



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly Minutes of the December 1, 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 4:49pm

II. Roll Call

- a. *Members Present [25]: S. Ali, M. Baker, S. Bhardwaj, K. Chan, P. Da Silveira, G. Dong, A. Lampert, J. Lee, A. Lewis, R. DeLorenzo L. Lu, J. Kalinski, M. Song, V. Valencia, S. Williams, R. Chatterji, K. Liu, B. Mehretu, A. Richmond, Y. Yuan, E. D'Angelo, J.P. Swenson, B. Luckow, N. Son, C. Ting*
- b. *Members Excused: B. Kotb, J. Mayen, D. Nachman, D. Edelman, D. Cady*

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

- a. President V. Valencia stated the land acknowledgment

IV. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. S. Bhardwaj motions to add Resolution 16 under New Business, passed in a vote of 19-1-4

V. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the November 17, 2022 meeting minutes
 - i. A. Richmond motions to amend his name under New Business from "Richardson" to "Richmond," passed by unanimous consent
 - ii. S. Bhardwaj motions to approve the meeting minutes, passed by unanimous consent

VI. Open Microphone

- a. None

VII. Announcements and Reports

- a. S. Williams states she received an email from a man who does mental health presentations at different universities and she'll forward the information to the rest of the assembly and he requested that they take a look and consider it
- b. B. Mehretu says people have reached out to create an Ivy League Coalition for Mental Health and he'll keep everyone updated on it



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- c. K. Chan states that Cornell Buzzcuts reached out to them about an event called Saint Baldricks and its where you can raise money for whatever charity you want for St. Patrick's Day by shaving your head and that's something they'll be working on next semester
- d. A. Lampert states she's been trying to meet with Dean Love about the legal aspects of Manual and she now has a meeting on Monday and will get back to us if she's allowed to proceed with this or not
 - i. V. Valencia clarifies that Dean Love has the final say on all projects that we chose to move forward with on SAFC
- e. A. Chowdhury states the Office of Student Advocate put on Know Your Rights workshop and participated in a gender studies coalition building event and starting next semester there's a Student Gender Justice Coalition. They will be working on reproductive health and gender justice issues on campus together. The Advocacy Project and Office of the Student Advocate will be leading it if anyone is interested or knows of organizations that would
- f. S. Williams states she there's a donation drive for the Tompkins County Advocacy Center through December 4th and would appreciate help spreading the word and donating
- g. N. Son states they're trying to send out an email to all the multicultural organizations about the International Shared Community

VIII. Initiatives

- a. S. Williams states she being doing some outreach and was informed during breakfast there aren't Halal options available in Morrison in the morning and contacted dining for more information and is hoping to get work done on that
 - i. P. Da Silveira states they had a meeting with Cornell dining about lack of Halal dining food options, so they've already taken some steps and are working on more ways to increase options

IX. Presentation and Forums

- a. None

X. Business of the Day

- a. None

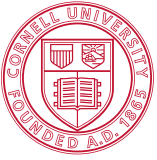
XI. New Business

- a. S. Bhardwaj, A. Chowdhury, and B. Mehretu present Resolution 16



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- i. S. Bhardwaj states that this resolution condemns Greek Life at Cornell after the recent events of drugging and sexual assault and the lack of action so far
- ii. S. Bhardwaj reads the resolution
- iii. R. DeLorenzo objects to the consideration of this motion
- iv. V. Valencia asks why
- v. R. DeLorenzo states they might be breaking the law. The information on lines 9-10 violates the investigation going on and after showing it to members of OSFL it was recommended that this not go through and that it would be grounds for punishment
- vi. S. Bhardwaj says all the information in lines 9-10 was sent to all Cornell students with the addresses through the Cornell alert system
- vii. R. DeLorenzo states the addresses were not sent in the Crime Alerts and this could be defamation
- viii. S. Bhardwaj states the information with the addresses is on the Crime Log, which everyone has access to
- ix. R. DeLorenzo states that he knows that, but putting it in a Resolution would be presenting almost defamation because it hasn't been proven
- x. S. Bhardwaj responds it wouldn't be defamation because it's written in the crime log that these are fraternity addresses and the addresses are listed
- xi. V. Valencia states that given that we did vote to allow this Resolution to be presented earlier in the meeting, she'll let it be presented
- xii. P. De Silveira asks if that line was to be removed would it be allowed to proceed without being in violation
- xiii. R. DeLorenzo states that he's checking right now and they'll tell him
- xiv. S. Bhardwaj continues reading the resolution from line 28
- xv. A. Chowdhury emphasizes that this Resolution is not asking for tangible action, but simply condemning Greek Life
- xvi. Continues she has received a lot of messages asking what the SA is doing about this and this is the first step. We have the responsibility to at least make a statement and condemn them
- xvii. B. Mehretu says he didn't know about any of this before, but in the first 3 weeks he was here he met people who have gone through the sexual assault and racism that goes on in these frats.
- xviii. Continues that this is condemning what goes on in these frats and we as the student body of Cornell have to do something
- xix. V. Valencia states M. Baker is also a co-sponsor
- xx. J. Kalinski asks if they can make suggests to the resolution
- xxi. V. Valencia says they can



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- xxii. J. Kalinski states that he agrees with this resolution and says it would be smart to go a step further and suggest concrete action and be more specific in our reasoning instead of just condemning it
- xxiii. Continues that none of us what to waive away this issue and concrete action should be taken
- xxiv. S. Bhardwaj asks if it's similar to the statement that was released two weeks ago
- xxv. J. Kalinski states his main contention would be having it be more concrete, instead of just condemned in general
- xxvi. S. Bhardwaj states this is an initial action and believes this is the first step into having something more formal
- xxvii. M. Baker says you can escape the allegation of any deformation by inserting the word "allegedly" if it does turn out to be a legal issue
- xxviii. S. Bhardwaj states they would be fine with including that
- xxix. R. DeLorenzo states that if an organization were to commit such heinous action, they would ideally be under investigation by the Cornell governing bodies, and that's the extent anyone can talk about this. Why even run the risk of putting "allegedly" in there when there's an investigation on going
- xxx. R. DeLorenzo states this should have gone in the box earlier than the start of the meeting to inform someone who knows a lot about what's going on
- xxxi. Continues that this really needs to be dissected line by line to determine what we want to put out there about this and that they just put everything into the Resolution and it's not fair to anyone
- xxxii. R. DeLorenzo motions to strike line 9-10 because they mention potential investigations on
- xxxiii. V. Valencia states that not everyone voted
- xxxiv. A. Lampert motions to divide the house
- xxxv. C. Taylor states this means that everyone's name is read off and people either vote yes, no, or are absent in that vote, so there can't be a failed vote
- xxxvi. P. Da Silveira asks if they can vote yes with reservations
- xxxvii. C. Taylor states it wouldn't matter here, that's what debate is for
- xxxviii. In a vote of 11-12-2, the motion fails
- xxxix. C. Ting goes through the elements of deformation. The first step is to allege the statement is false, but can understand some of the issue with mentioning "fraternity addresses," so wants to make this even more specific
 - xl. C. Ting motions to amend to "occurring at fraternity address 800 university avenue and 100 Thurston avenue" to make it more specific
 - xli. S. Bhardwaj responds it's 140 Thurston avenue



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- xlii. C. Ting responds her concern is that 140 Thurston ave is not specifically mention on the crime log, but 100 block is very clear as to where and what that is
- xlili. S. Bhardwaj responds it says 140 Thurston ave on the Crime Log and 100 block on the crime alert and she would be fine with saying either and that there was another report on the crime log that we didn't receive an email for and it was at 730 university ave
- xliv. C. Ting motions to motions to amend to "800 University Avenue, 140 Thurston Avenue, and 730 University Avenue"
- xlv. R. DeLorenzo states if they want to put in addresses and mess around with the Office of Student Conduct and Community go ahead. It's not a good idea to mention anything about current investigations
- xlvi. C. Ting asks to clarify what the legal ramifications are and what the issue is with putting down specific addresses
- xlvii. R. DeLorenzo says he's been super involved in this and he's the new IFC president and he has been advised to be careful, so he doesn't want the SA to get in trouble later on because when something like this happens there's probably some investigations going on
- xlviii. B. Mehretu states these are all found in the Crime Log and it's public information and they can easily add "allegedly."
- xlix. B. Mehretu clarifies if he's the new IFC president and states he has a conflict of interest
 - l. Continues he's confused why he's voicing any concerns because if you have a conflict of interest you should step back and the points being made are the reasons we drafted this resolution. They'll fix any legal ramifications or excuses that he'll come up with and if there's not any specific reason then he should step back
 - li. R. DeLorenzo asks is he's allowed to respond
 - lii. V. Valencia says they'll go to D. Cady
 - liii. D. Cady states it would be good to try to keep this professional and everyone here has a reason to be heated and this should be acknowledged because there's very serious allegations and complications with this resolution
 - liv. Continues we're all here to represent different constituents and we all have a freedom of expression. We should respect that people will call you out for what you say and to not make it personal
 - lv. D. Cady says he does not feel comfortable with certain language in this resolution, but thinks it's important that "allegedly" be incorporated into this



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for the recognition of “innocent until proven guilty” and this addition does not make this issue any less important

- lvi. D. Cady continues that this is not the place to determine guilt, so we do not want to overcomplicate our role legally, but he supports this resolution
- lvii. V. Valencia says we’re debating on the specific amendment and not the resolution as a whole, so keep comments to the specific amendment
- lviii. B. Luckow says he would vote yes on this amendment because of the integrity of the assembly. Sexual assault is a horrible thing, but to make this stand and not put anything behind it and then try to inject accusatory and inflammatory language does not do much.
- lix. Continues that there is something important in this resolution, which is that these organizations can’t handle this on their own. You may want to open a dialogue with Greek Organizations on this campus rather than inflame them
- lx. Throwing these things out and adding addresses is going to do nothing, but make us look like an irresponsible institution and inflame everyone on every side
- lxi. S. Bhardwaj states they have talked with IFC and PHC for Resolution 12 and IFC was incredibly disrespectfully throughout the whole process and they were met with hostility
- lxii. R. DeLorenzo objects
- lxiii. S. Bhardwaj continues that the PHC counsel was more open to it
- lxiv. C. Taylor states if you’re going to object it should be about the motion on the floor. If you have an objection about another members conduct it is a “point of order” and you state where in the law or governing documents that the violation occurs in
- lxv. R. DeLorenzo states what S. Bhardwaj said was disrespectful and at that point we had been up for midnight meetings. He had to skip classes, take an incomplete, and was referred to the Cornell Care and Crisis Team for dealing with this situation
- lxvi. V. Valencia asks what he’s objecting to
- lxvii. R. DeLorenzo says her response
- lxviii. V. Valencia responds that’s not an amendment or governing document and we’ll continue with debate. If you’re going to make an objection it has to be relevant to what we’re talking about
- lxix. S. Bhardwaj says they’re all in favor of including the addresses and the word “allegedly,” so we can end debate and go into voting
- lxx. V. Valencia states we’re now voting on whether we should vote on the amendment, in a vote of 21-3-2 debate on the amendment ends



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- lxxi. J. Kalinski asks if C. Ting can restate the amendment
- lxxii. C. Ting states her amendment is to amend lines 9-10 to add “800 univeristy ave, 140 Thurston ave, and 730 University ave”
- lxxiii. In a vote of 16-7-3, the amendment passes
- lxxiv. A. Richmond asks if it would be in the SA’s best interest to at least let the concerned offices take a look at this before there’s a vote and to at least have clarification on what we’re voting for and the legality of what we’re voting for,
- lxxv. S. Williams states that even though this resolution doesn’t include specific steps there are steps that members of the assembly are taking and these were mentioned in Resolution 12 and there’s steps going on behind the scenes
- lxxvi. M. Baker states that Resolution 12 is much more specific and talks in depth about each of the instances and gives the addresses and everything, so she is wondering why these issues are coming up now
- lxxvii. N. Son motions to limit speaking time to 30 seconds to get more to the point and limit personal feelings
- lxxviii. V. Valencia states she’ll be limiting speaking time to 30 seconds
- lxxix. P. Da Silveira states that the legal reasoning is maybe an excuse about being upset about some relatively inflammatory language, specifically line 28-39
- lxxx. M. Hoy asks for clarification on the legal ramifications. Are we talking about us individually being sued by the university or specific Greek Organizations?
- lxxxii. N. Sharma reminds everyone that you should not be snapping or responding to points you agree with audibly and please wait for V. Valencia to call on you and be respectful
- lxxxiii. B. Mehretu states there’s not really any legal ramifications
- lxxxiiii. S. Bhardwaj states that other SA resolutions have used the same language as lines 28-29 before, specifically Resolution 34, which was also passed
- lxxxv. B. Luckow states this all the more reason we should have 3 seats for each Greek council to have a better conversation with them
- lxxxvi. Continues that the issue with putting addresses is it could have been anyone at the house
- lxxxvii. S. Bhardwaj states they’re aware it could have been anybody, but it still took place at the house and we’re just including all the information
- lxxxviii. J. Kalinski asks about the difference between this and Resolution 12
- lxxxix. S. Bhardwaj responds they go into more detail about the history of Greek Life at Cornell and also mention that the IFC should not be governing themselves



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- lxxxix. E. D'Angelo states she agrees with B. Luckow and presenting this information isn't really doing anything
 - xc. R. DeLorenzo says he would like to postpone this until all the relevant offices can look at this and can say we won't get in trouble
 - xc. R. DeLorenzo motions to postpone this to next meeting
 - xcii. V. Valencia states the next meeting won't be until January 26th of next year
 - xciii. B. Mehretu dissents and says there's no legal ramifications and that's such a long time to wait. We have cited from NY state law that there's no ramifications
 - xciv. P. Da Silveira states we could postpone, but it would just take 6 representatives to sign on to get a president to call a special meeting and then vote on it
 - xcv. V. Valencia responds there are some restrictions. It has to be during the academic year and it has to be 3-4 days in advance, so it would have to be until next year if it was postponed
 - xcvi. S. Bhardwaj responds that we're going to come back to a brand-new semester and all of this will have been forgotten. We need to take action now, so it is fresh in everyone's heads
 - xcvii. D. Cady states he thought the purpose of this resolution was just condemning and that there's no action. Is the intention to take action or to make a condemning statement?
 - xcviii. S. Bhardwaj responds it's an action by the assembly and people do see the statements, at least as an assembly we're making a point and taking a stand
 - xcix. A. Lampert motions to end debate on this, passes in a vote of 21-4-2
 - c. In a vote of 9-14-2, postponing this resolution to next meeting fails
 - ci. A. Lampert motions to end debate
 - cii. V. Valencia states there were very few votes
 - ciii. B. Mehretu motions to divide the house
 - civ. In a vote of 12-11-1, the motion fails
 - cv. C. Ting states that people in Greek Life are not inherently evil, but we have seen in this resolution specific news reported cases, so it is right to condemn the structure that leads to damage
 - cvi. Continues that the language is inflammatory, but still true
 - cvii. P. Da Silveira sates we do have an ex-officio member that's supposed to represent Greek Life, but they haven't been here
 - cviii. Asks if they want to clarify if it's social fraternities rather than all fraternities?
 - cix. R. DeLorenzo states that there's nothing that says professional fraternities can't haze, so he'd keep them in there



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- cx. B. Luckow says there's a lot of good to be done here and there's good reason to postpone it to refine it and add some actual actions. It's embarrassing to pass something with no action and it'll still be on everyone's minds in a month
- cxi. S. Bhardwaj responds that a statement is still an action and doing something is still better than doing nothing. There was no dissent that the condemning Anti-Semitism Resolution was doing nothing and that's disrespectful to say they're doing nothing now
- cxii. D. Cady says we could serve the community better by calling out specific actions and this resolution could be better by doing this
- cxiii. B. Mehretu states this is an action because it is the SA taking a stand. We voted on something similar on resolution 12 with few complaints
- cxiv. N. Sharma states as someone who is a VP of a Fraternity that he doesn't have an issue with this. It is larger than life issue and something he thinks should be passed
- cxv. E. D'Angelo states it is something that should be sat on and taking the time to get what we want out there will do a lot of good
- cxvi. C. Ting states there's nothing stopping us from adding another resolution with action at a later time. What we're doing now isn't enough action, but doing nothing is embarrassing
- cxvii. C. Ting motions to end debate
- cxviii. R. DeLorenzo dissents. States the language still needs to be investigated more and the concerns about what could happen if it's passed need to be addressed
- cxix. In a vote of 17-6-1, debate ends
- cxx. In a vote of 15-8-1, Resolution 16 passes
- cxxi. D. Cady asks if Resolution 12 was an action and if Resolution 16 was an action. What action is different in Resolution 16?
- cxixii. B. Mehretu states we are supporting the action of Resolution 12 further and this is an action by supporting Resolution 12 further
- cxixiii. C. Taylor states a point of information is a specific request for information from a member and we can't debate anything that has been passed. A point of information should not add information
- cxixiv. B. Luckow asks if we can re-introduce Resolution 16 with an amendment
- cxixv. B. Luckow states he wants to add "demand that Cornell re-introduce these trainings"
- cxixvi. S. Bhardwaj motions to extend time to 6:40
- cxixvii. P. Da Silveira dissents. If we just limit time, then we can be efficient with it



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- cxxviii. P. Da Silveira asks if someone can dm V. Valencia on Slack if they are interested in the appointed positions
- cxxix. V. Valencia responds that they can
- cxxx. S. Bhardwaj withdraws her motion
- cxxxi. B. Mehretu motions to reconsider Resolution 16, passes in vote of 19-1-2
- cxxxii. S. Bhardwaj motions to amend line 63-64 to add “re-instate consent trainings for all Fraternities effective immediately”
- cxxxiii. R. DeLorenzo states it is already a requirement to host a Slope Day event and the reason it hasn’t happened is because Consented Ed doesn’t have enough trainers and are underfunded
- cxxxiv. S. Bhardwaj motions to withdraw the amendment
- cxxxv. S. Bhardwaj motions to amend line 63-64 to add “re-instate consent trainings for all Fraternities effective immediately and support Consent Ed with its human capital needs,” passed in a vote of 20-1-1
- cxxxvi. S. Williams motions to amend lines 63-65 to say “ re-instate consent trainings for Greek Organizations effective immediately and support Consent Ed with its human capital needs,” passes in a vote of 17-1-3
- cxxxvii. M. Song motions to end debate, passed by unanimous consent
- cxxxviii. V. Valencia asks if R. DeLorenzo is on the board of IFC
- cxxxix. R. DeLorenzo states it’s a transitory period
- cxl. In a vote of 16-0-2, Resolution 16 passes

XII. Adjournment

- a. B. Mehretu motions to adjourn, passed by unanimous consent

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Megan Birmingham
Clerk of the Assembly