

# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University's Student Assembly

Minutes of the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting

4:45 pm – 6:30 pm

Memorial Room Willard Straight Hall | Zoom

### I. Call to Order

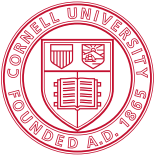
- a. P. Kuehl called the meeting to order at 4:46pm.
  1. *Members Present (26)*: D. Akkiraju, A. Akpan, M. Bakri, L. Balestrieri, L. Barrett, A. Barry, F. Berry, S. Chan, R. DeLorenzo, Z. deRham, D. Diao, K. Everett, C. Flournoy, A. Helkowski, N. Hite, C. Lederman, F. Meng, E. Ononye, S. Parikh, C. Platkin, I. Rezaka, S. Son, D. Suarez, B. Terhaar, C. Ting, A. Vinson
  2. *Members Absent (5)*: K. Jordan, C. Kim, Y. Moitra, A. Wang, P. Kuehl
  3. *Also Present (11)*: A. Bangura, A. Coleman, N. Courtney, E. Kalweit, J. Kalinski, N. Maggard, A. Mulpuri, J. Swenson, R. Verma, J. Wallen, J. Zhang

### II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

- a. C. Ting stated the SA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.

### III. Open Microphone

- a. C. Lederman acknowledged current issues.
- b. S. Parikh acknowledged existing controversy around local government candidacy and affirmed the neutrality of the Student Assembly. S. Parikh noted that students deserve to be involved in local governance and the community.
- c. A community member from the Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition clarified rumors surrounding the reduced funding to GJAC but acknowledged disappointment with the reduced funding due to the high importance of creating a safe and accessible environment, which GJAC helps cultivate.
- d. A community member noted personal benefits from the queer community on campus and acknowledged sadness due to the decrease in funding posed for GJAC which does a disservice to the LGBTQ+ community on campus.
- e. A community member expressed the important role GJAC has taken in their college experience in creating a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community and stated belief that reduced funding would be a disservice.
- f. A community member from Generation Action noted the great relationship cultivated between GJAC and the incredible work the organization has done.



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- g. A community member from Cornell Democrats stated solidarity with GJAC due to shared community values, noting help in funding programs supporting women and the LGBTQIA+ community.
- h. A community member noted the importance that GJAC has had for them and noted high appreciation for the spread of free menstrual products on campus.
- i. A community member noted recent promotion of the idea of any person any study and stated belief that these values aren't aligned with the decision to reduce GJAC funding, demonstrating hypocrisy.
- j. A community member noted the high benefit that GJAC has spread across a large body of communities across campus and noted high dissatisfaction and disappointment with the vote to decrease funding to GJAC. The community member acknowledged the reasoning behind the decrease decision but noted the continual high need for the work of GJAC.
- k. A community member noted 2018 New York legislation where all public schools must provide free menstrual products and stated that the decision to decrease funding to the organization which provides such services is a huge disservice.
- l. A community member noted the high amount of concerns that women on campus have and stated the lack of necessary products and services such as a gynecologist or menstrual products.
- m. A community member noted support for GJAC and their necessary programming, expressing disappointment for the cut in funding.

#### IV. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approval of the November 2, 2023 meeting minutes
  - 1. J. Wallen motioned to approve the minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.

#### V. Consent Calendar

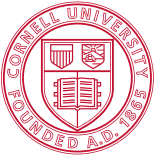
- a. There were no items.

#### VI. Announcements

- a. Office of Ethics
  - 1. A. Bangura noted the importance of resolutions and agenda items' visibility and accessibility, as well as the importance of following tradition in relation to bringing up items in meetings.

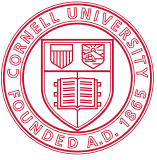
#### VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

- a. Vice President of Finance



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1. Orientation
  1. The motion to approve the Orientation allocation of \$13.86 was **approved** through unanimous consent.
2. Multicultural Greek and Fraternity Council (MGFC)
  1. The report was moved to the next agenda.
3. HAVEN: The LGBT Student Union
  1. The report was moved to the next agenda.
4. Gender Justice Advocacy Coalition (GJAC)
  1. J. Wallen motioned to move the GJAC report up the agenda. R. DeLorenzo dissented. The motion **passed** through a vote of 23-1-0.
  2. C. Lederman motioned to add Committee Reports to the agenda. The motion **failed**.
  3. R. DeLorenzo gave a report on GJAC.
  4. S. Parikh motioned to extend R. DeLorenzo's time by 10 minutes. K. Everett seconded. J. Wallen dissented. The motion **passed** through a vote of 15-3-0.
  5. R. DeLorenzo continued the report on GJAC.
  6. A representative from GJAC gave thanks for all those who spoke on GJAC's behalf and stated prior history of programming and partnerships in the Cornell community that GJAC has participated in.
  7. A representative from GJAC addressed the Committee's rationale and noted disagreements and misconceptions surrounding funding for the free menstrual product giveaway program. The representative from GJAC noted suggestions from the Committee for better data collection to have more accurate data on the giveaway program.
  8. R. DeLorenzo stated the Committee's rationale and highlighted the importance on oversight of initiatives which have received such a large amount of money and stated the high amount of discrepancies surrounding GJAC's spending. R. DeLorenzo noted the large rollover balance that GJAC has.
  9. K. Everett stated disagreement with the Committee's decision and noted a prior Resolution to allow organizations to transfer excess funds to other organizations. K. Everett stated belief that collection of data be deprioritized.
  10. R. DeLorenzo stated agreement that policing on menstrual product utilization is not GJAC's responsibility but reiterated belief that data collection and oversight will lead to the betterment of the program.



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- R. DeLorenzo stated precedent in directing organizations to use rollover funds.
11. A representative from GJAC acknowledged the issue of oversight but stated belief that burden of proof should not lie with the organization. The representative noted that the \$1500 difference being contested is a bigger deal which could lead to many co-sponsorships.
  12. J. Wallen stated disagreement with the concept of reducing GJAC funding given current social issues.
  13. R. DeLorenzo reiterated that the byline process is not based in values and issues, but rather financials, through which each byline organization will be treated equally. R. DeLorenzo stated that to not clearly investigate this issue would be a disservice to both the student body or GJAC.
  14. A representative from GJAC stated clarifications on data that was more recently released and taken directly from the GJAC account. The representative stated that the reasoning behind the increase is due to the existence of a one-time large spending expense.
  15. I. Rezaka urged the Assembly to reject the Committee's recommendation because it sets precedence that gender justice is not valued.
  16. A community member stated that GJAC only wishes to maintain status quo on budget.
  17. I. Rezaka motioned to take a straw poll vote on the Committee's recommendation. The motion **passed**.
  18. A. Barry motioned to reject the Appropriation Committee's recommendation. The motion **passed** through a vote of 21-0-0.
  19. J. Wallen motioned to enter debate to increase funding to \$3.45. R. DeLorenzo **dissented**.
  20. R. DeLorenzo highlighted the need for the Assembly to do its due diligence.
  21. J. Wallen motioned to extend time by 30 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  22. S. Parikh questioned why functioning as is wouldn't work given the rollover budget.
  23. A GJAC representative stated that money from the rollover budget would be utilized for one-time events.



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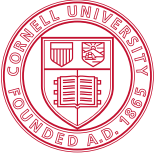
24. R. DeLorenzo stated hope that accurate details could be debated upon.
  25. J. Wallen questioned why it felt as though certain organizations were reviewed with different standards.
  26. R. DeLorenzo stated that each byline organization has a unique context. R. DeLorenzo stated that it is most beneficial to recognize the distinct circumstances of each organization.
  27. S. Parikh stated that it would be helpful for the Assembly to consider all the data. S. Parikh motioned to postpone a decision for the next meeting. The motion **failed** through a vote of 8-11-0.
  28. C. Lederman questioned how billing for the menstrual products giveaway initiative occurs each year.
  29. A representative gave history on funding for the initiative.
  30. Z. deRham asked that GJAC may have a treasurer to prevent accounting discrepancies from occurring in the future.
  31. A representative from GJAC stated that they already have a student treasurer, but that collecting data is difficult due to restricted access to accounts.
  32. C. Lederman motioned to recess for 5 minutes. The motion **passed** through a vote of 16-5-0.
  33. C. Lederman motioned to return the Report back to Committee. J. Wallen dissented. The motion **passed** through a vote of 14-5-0.
5. Student Assembly
    1. The report was moved to the next agenda.

### VIII. Presentations

- a. There were no items.

### IX. Old Business Calendar

- a. Resolution 37: Tatkon Center and CUPB Stipulations
  1. R. DeLorenzo introduced the Resolution to change allocations for CUPB and the Tatkon Center reflecting discussions from a previous week.
  2. J. Wallen motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  3. J. Wallen motioned to approve the Resolution. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through unanimous consent.
- b. Resolution 34: OSGR Deputy Director
  1. Item was moved to the next agenda.



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- c. Resolution 35: Assembly Governance
  - 1. Item was moved to the next agenda.
- d. Resolution 36: Ensuring Equity and Fairness in 2023-2024 Voting Seat Appointments
  - 1. Item was moved to the next agenda.
  
- X. Resolutions Calendar
  - a. There were no items.
  
- XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar
  - a. Student Health Advisory Committee
    - 1. Item was moved to the next agenda.
  
- XII. Adjournment
  - a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Jenny Zhang*  
Clerk of the Assembly