



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly Minutes of the November 17, 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 4:54pm
- II. Roll Call**
  - a. *Members Present [21]: S. Bhardwaj, D. Cady, P. Da Silveira, G. Dong, A. Lampert, J. Lee, A. Lewis, R. DeLorenzo, L. Lu, V. Valencia, S. Williams, R. Chatterji, K. Liu, B. Mehretu, A. Richmond, Y. Yuan, E. D'Angelo, B. Luckow, N. Son, C. Ting, J.P. Swenson*
  - b. *Members Excused: S. Ali, M. Baker, K. Chan, D. Edelman, J. Kalinski, B. Kotb, J. Mayen, D. Nachman, M. Song*
- III. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohó:nq̓ (Cayuga Nation)**
  - a. President V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment
- IV. Late Additions to the Agenda**
  - a. A. Lampert motions to add resolution 15 and resolution 13 in the order of resolution 15, 14, then 13 under New Business, passed by unanimous consent
- V. Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approval of the November 10, 2022 meeting minutes
    - i. S. Bhardwaj motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent
- VI. Open Microphone**
  - a. None
- VII. Announcements and Reports**
  - a. S. Williams announces the Academic Policy committee is meeting this Saturday to put together a survey
  - b. S. Williams states she spoke with President Pollack and she read resolution 12 and she's in support of it
  - c. P. De Silveira states the SAFC will be hearing a presentation on an art installation project



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### VIII. Initiatives

- a. D. Cady says people will be working on protecting political expression on campus and taking steps to show support for victims of sexual assault and harassment. Some UA committees are starting to look at that if anyone is interested
  - i. B. Mehretu asks for clarification
  - ii. D. Caddy states it's in relation to events that happened at the law school and President Pollack wanted the assemblies to be involved
  - iii. S. Bhardwaj states the event was Ann Coulter and she's incredibly racist and sexist and she isn't the kind of speaker Cornell should have, so that's something to consider when talking about these protections
  - iv. D. Cady responds that conversation was more geared around how they could make sure everyone was heard without having to get a police presence for speakers and so that everyone could be heard. It's a UA initiative and not personal option
  - v. R. De Lorenzo asks to be added to the supporting survivor's initiative
- b. S. Williams states that if people are interested in title ix training for faculty members to come to the Academic Policy committee meeting on Saturday

### IX. Presentation and Forums

- a. None

### X. Business of the Day

- a. None

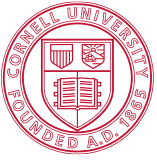
### XI. New Business

- a. Resolution 15 is presented by A. Johnson
  - i. A. Johnson is the co-founder of the Pelvic Pain Association and she has worked with the co-sponsors and other organizations on this resolution
  - ii. A. Johnsons states they believe they need a MD-gynecologist on campus and other universities provide this care
  - iii. Currently, this care is performed by NPs at Cornell health. They want to add an MD to expand the care offered
  - iv. Currently, students are referred off-campus and this is an issue because we are isolated and most MD-gynecologists in the area focus on pregnancy
  - v. Students have had to drive far and stay in hotels to get care
  - vi. This would help students get care for common conditions
  - vii. This resolution came from members in the Pelvic Pain Association having to drive far distance to get care or waiting for breaks to get pain addressed



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- viii. A. Johnson states she has personal experience because she went to Cornell health for months and bounced between several doctors in Ithaca before she could get a clinical diagnosis from a gynecologist in Rochester for her pelvic pain
- ix. This took about two years, so having a gynecologist on campus would have saved her years of pain
- x. States she experienced this even though she is a wealthy white woman, if she didn't have a car or didn't have the money to stay in a hotel, this would have been much more difficult
- xi. States she was also taken more seriously about her pain because she is white and that she's been able to get healthcare because of her positions
- xii. Having access to a MD-gynecologist is a basic equity issue
- xiii. She is so glad that so many people care about health care access and health equity and is excited to see where this goes in the future
- xiv. S. Bhardwaj states she's in strong support of this resolution and has personal experience with this issue
- xv. B. Mehretu states it's really great that A. Johnson is here and this is a great resolution. Asks if she has any ideas about how to approach medical racism here
- xvi. A. Johnson states they hope to hire someone to provide inclusive care. The standard at Cornell Health in her experience has been more inclusive and the language could be updated in the resolution to emphasize that more
- xvii. Continues that one of the advantages to having this on campus is that it is accessible to all students, so this address equity from one angle, but doesn't necessarily address if a doctor is going to listen to the patient
- xviii. D. Cady asks if A. Johnson would be willing to present this at the UA as well
- xix. A. Johnson states she's already working to bring it to the floor of the UA and they're figuring out when it'll be presented and voted on
- xx. B. Luckow states that getting funding from the university can be a long and challenging process. There is the Students Helping Students Fund to help people with travel and medical costs in the meantime
- xxi. A. Johnson states she's been involved with the Students Helping Students Fund
- xxii. C. Ting she's 100% in support of the resolution and asks about queer inclusive healthcare at Cornell Health
- xxiii. A. Johnson responds that the worst experience she had there was she once started crying from her pelvic pain and she was referred to a mental health



