



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, October 17th, 2019 Meeting,
4:45-5:54 pm in Memorial Room, Willard Straight Hall

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

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

II. Announcements and Reports

- a. C. Huang said that the food pantry at 109 McGraw across the street from Cook House will be opening soon, and that the hours have been posted on their social media. She added that this is a great initiative that has been started, and asked the assembly members to spread the social media announcement.
- b. M. Adeghe said that she does not currently have the report for Big Red Thon, but that she will at the next meeting. She added that there were some administrative miscommunications, and that Big Red Thon will be receiving \$1300 from the SA for their cleanup fees.
- c. C. Huang said that Big Red Thon is an awesome organization, and that they were recently featured on the SCL Instagram page, and recommended that the assembly members check them out.

III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

- a. October 10th, 2019
 - i. O. Egharevba asked if they will be using iClickers at this meeting.
 - ii. C. Huang said that they will leave that for when J. Anderson arrives.
 - iii. O. Egharevba asked when J. Anderson will arrive.
 - iv. C. Huang said that it will be in about twenty minutes.
 - v. An assembly member asked about the reporting system with regard to the iClickers.
 - vi. C. Huang said that she thinks J. Anderson is still figuring things out in that regard, and asked O. Egharevba if he had any information.
 - vii. O. Egharevba replied in the negative, and said that it would be possible for next week.
 - viii. Deborah Nyakaru said that for things such as approval of the minutes or

byline funding, they never write down who voted how, so that would not be reflected in the minutes unless there was a change to the standing rules, but otherwise such things aren't traditionally done.

- ix. There was further discussion in this regard.
- x. Motion to approve the October 10th minutes – approved 24-0-1.

V. Confirmations

- a. Office of the Student Advocate Staff
 - i. Staff appointees Kataryna Restrepo and Anuli Ononye introduced themselves.
 - ii. C. Huang said that Natalia Hernandez and Sidney Waite were also named to positions, but could not be at the meeting in person. She added that they can vote to confirm them if there are no questions.
 - iii. Motion to confirm the Office of the Student Advocate staff – confirmed 24-0-1.

VI. Presentation

- a. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
 - i. C. Benedict said that throughout the year, he will be presenting to the SA on various current events, and that this is the first of these. He added that he chose today to speak on this issue due to an artistic installation called the ReDress Project coming to campus next week, and that it relates to the issue he wanted to talk about with the SA today. He made his presentation.
 - ii. J. Anderson said that they should be doing the Oath of Office for new members T. Reuning and L. Ordonez this week, but that he doesn't want to make it awkward for S. Sun next week, so they will postpone it to next week. He added that he doesn't know how many people saw an article in the Cornell Daily Sun, but that in his professional capacity as SA president, everyone has a different journey with their mental health and can make that journey for themselves. He also said that at Cornell, they are slowly making a more diverse set of options, and that at the end of the day, people should do what is best for them and not take anyone else's opinion in that regard to any margin, and that the moment he started ignoring other people's opinion he has gotten so much better. He added that he thought he couldn't go to mental health services because of social pressure and social stigma, and that if anyone is ever in need of support, he is available as a friend, but that there are also so many resources available.

VII. New Business

- a. Resolution 9: Establishing a Representative Voting Member for the Dyson School on the SA
 - i. P. Solovyeva presented the resolution.
 - ii. J. Anderson said that Dyson is still part of CALS, and asked if she had estimated a need to reapportion the seats with regard to current distributions following the numbers taken in lines 38-42.
 - iii. P. Solovyeva said that SHA has 800 students and is represented by two members, and asked why CALS should not still have two members while having 2000 students.
 - iv. J. Anderson asked, if they are basing one member off of the smallest constituency, if they will have to reapportion their numbers again, and if this needs to be a discussion about all the academic college-assigned seats. He

