

# Cornell University's Student Assembly

Minutes of the November 30<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 4:48pm.
  - Members Present (30): 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, K. Jordan, C. Kim, P. Kuehl, C. Lederman, Y. Moitra, E. Ononye, S. Parikh, C. Platkin, I. Rezaka, S. Son, D. Suarez, C. Ting, A. Vinson, A. Wang, C. Ting
  - 2. Members Absent (2): F. Meng, B. Terhaar
  - 3. Also Present (9): A. Bangura, A. Coleman, N. Courtney, E. Kalweit, J. Kalinski, N. Maggard, J. Swenson, J. Wallen, J. Zhang

# II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

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

# III. Open Microphones

There were no speakers.

# IV. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approval of the November 16, 2023 meeting minutes
  - 1. N. Courtney motioned to approve the minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.

### V. Consent Calendar

- a. Resolution 34: Creation of the Role of OSGR Deputy Director
  - 1. C. Lederman motioned to approve Resolution 34. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- b. Resolution 41: OSGR Election Timeline
  - 1. C. Lederman motioned to approve Resolution 34. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.

### VI. Announcements

a. C. Kim noted the new promotional material from the Communications Committee for the Student Assembly to be given out to the student body.



- b. P. Kuehl noted updates such as a chatbot to answer student questions and increased funding to Slope Day.
- c. J. Swenson noted hopes to extend library hours during the study period next semester and noted the importance of wellbeing and mental health during the upcoming study period.
- d. P. Kuehl noted that the process to remove Starbucks from campus has begun.
- e. C. Lederman noted upcoming changes to the swim test moving forward and noted opportunities for student involvement in the Faculty Senate.

# VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

- a. Vice President of Finance
  - 1. R. DeLorenzo presented on the Student Activity Fee and the Byline Organizations.

#### VIII. Presentations

- a. Office of Ethics
  - A. Barry noted updates that would be upcoming, as well as the
    presentation of a final report based upon submitted complaints in the next
    semester.

#### IX. Old Business Calendar

- a. Resolution 39: Recommendation for the Student Activity Fee for 2024-2026
  - 1. P. Kuehl motioned to amend the activity fee to a full dollar amount. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - 2. A. Wang questioned what precedent the large increase might imply for future byline cycles.
  - 3. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that in the next byline cycle, the increase will not be as drastic.
  - 4. J. Swenson motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - 5. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of 27-0-1.
- b. Resolution 40: Valuing DEI in Congruence with Freedom of Expression
  - 1. Item was moved to the next agenda.
- Resolution 42: A Resolution in Support of Amending the Student Suicide Prevention Act
  - 1. A. Vinson introduced the Resolution and gave context on the development of the Resolution.
  - 2. R. DeLorenzo motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.



- 3. R. DeLorenzo motioned to approve the Resolution. The motion **passed** through a vote of unanimous consent.
- d. Resolution 43: Authorizing the Transfer of Reserve Funds to Black Students United (BSU)
  - 1. A. Barry motioned to bring Resolution 43 up the agenda. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - 2. A. Barry introduced the intention of the Resolution.
  - 3. P. Kuehl motioned to amend line 28 to include terminology of "reserve account". The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - 4. E. Ononye questioned if the Reserve account is connected to the account for Students Helping Students.
  - 5. R. DeLorenzo stated that the accounts are connected.
  - 6. Y. Moitra asked for a breakdown on the amount of funds allocated per student.
  - 7. A representative from the Black Student Union gave an overview of the allocation including transportation and lodging.
  - 8. R. DeLorenzo asked for insight into funds and what plans for the trip would be.
  - 9. A representative noted that the trip is done to celebrate Black History Month and includes plans such as museums, plays, networking activities, and visiting black-owned businesses.
  - 10. P. Kuehl asked for clarifications on other sources of funding for the trip.
  - 11. A representative noted that BSU does not receive any SAFC allocation but receives some funding from ALANA.
  - 12. J. Swenson questioned where, in the past, funds for the trip were previously sourced.
  - 13. A representative stated that they were unsure given that this was a trip conducted more regularly before the pandemic.
  - 14. I. Rezaka stated support for the Resolution.
  - 15. Y. Moitra questioned the rationale for choosing to book coach busses in comparison to cheaper forms of transit.
  - 16. R. DeLorenzo stated that Cornell has stringent travel policies given liability issues and noted that in previous years cheaper options were considered that ultimately didn't work out.
  - 17. I. Rezaka noted that when money was allocated to Slope Day, there was no further questioning.



- 18. R. DeLorenzo stated that the Slope Day budgeting had been worked on for months and that asking questions on where money is going is positive and should not be discouraged.
- 19. M. Bakri stated support for the Resolution and echoed I. Rezaka's sentiments.
- 20. C. Lederman questioned how much BSU would be contributing, as well as if this year's cost would be comparable to other trips given inflation.
- 21. A. Barry noted that there isn't much data from previous years, but that BSU is allocated \$20,000 every year that is further allocated down to 8 different organizations with \$5,000 held on for BSU programming each year.
- 22. R. DeLorenzo clarified that the core source of the money is from the SAFC rollover even though its from the reserve account. R. DeLorenzo asked for clarifications on how he trip would be publicized and how members could join.
- 23. A member stated that half of the trip attendance spots would be based upon attendance at previous events based upon merit, and that spots would also be publicized on social media.
- 24. P. Kuehl stated support for the Resolution.
- 25. I. Rezaka motioned to end debate. Y. Moitra dissented. The motion **passed** through a vote of 24-2-1.
- 26. R. DeLorenzo motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- 27. I. Rezaka motioned to approve the Resolution. The motion **passed** through a vote of 22-1-2.
- 28. P. Kuehl motioned to recess for 5 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- 29. P. Kuehl motioned to extend time by 10 minutes. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- X. Resolutions Calendar
  - a. There were no items.
- XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar
  - a. There were no items.
- XII. Adjournment
  - a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm.



Respectfully Submitted, Jenny Zhang Clerk of the Assembly