic Needs Center will be advertised
 - xi. S. Woldai responds that Cornell has an abundance of resources, but people don't know about it. It's not their job as students to figure out how to market. They're trying to advocate to have more faculty members helping to get the word out, such as by utilizing email list serves.
 - xii. B. Mehretu adds that the physical center would also centralize the resources because they're all over campus and it has shown to be effective at other schools.
 - xiii. R. De Lorenzo asks what the survey method used to measure food insecurity was
 - xiv. A. Chowdhury responds that this survey was not to represent all basic needs at Cornell, but just to gather some data. The survey asked about affording food, finding resources for food, food programs, and applying for



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- SNAP. They listed out what food insecurity entails and followed up with 4 related other questions
- xv. The purpose of this resolution is just to let the administration know that the SA is backing up the Basic Needs Center
 - xvi. M. Song states this was discussed extensively during the Diversity Committee meeting and there were no committee members who voted in opposition and she hopes this goes favorably
 - xvii. J. Kalinski asks where an ideal location would be
 - xviii. A. Chowdhury responds that the Wellness committee has looked into spaces for the creation of the Wellness center, which has a lot in alignment with basic needs. They have identified a few locations including Willard Straight and RPCC. They have been talking to administration and have monthly meetings. Administration is working on creating a working group for next semester, but they'll still working on what the space will be.
 - xix. R. De Lorenzo asks if the survey was given in a randomized way to the Cornell population
 - xx. A. Chowdhury responds that it wasn't and that was on purpose. It was targeted towards first-gen and low-income students because these are the groups that are impacted the most and they wanted to further understand issues they're facing
 - xxi. They did reach out to some random email lists and used social media, but mainly it was distributed through the First Gen Student Union
 - xxii. S. Woldai continues that the way the survey was conducted doesn't negate the experiences of the answers. The purpose of the resolution is just to say that the SA supports this
 - xxiii. M. Baker states that issues with how the survey was done aren't relevant because randomization only matters when you're trying to make generalizations, which isn't what they're doing
 - xxiv. B. Mehretu states he's already seen this effecting freshmen. There's a serious issue on campus with students really struggling and this cannot wait any longer. Students have been waiting for too long and we need to get this passed
 - xxv. M. Baker motions to end debate, passes in a vote of 24-0-4
 - xxvi. Resolution 11 passes in a vote of 25-0-3
- b. A. Lewis, P. Da Silveira, and JP Swenson present Resolution 9
- i. P. Da Silveira states they made some changes to establish this as a sub-committee of the Communications and Outreach committee



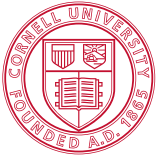
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- ii. A change was made in the bylaws, lines 402-403, to state that a sub-committee of the Communications and Outreach committee will be planning events for students
- iii. V. Valencia states that because this is a bylaws amendment this can be presented today and voted on next week. It will need 2/3 of members present to pass
- iv. K. Chan gives a friendly reminder that the typical format of a resolution has line numbers
- v. M. Song asks if the committee members have to come from within the Communications committee and where the chair of the Communications committee plays into this
- vi. P. De Silveira states they'll accept amendments to add "sub-committee"
- vii. Continues that the only things being changed are in red. It was left open ended on purpose and the structure was proposed, so that representatives can understand where they're coming from and what they want to see of this and if representatives agree then this can be written in
- viii. C. Taylor states if it's a bylaws amendment then need to specify if it's a sub-committee under the Communications committee and what lines are being changed
- ix. P. De Silveira states this is referring to section 3 lines 402-403
- x. P. Da Silveira motions to postpone this discussion to next week, D. Cady dissents to see what K. Chan has to say, P. Da Silveira withdraws his motion
- xi. K. Chan states she would like to see it run through the Communications committee with all the changes
- xii. P. Da Silveira states they'll do that, but states A. Lewis put the resolution in the Slack asking for feedback and a lot of these changes were suggestions she made, so he would appreciate if people were more responsive in the future
- xiii. M. Baker motions to postpone resolution 9 indefinitely, passed by unanimous consent

XI. New Business

- a. R. De Lorenzo motions to move into Executive Session with the parliamentarian, passed by unanimous consent
 - i. The following appointments were made during Executive Session
 - ii. UA representative: S. Williams

XII. Adjournment



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- a. K. Chan motions to adjourn, passed by unanimous consent

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Megan Birmingham
Clerk of the Assembly