



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, August 29, 2019 Meeting
4:46pm-5:45pm in Memorial Room, Willard Straight
Hall

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
 - a. J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:46 pm.
 - b. Roll Call:
 - i. Present: M. Adeghe, J. Anderson, U. Chukwukere, J. Clancy, O. Egharevba, J. Feit, M. Haddad, C. Huang, J. Kroll, A. Li, G. Martin, N. Matolka, I. Pavlov, L. Smith, P. Solovyeva, B. Weintraub, K. Wondimu, V. Xu, J. Youngblood
 - ii. Absent: C. Benedict
- II. Open Microphone**
 - a. No speakers on the open microphone.
- III. Announcements and Reports**
 - a. C. Huang asked if the assembly members saw her email with important dates.
 - i. There was general agreement in this regard.
 - b. I. Pavlov said that headshots will be taken following next week's meeting, and that members can wear whatever they want. She added that members should have some time open after the meeting since they will be walking down to West Campus after the meeting.
 - c. B. Weintraub said that he had an update from the Dining Committee, and asked the assembly members to attend Waffle Night at Risley Hall, where there are gluten-free waffles.
 - d. C. Huang asked that any assembly members with dietary restrictions let her know of them at the end of the meeting.
 - e. J. Anderson said that people who are on the Appropriations Committee (henceforth AppsCom) should let M. Adeghe know.
- IV. New Business**
 - a. Resolution 1: Approval of the 2019-2020 Standing Rules
 - i. J. Anderson said to the new members of the assembly that this is pretty straightforward, and that anyone who wishes to talk should raise their placard to be called on. He added that the two significant motions that will come up the most are the motion to amend and the motion to vote, and he explained each of these.
 - ii. C. Huang explained the resolution.
 - iii. O. Egharevba asked what the rationale was for moving Special Projects to the Executive Committee (henceforth Exec) from AppsCom.
 - iv. C. Huang said that it was through AppsCom last year, but that it was during a

non-byline year, and that since AppsCom will be very busy with byline proceedings this year, Exec has agreed to take it on as a result.

- v. B. Weintraub said that he noticed a change in line 40 from 72 to 24 hours, and that he doesn't entirely disagree with the change, but that his concern is that 24 hours' notice is a bit tight, especially since many assembly members will have tight schedules later in the semester. He asked why the change was made.
- vi. C. Huang said that the change was made last year, and was kept in to make people aware of it.
- vii. B. Weintraub said that he thinks this warrants discussion regardless of what was done last year, and that he doesn't think 24 hours is sufficient notice to mandate attendance. He asked if they can move into a discussion on this.
- viii. J. Anderson said that moving into discussion on that does not require a formal motion.
- ix. I. Pavlov said that she thinks that this is fine because there are a lot of reasons that allow for an excused absence, and that she had to miss some meetings last year due to her obligations as a student athlete. She added that she can't think of anything that would warrant 72 hours' notice over 24.
- x. U. Chukwukere asked if it would be possible to change it to 48 hours' notice.
- xi. J. Anderson said that he can move to amend the resolution as such.
- xii. U. Chukwukere moved to amend the resolution such that "...provides SA members at least 24 hours' prior notice of the meeting" reads "...provides SA members at least 48 hours' prior notice of the meeting" – **amended**.
- xiii. I. Pavlov asked if that applies to all the other instances of 24 hours.
- xiv. J. Anderson replied in the negative and said that those are unrelated points.
- xv. J. Kroll said that there was a discussion on Rule 14 in Section 3 last year, and asked whether or not they decided not to take it on, and what the rationale was for including it this time.
- xvi. J. Anderson said that it was approved last year, and that it just wasn't implemented because the necessary infrastructure wasn't there at the time. He added that it's still not set up, so the intent would be to keep it there and then follow through on it throughout the year.
- xvii. M. Adeghe said that she just wanted to mention that with this rule, people will need to be submitting weekly reports. She asked if this would be a Google Form.
- xviii. J. Anderson said that it would probably be through Qualtrics.
- xix. V. Xu said that regarding the hours, 72 is already three days and a lot of things can be changed in that time, and asked if it can be changed to 24.
- xx. U. Chukwukere asked if special projects will permanently be under FORC.
- xxi. C. Huang said that special projects has currently been moved to Exec, and that it can be amended in the future.
- xxii. U. Chukwukere asked whether or not the SA only makes byline decision in the fall semester.
- xxiii. M. Adeghe said that they'll only be doing byline stuff until December, and that they could theoretically take it on again in the spring, and that they could amend it at that time should they choose to do that.
- xxiv. J. Anderson said that the standing rules are changed every semester.
- xxv. M. Haddad said that the resolution says that every voting member will

submit their weekly report on line 155, and then mentions biweekly reports on line 157, and asked which is correct.

- xxvi. C. Huang said that she believes that it is biweekly.
- xxvii. J. Anderson said that it was moved to biweekly last year.
- xxviii. O. Egharevba moved to amend the resolution such that all instances of the word “weekly” with regard to the voting member reports be replaced with “biweekly”.
- xxix. I. Pavlov said that “biweekly” is ambiguous, and asked if they can say after the first instance of the word biweekly that it refers to every other week.
- xxx. J. Anderson said that the first instance of biweekly would read “biweekly (every other week)”.
- xxxi. There was a motion to amend the resolution as reported above – **amended**.
- xxxii. B. Weintraub moved to amend line 224 to read “he, she, or they”.
- xxxiii. A member said that there are other instances of the term “he or she,” and asked if they should change all of them to that.
- xxxiv. V. Xu moved to amend line 156 from 72 to 24 unless anyone wants to discuss that, and that they want to have the most updated reports for the biweekly reporting.
- xxxv. There was a motion to vote on the amendment.
 - 1. U. Chukwukere dissented.
 - 2. The motion was **withdrawn**.
- xxxvi. U. Chukwukere asked if the report is just an update on how voting members are doing on their initiatives and projects and such.
- xxxvii. J. Anderson replied in the affirmative.
- xxxviii. There was a motion to vote on the amendment – **amended**.
- xxxix. M. Haddad moved to amend line 226 to read “he, she, or they” – **amended**.
- xl. Motion to vote on Resolution 1 – **approved** 18-0-1.
- b. Resolution 2: Amending the Student Assembly Bylaws
 - i. C. Huang explained the resolution and the changes made to the bylaws.
 - ii. J. Anderson said that there is no color to denote changes in the document containing the bylaws.
 - iii. John Hannan said that this was his fault since he pulled the bylaws from the Assemblies website rather than the document in Box.
 - iv. J. Anderson said that, as a note, the assembly does not vote on bylaw changes in the meeting where they’re introduced, and that they have to table them until the next meeting
 - v. U. Chukwukere referenced lines 17 through 22 and asked a question regarding the ex-officio position for Greek Tri-Council.
 - vi. J. Anderson said that it alternates per semester.
 - vii. U. Chukwukere asked why they rotate instead of having a representative from each.
 - viii. J. Anderson said that the Tri-Council is technically considered to be one entity and that it has always been the way it is now. He added that he does not know the initial reasoning, but that he believes that it’s because Tri-Council wanted to be one entity because the opinions across its member groups are generally pretty similar.
 - ix. U. Chukwukere said that he knows that MGFC said that they were splitting off from the other organizations, and that he knows that they haven’t done

so yet in an official capacity, but that he does not know if they would like having to rotate this position with the other councils. He added that he doesn't think that they're on the same page with regard to their values and what they stand for.

- x. J. Anderson said that that is definitely something that can be talked about, and recommended that U. Chukwukere speak to MGFC about it and come back to the SA with their opinion.
- xi. V. Xu said that she would like to unstrike line 152 with regard to maintenance of the website.
- xii. O. Egharevba said that he was confused about whose job it is to manage the website, and that V. Xu told him that it was the job of the Vice President of External Affairs (henceforth ExAff), and that he just wants to make sure that he's talking to the right person.
- xiii. C. Huang said that she thinks that the confusion is that they do not know what is happening with the website, and that she is okay with unstriking it.
- xiv. B. Weintraub said that this caused a little strife last year, and that he was not involved in everything, but that it basically seemed like this was a job that may have been given to ExAff who did not have any formal training on how to manage a website, nor who expected it to be part of the role. He added that when they did internal elections, this was not part of the job description and that it was assumed that it would be taken out. He also said that he cannot speculate as to the web abilities of their current ExAff, but that it is likely that there will be one in the future that doesn't have those capabilities. He added that he doesn't think that this is the most important role of ExAff, which should be more of their publicity and connectedness, and that he is therefore against putting this back.
- xv. O. Egharevba said that he agrees with B. Weintraub in the sense that they do not know who ExAff will be next year or the year after, and that they don't typically elect ExAff for the website, and that it's just something that the assembly should work on in the future.
- xvi. C. Huang said that, for clarification, this line is not saying that this responsibility is contingent upon someone's abilities, and that it is meant to be very easy to manage, but that the whole point is that it's a simple job that they should be able to do.
- xvii. M. Adeghe said that she thinks that they shouldn't be electing ExAff for the sake of the website, but that she doesn't see why this role would be given to anyone else. She added that if the role of ExAff is to spread awareness of the SA, this is a very important part of the assembly's publicity, and that she doesn't know who else would be responsible. She also said that it certainly wouldn't be anyone else on Exec, and that she is sure that someone on the Communications Committee has that experience.
- xviii. M. Haddad said that, as C. Huang and M. Adeghe said, they can just make sure it's presentable and give the information and approve it without them necessarily having to make it themselves. She added that their job would just be to monitor and maintain.
- xix. V. Xu said that Jaewon Sim was in charge of that in past years, even in his former capacity as Vice President of Internal Operations (henceforth IOps), and that it's typically ExAff's job because they have the information they

want to make public. She added that, as M. Adeghe said, no one else in Exec is suitable for the role.