- added that there might be a larger matter at hand.
- v. P. Solovyeva said that she is asking for a Dyson representative today, and that there is room for that discussion about reapportioning the seats, since Cornell is growing and will continue to grow.
 - vi. B. Weintraub said that he totally supports this resolution and would love to see more representation in this regard, and that line 58 says “Dyson School of Business,” whereas it should probably use the full name, and that this should be taken care of between this and next meeting since this resolution has to be tabled anyway. He added that it was mentioned that SHA has two members, which is not true, as there is only one member, and that there have been multiple members from SHA in the past, but that there is only one SHA member.
 - vii. P. Solovyeva said that she must have overlooked that and that is her mistake that she will correct, and that she will make sure to make a distinction since the Johnson school also includes SHA.
 - viii. B. Weintraub said that he wouldn’t include Johnson, just Dyson.
 - ix. J. Youngblood said that his main point was going to be about the two members from SHA, but since it was clarified that they only have one seat, he won’t suggest taking one away.
 - x. J. Feit said that he agrees that Dyson needs a seat, and asked when this would take effect. He asked if there would be a special election or if it would happen next semester.
 - xi. P. Solovyeva said that they should focus on amending charter now, but that she was hoping that it would take effect next semester.
 - xii. J. Anderson said that charter amendments must still be accepted by the president, and that they have historically been pretty noncontroversial, but that it should be something that is considered.
 - xiii. M. Haddad asked if two seats could be given to the Johnson school with specifications that one seat be Dyson and the other be SHA, since Dyson is part of the Johnson.
 - xiv. P. Solovyeva said that she thinks that it is important that those are different and distinct with regard to what they study and their interests.
 - xv. M. Haddad asked whether or not only AEM majors would be able to vote for this seat.
 - xvi. P. Solovyeva clarified that this seat could only be voted on by AEM majors.
 - xvii. G. Martin asked if Dyson students had been spoken to about this proposal and what their opinions are.
 - xviii. P. Solovyeva replied in the affirmative and said that that is why she is here today, and that she has had AEM majors ask her why they can’t run as a Dyson representative and why there is no representation. She added that she was asked to represent them in this regard.
 - xix. M. Adeghe asked if the 3100 students listed as part of CALS in line 38 includes the 700 Dyson students reported elsewhere since AEM is part of CALS. She added that she doesn’t know if this was already asked, and asked if reapportionment would be in order.
 - xx. P. Solovyeva said that she got these numbers from the Cornell Factbook, and that she assumes these numbers include AEM, and that she would count the numbers separately once Dyson has a seat since they would be counted in

different numbers.

- xxi. M. Adeghe asked if they would then go from two CALS representatives to one since they would be losing 700 constituents.
- xxii. P. Solovyeva said that that makes sense, and that it is a question that should be addressed in the planning meetings, and that if it will be addressed with CALS, it should be for other schools as well since the school population is constantly changing and growing.
- xxiii. U. Chukwukere asked how many students constitute one voting member, and that he sees that HumEc has one member for 1200 students, and that CALS would still have 2000 after Dyson gets a seat, which he thinks would still be grounds for two members.
- xxiv. J. Anderson said that in general in election theory, the question is what number of students creates a representative, and that if they go to the lowest number, that would be 503, so each member should be representing 503 students, which is not happening. He added that this is the conversation that he wanted to offer following this resolution, and whether or not they are overburdening some members or not burdening others enough.
- xxv. U. Chukwukere said that SHA has only one voting member but 800 students, and asked if there is a range.
- xxvi. J. Anderson said that it's not a perfect science in the end, and that even the House of Representatives has these problems, and he thinks that the question of the range is a question that should be offered.
- xxvii. C. Huang thanked P. Solovyeva for bringing this issue to the attention of the SA, and said that the resolution was very well written. She asked if Dyson students are able to vote for CALS representatives in this situation.
- xxviii. P. Solovyeva replied in the negative and said that there should be a distinction.
- xxix. I. Pavlov said that she wanted to talk about the redistribution with regard to AEM students and CALS representatives, and that she thinks that there are some issues that AEM students run into that would concern the CALS representatives, so she thinks that should be considered. She added that she knows that this is a further conversation to have, but that she does think they need to consider what constitutes a representative, and that there are 15,000 undergraduate students which would imply 30 college representatives. She also said that she doesn't think there should be that many, but if they are taking away 700 from 3100, they're taking one away from two, so it should be one, but the remaining number is still sizeable enough for two, which is indicative of a flaw in the current system, so the SA should have this discussion soon.
- xxx. P. Solovyeva said that she gets what I. Pavlov is saying, and that she is not proposing to take representatives away from CALS, and that she is talking about adding a Dyson representative.
- xxxi. I. Pavlov said that she also agrees that they shouldn't just have one CALS representative, and that she wants to hear her thoughts on AEM majors being able to vote for CALS representatives.
- xxxii. P. Solovyeva said that she thinks that I. Pavlov makes a very good point, but that none of the other schools are able to vote for other school representatives, and that she thinks that this should be addressed later to see

what makes the most sense, and that she sees how that would make sense for Dyson to also vote for CALS, but that the Dyson representative could also work with the CALS representatives to address issues that address both groups.

xxxiii. M. Baker yielded.

xxxiv. T. Reuning said that he doesn't think that it is the case that they would be taking from CALS to give to Dyson, and that each school has a minimum seat, and that having one for Dyson doesn't mean that they need to take away from CALS. He added that regarding Dyson members being able to vote for CALS, it is a matter of curriculum, and that AEM is still under CALS standards, and that if someone is in a college, they can get a double-major within that college, so people can double-major in AEM and something else, so they would be losing their voice if they can't vote for both.

xxxv. D. Nyakaru said that AEM is still under CALS, but that is more under funding rather than it is under organizational structure, and that she understands the concern about needing representation, but that if there is a Dyson-specific representative, there are also questions about the way that other majors are broken down at Cornell.

xxxvi. P. Solovyeva said that she wants to make the distinction that Dyson is named and considered as its own school, and that it is both a major and a school.

xxxvii. Discussion continued in this regard.

xxxviii. V. Xu thanked P. Solovyeva for bringing this up, and said that she wanted to bring up that there are also other positions that Dyson representatives can run for, such as freshman representatives and undesignated representatives. She asked what the main motivation behind this resolution, and if it is that Dyson students don't feel represented by the CALS representatives, or that it feels necessary based on how the colleges are separated.

xxxix. P. Solovyeva said that her main job at the SA is as the ILR representative, but that Dyson students were coming up to her and asking why they don't have a voice and are basically their own school that does not elect their own representative seat, she felt the need to bring it up, and that she is pushing for an inclusive SA.

xl. A. Cass said that, with regard to reapportionment, he is the representative for AAP, and that they have 500 students, and that he supports the existence of his position, and that he would like to address something said about the amount of work based on the size of the college or the school. He added that having a small constituency is challenging because it is hard to actually find one's constituents in that situation and that it creates additional challenges. He also said that he thinks there should be a conversation about apportionment considering culture and such in addition to math, and that it should consider constituent input.

xli. O. Egharevba said that he does like the ideas here, but that the problem he has is that it brings into a larger discussion how they should reapportion things, and that if they were to say that each representative should represent 500 students, Engineering should have six seats instead of two. He added that, when they get into that discussion, they should maybe reevaluate every couple of years or so, to make sure things are in line with the student body.

- He also said that the apportionment hasn't been updated in decades.
- xlii. There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - 1. There was a dissent.
 - 2. The motion was **withdrawn**.
 - xlili. There was further discussion in this regard.
 - xliv. M. Haddad asked, in reference to line 15, if 159 freshmen enrolled in Dyson this year, and 90 did last year, and even if 90 enrolled in each of the prior two years, how it is possible that there is a total of 700 students.
 - xlv. P. Solovyeva said that this is due to transfers.
 - xlvi. J. Anderson said that it is both a combination of internal and external transfers.
 - xlvii. There was a motion to table Resolution 9 – **tabled** 26-0-1.
 - xlviii. P. Solovyeva thanked the assembly for listening to this resolution, and said that to conclude, the greater issue that was brought up is that of reapportionment, but that she would like to focus the assembly's attention on the Dyson position. She added that five or ten people came up to her and asked why there isn't representation for them, and not many Dyson students believe that they have a voice on this assembly from what she has heard.

VIII. Executive Session

- a. J. Anderson moved the meeting to executive session at 5:54 pm.

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly