



## Cornell University Student Assembly

### Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, September 19, 2019 Meeting  
4:45pm-6:30pm in Memorial Room, Willard Straight  
Hall

#### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.
- b. Roll Call:
  - i. Present: C. Benedict, U. Chukwukere, J. Clancy, J. Feit, M. Haddad, C. Huang, J. Kroll, A. Li, G. Martin, N. Matolka, I. Pavlov, L. Smith, P. Solovyeva, B. Weintraub, K. Wondimu, J. Youngblood, J. Anderson, A. Cass, T. Reuning.
  - ii. Absent: M. Adeghe (excused), O. Egharevba (excused), V. Xu (excused)

#### II. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Motion to approve the September 12, 2019 SA meeting minutes – **approved** with a vote of 18-0-1.

#### III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

#### IV. Announcements

- a. Lending Library Special Project Funding
  - i. J. Anderson announced the SA Executive Committee approved funding in the amount of \$670 for the Cornell Lending Library to provide pre-professional support, including resume reviews, clothing, and textbooks. He explained that mid-tier funding requests of \$500-\$1499 requires approval from the Executive Committee. This funding request was passed unanimously by the committee.
- b. Fall Elections
  - i. J. Anderson noted that fall elections were underway. The SA seated two candidates who ran uncontested.
    1. T. Reuning assumed the LGBTQ+ Liaison At-Large position. He is a junior in Arts and Sciences.
    2. A. Cass assumed the College of Architecture, Art & Planning position. He is a freshman in Urban and Regional Studies.
  - ii. J. Anderson stated there will be three other elections with 14 candidates. The elections will be going on next month and voting will begin October 2, 2019. He asked SA members to support the new candidates and to attend the mandatory campaign meeting at 6:30pm in the same room.

#### V. Byline Reports

- a. J. Anderson explained it is currently a byline funding year. The Appropriations Committee oversees the process and approves a dollar amount for a two-year

funding period from the Student Activity Fee. The committee makes an initial recommendation and provides a rationale. Then, the SA can approve the amount through majority vote or overturn the recommendation with a two-thirds majority vote. If overturned, the SA will vote down from the highest amount to any recommendation through to zero.

- i. B. Weintraub asked if the SA has ever contested decisions made by the Appropriations Committee.
- ii. J. Anderson responded there are usually one or two allocations every funding cycle that gets contested. Typically, he has seen it with organizations deserving more funding than what Appropriations has recommended. Two years ago, this happened with the Women's Resource Center (now the Gender Justice Advocacy Center, or GJAC) and Cornell Cinema. He and C. Huang were present at the Appropriations Committee meeting. He stated that the report captured the general sentiment of the room.
- b. Cornell University Emergency Medical Service (CUEMS)
  - i. C. Huang reported that the Appropriations Committee recommended the full amount requested of \$4.30 by a vote of 11-0-1. She conveyed gratitude for CUEMS' work in the community. The organization requested more funding for a meal plan as volunteers were paying for their own meals and working off-campus during diner-time shifts. CUEMS also requested more funding for laundry, as bedding in the on-call room had never been washed.
  - ii. Motion to approve the recommendation – approved by a vote of 18-0-1.
- c. International Students Union (ISU)
  - i. C. Huang reported that the Appropriations Committee recommended the full amount requested of \$4.81 by a vote of 10-0-2. She thanked the ISU for their work and explained the organization had been relying on minimal department funds. The organization is also looking to host more large-scale and small-scale events.
  - ii. B. Weintraub asked where the departmental funding ISU historically received will go.
    1. C. Huang explained that the organization can still receive the funding.
  - iii. Motion to approve the recommendation – approved by a vote of 18-0-1.
- d. Multicultural Greek & Fraternal Council (MGFC)
  - i. C. Huang reported that the Appropriations Committee recommended the full amount requested of \$1.00 by a vote of 6-3-2. MGFC has low membership and the organization would like to use the budget to expand outreach.
  - ii. B. Weintraub asked for an explanation on why three people voted against the funding.
    1. J. Anderson noted that votes from the Appropriations Committee are secret, but if members wanted to disclose their votes, it would be allowed.
    2. U. Chukwukere responded that those who voted the funding down did not understand what MGFC does and how it works. A lot of the organizations under MGFC have small membership. In addition, MGFC has never had enough funds to plan outreach on the level that the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic have. There were surpluses from the previous years due to the fact that

membership is low. However, MGFC does plan on expanding outreach this year.

3. G. Martin added that there were misunderstandings surrounding outreach. Outreach was needed during MGFC rush as its processes were very different from those of IFC and Panhellenic.
  4. L. Smith stated that part of the rationale came from the increase on the table not matching what was received in the past.
- iii. B. Weintraub asked how IFC and Panhellenic are funded and how much they receive.
1. J. Anderson replied the organizations get their funding from chapter processes. Since they have larger bases of members, they have larger budgets.
- iv. L. Smith asked why there were only 11 votes from the Appropriations Committee.
1. J. Anderson replied that members left during the meeting.
- v. U. Chukwukere explained that MGFC has about 10-12 fraternities and sororities. It provides funding for all of them to put on chapter and service events, including for outreach and volunteering services.
- vi. Motion to approve the recommendation – **approved** by a vote of 18-0-1.
- e. J. Anderson announced that as the byline funding process continues, there will be two to three reports every Thursday at SA meetings. At the last meeting of the year scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019 from 4:45-6:30pm in the Physical Sciences Building, the SA will vote on the Student Activity Fee (SAF). SAF is covered by financial aid and the committee evaluates every organization independent of the aggregate running total.
- f. J. Anderson reported that the SA will forgo the Executive Session today.

## **VI. Adjournment**

- a. J. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Catherine Tran*  
Clerk of the Assembly