- xx. G. Martin said that he wanted to echo what M. Adeghe had to say, and that if ExAff is supposed to be a liaison, and the website helps with that, there would be no reason for them not to do it. He added that ExAff will seek out help if they need to seek out help.
- xxi. K. Wondimu asked a question.
- xxii. V. Xu said that J. Sim gave I. Pavlov access during the summer, and that this does not require coding, just putting things in place.
- xxiii. Ian Wallace said that he just wanted to point out that there are ways to connect with campus that don't necessarily involve a website, and that over a long period of time, it is very difficult to maintain a website, especially if it was coded by one person.
- xxiv. J. Feit said that he appreciates I. Wallace's point and that he agrees with him with regard to the difficulty to pass down the website. He added that he doesn't think that one person should be responsible for the website, and said that a subcommittee should potentially be formed to maintain the website as opposed to one individual. He also said that if he were to take over, the SA wouldn't have a website because he knows nothing about that kind of thing, and that a committee with continuity could be a good idea.
- xxv. O. Egharevba said that he thinks that having a group of people, which does not necessarily have to be a committee, would be a good way to get engineers and STEM people who have been traditionally underengaged with the SA to get involved and give them opportunities with the SA. He added that he thinks that that would provide more value to the people studying in those fields.
- xxvi. J. Anderson said that the motion in question is to amend the resolution to unstrike line 152.
- xxvii. There was a motion to vote on the amendment – **amended**.
- xxviii. B. Weintraub said that the resolution currently skips from Section 7 to Section 9, and asked if this can be changed.
- xxix. J. Anderson said that the numbering will be fixed.
- xxx. U. Chukwukere asked why lines 161 and 165 are being struck.
- xxxi. C. Huang said that she served as the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion (henceforth D&I) last year, and that they found that those responsibilities were outdated, and that those responsibilities that were struck have historically never been done, especially since one of the organizations listed no longer exists. She added that the current hope is to add new responsibilities there.
- xxxii. U. Chukwukere asked if there are diversity councils for each college.
- xxxiii. J. Anderson replied in the negative.
- xxxiv. U. Chukwukere asked if there would therefore be more changes.
- xxxv. C. Huang said that she hopes for there to be.
- xxxvi. M. Haddad said that in line 206 within Section 9, it currently says that the Parliamentarian classifies new actions, and asked if it can be changed such that the Parliamentarian confirms with the sponsors in this regard.
- xxxvii. J. Anderson asked if M. Haddad has specific language for such an amendment.

- xxxviii. M. Haddad asked if this can be discussed.
- xxxix. J. Anderson said that a good way to phrase the amendment would be to change “Clarify” to “Consult with the sponsors on”.
 - xl. There was a motion to amend the resolution as reported above – amended.
 - xli. M. Adeghe asked if they can also use “they” in the bylaws.
 - xlii. J. Anderson said that they will get rid of “he or she” and put “they” in all governing documents.
 - xliii. G. Martin asked if they switched it previously to “he, she, or they” or just to “they”.
 - xliv. C. Huang said that they previously did “he, she, or they”.
 - xlv. M. Adeghe said that she feels that “they” is sufficient.
 - xlvi. U. Chukwukere asked why students with disabilities were given an ex-officio position.
 - xlvii. C. Huang said that this was decided on last year.
 - xlviii. U. Chukwukere asked if that was discussed at that time.
 - xlix. J. Hannan said that this decision was made because an at-large position allows anyone to run for the position, regardless of whether they are a member of the group of people they are elected to serve, such as minorities or LGBTQ+, but that this was of concern for a relatively small minority group as those with disabilities, and that it was therefore decided by CUDA to send a liaison to serve as an ex-officio member.
 - i. G. Martin asked whether or not there are the same concerns for other minority groups.
 - ii. J. Anderson said that, as further context, this was the request of the organization, and that the possibility of people hijacking the at-large positions has not been a concern for a very long time.
 - iii. G. Martin said that he believes that representation is important, and that he was just curious.
 - iiii. U. Chukwukere said that he understands what G. Martin was saying, and asked whether or not there is a way to make this position a member at-large with a special stipulation.
 - lv. J. Anderson replied in the negative.
 - lvi. G. Martin said the issue with that is that they would be creating a litmus test for what it means to be disabled, which creates a very unsafe and unprofessional environment.
 - lvii. There was a motion to vote on the resolution.
 - lviii. J. Anderson said that the assembly cannot vote on this resolution this week, and that it must be tabled.
 - liiii. There was a motion to table the resolution – tabled.
- c. Resolution 3: Approval of the 2019-2020 Student Assembly Budget
 - i. M. Adeghe explained the resolution, and said that this should be pretty noncontentious. She added that they had a \$50,000 or so reserve account which was moved to special projects.
 - ii. N. Matolka said that he would be interested in SHAC being allocated \$250, since he would like for there to be food at their monthly meetings.
 - iii. M. Adeghe said that that was brought up in Exec, and that the consensus was that since SHAC isn’t doing any outreach projects, there was no need for funding. She added that \$250 is a fairly small amount, but that food at