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- professional and they spent the whole time asking if she was upset because her parents didn't accept her sexuality
- xxiv. Continues that her general experience at Cornell Health has been very inclusive. Examples include people not flinching about her sexual history, people not making weird comments about her partner. She felt like she's gone to places where she's received much worse care and here providers interact with more diverse identities in the student population, so they're more aware
  - xxv. People could go to the MD-gynecologist at Cornell Health and have the expectation that they'll be inclusive is different from having to search for an MD-gynecologist somewhere else
  - xxvi. A. Richardson asks if there's any consideration to having a diverse group of students involved in the hiring process
  - xxvii. A. Johnson states that this is a great idea and as far as she knows that hasn't been done at Cornell Health before. She doesn't know exactly how it would work, but could be mentioned in future dialogue with the administration
  - xxviii. S. Bhardwaj states that Cornell Health has been racist and they're working on this with the Student Health Advisory committee
  - xxix. A. Johnson responds that she's sorry to hear about this and that is terrible
  - xxx. D. Cady asks her thoughts on amending line 65 to 67 to add "and welcome the inclusion of the assemblies in the hiring process" and thinks that this is a good way to get students involved in the process. Similar processes have been used for other positions, such as the head of HR
  - xxxi. A. Johnson states she would be open to that if the intention is to hire someone who would be inclusive and provide inclusive care
  - xxxii. D. Cady motions to amend line 65-67 to add "and welcomes the inclusion of the assemblies when necessary," passed by unanimous consent
  - xxxiii. S. Bhardwaj motions to end debate, passed in a vote of 19-0-2
  - xxxiv. In a vote of 19-0-3, the resolution passes
- b. R. De Lorenzo and Kevin present Resolution 14
- i. R. DeLorenzo states the resolution is to approve \$1000 of Special Projects Funds to the WSH union board to continue serving popcorn to the student body
  - ii. States it was passed in the executive committee, but the SA has the power to reverse this decision

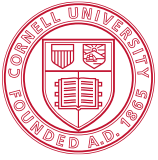


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- iii. R. DeLorenzo states that what led to this is that the cost of everything has gone up, so they need more money than before for popcorn and this is to get them to the end of the year
  - iv. Kevin states it was the service center who used to serve the popcorn and it was served by paid workers now it is volunteers of the WSH union board
  - v. He continues that since the popcorn was not re-instated by the service center, they decided that they would man and serve the popcorn themselves
  - vi. The amount they were allocated was insufficient and they do not want to cut back on popcorn served
  - vii. However, without any external funding it will be hard to continue the tradition
  - viii. V. Valencia states they won't vote to approve this, but can have a vote to overturn it
  - ix. D. Cady states the popcorn makes his day and Kevin is a student who takes time out of his busy schedule to serve the community. Asks if there's any way the SA can help declutter the space and if the Hotel committee or other committee could get involved here
  - x. Kevin responds that in regards to the alcove it has been reserved for the rest of the year, but the popcorn is easily visible in the lobby
  - xi. D. Cady clarifies he's asking if there's opportunity for the SA to get involved in this
  - xii. Kevin responds that's something the WSH union board would be interested in looking into
  - xiii. R. DeLorenzo responds there could be benefits to the SA collaborating and it's a great opportunity for us to show we care and give back
  - xiv. V. Valencia clarifies that the Hotel Commission has not been voted on yet
  - xv. S. Bhardwaj motions to end debate, passed in vote of 20-0-1
- c. Office of Ethics is back with resolution 13
- i. V. Valencia states they heard it last week, but will vote on it this week because it's a bylaws amendment
  - ii. Office of Ethics asks if there are any concerns
  - iii. B. Mehretu motions to end debate, passed in a vote of 19-0-1
  - iv. In a vote of 17-0-2, Resolution 13 passes

## **XII. Adjournment**

- a. S. Bhardwaj motions to adjourn, passed by unanimous consent



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The meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Megan Birmingham  
Clerk of the Assembly