- meetings is always a nice thing to have.
- iv. C. Huang said that no committees are allowed to actually have food at their meetings except for AppsCom.
 - v. M. Adeghe said that she doesn't know if that's true, and that she thinks that \$100 for food once in a while is always a nice thing to have.
 - vi. C. Huang said that she agreed and that it just can't be a regular thing.
 - vii. N. Matolka said that he would argue that many of the committees in the budget also do not do outreach and that they would therefore like to have money as well.
 - viii. J. Feit said that he thinks that money going to food for meetings is a complete waste, and that he thinks that it can be far better used for diversity initiatives, health and wellness, and so on, and that putting the money to providing food for us is a waste and completely ineffective.
 - ix. M. Adeghe said that the food for meetings isn't for the assembly so much as it is for committee members.
 - x. J. Feit said that he thinks that it is unnecessary.
 - xi. M. Adeghe said that she disagrees.
 - xii. J. Clancy asked a question.
 - xiii. M. Adeghe said that the major change is that Health and Wellness has \$1500 now as opposed to \$250 since they are doing more programming now and need it. She added that special projects also has a lot more money now than it did in the past.
 - xiv. J. Anderson said that they can give SHAC \$250, and moved to amend the resolution to insert a line item that says as such, and therefore decrease special projects to \$33,500 – **amended**.
 - xv. O. Egharevba said that, to J. Feit's point, he disagrees that it's a waste, and when he last saw the byline process in action two years ago, meetings were from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm, but that they often lasted longer, even until 10:00 pm. He added that he does agree with M. Adeghe in the sense that having food at some of these meetings is necessary, and that when people stay for a long time, they do have to eat.
 - xvi. M. Adeghe said that AppsCom has food at every meeting because they run through dinnertime, and that if a committee ever wants to have lunch, that shouldn't be an issue.
 - xvii. J. Anderson said that this resolution has no purview over whether committees can get food or not, and if assembly members wanted that change to have been made, it should have been discussed in the resolution pertaining to the standing rules.
 - xviii. M. Haddad said that she has a question about the SEG, and asked how the money is calculated. She said that she heard that last year, FARC had to take money from that fund, and asked how it is distributed. She added that only one HumEc student got a grant.
 - xix. M. Adeghe said that M. Haddad is right in that AppsCom does not handle that and FARC does. She explained the process for determining the funding, and said that they are applying for byline this fall. She added that she did not know why only one HumEc student got a grant.
 - xx. J. Anderson said that no SEG money was given to Students Helping Students.

- xxi. M. Haddad said that that is what she was told.
- xxii. J. Anderson said that it wasn't the case.
- xxiii. J. Youngblood said that he is not planning on spending \$250, and asked what would happen if the money ran out.
- xxiv. J. Anderson said that any more money needed would come from special projects.
- xxv. J. Kroll asked what the \$1000 allocated to Exec would be used for.
- xxvi. J. Anderson said that it would be used for Sprint Planning meetings, but that they typically don't use it, and that it will be put into special projects at a later date if it is not used.
- xxvii. U. Chukwukere asked what the \$250 allocated to certain committees is intended to be used for.
- xxviii. M. Adeghe said that it could be used for basically anything, such as food or incentives for a survey. She added that they typically aren't really spent.
- xxix. U. Chukwukere said that they would have to apply for special projects if they ran out.
- xxx. M. Adeghe asked for clarification on this point.
- xxxi. J. Anderson replied in the affirmative, and said that it would be a simple transfer.
- xxxii. Motion to vote on Resolution 3 – approved 16-0-1.

V. Adjournment

- a. J. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly