



## Cornell University Student Assembly

### Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting  
4:45-6:30pm in the Memorial Room of 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: M. Adeghe, J. Anderson, M. Baker, C. Benedict, A. Cass, U. Chukwukere, J. Clancy, O. Egharevba, J. Feit, M. Haddad, C. Huang, J. Kroll, Y. Li, G. Martin, N. Matolka, I. Pavlov, T. Reuning, L. Smith, P. Solovyeva, N. Watson, B. Weintraub, K. Wondimu, V. Xu, J. Youngblood, Y. Yuan
  - ii. Absent: L. Ordonez (excused), S. Sun (excused); S. Xu (excused)

#### II. Announcements

- a. J. Anderson noted that last sprint is on Sunday, 12/8/19. He asked S.A. members to attend.

#### III. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

#### IV. SAIFC Report

- a. The Whisper Room
  - i. U. Chukwukere stated the SAIFC approved \$9,470 to the State of the Pod Productions and the Whisper Room to pay for card-access to the Whisper Room in Comstock Hall, refurbished laptops, copies of the Hindenburg Audio Software, and software to check out laptops and recording equipment for the Fall 2019 semester. The award represents 9.47% of the SAIFC 2019-2020 budget.
- b. Cornell Fashion Collective Project
  - i. U. Chukwukere stated the SAIFC approved \$1,700 to Cornell Fashion Collective to pay for two ADA Accessible Ramps and private changing rooms. The award represents 1.70% of the SAIFC 2019-2020 budget.
- c. AppDev TCAT App
  - i. U. Chukwukere stated that the SAIFC approved \$1,800 to the Cornell AppDev Project Team to pay for the IthacaTransit App development and maintenance. The award represents 1.80% of the SAIFC 2019-2020 budget.
  - ii. S.A. member asked for an explanation on how the IthacaTransit App differs from Google Maps.

#### V. Business of the Day

- a. Resolution 17: Establishing a Framework for Electronic Voting

- i. O. Egharevba noted additional edits in a document supplied to SA members via the S.A. Slack channel. He explained that the intention behind the resolution was to provide more transparency and accountability to the broader student body. The resolution also seeks to assist in solving the accessibility issue. The resolution would amend the Bylaws to include two sections on default voting method via electronic device and procedures for electronic voting, respectively.
- ii. Motion to amend the resolution to strike lines 13-14.
  1. Motion to move into discussing the amendment— passed 22-1-1.
  2. Motion to amend the resolution to strike lines 13-14—amended by 19-2-1.
- iii. J. Feit stated his appreciation for O. Egharevba's efforts, but if everyone just raises their placard to vote. He does not see a need for this and they are wasting hours discussing this.
  1. Dissent from people might not like the resolution but we should respect O. Egharevba's efforts and perhaps he can make modifications.
  2. O. Egharevba said the S.A. to ask themselves what kind of message are we sending to the community. It would benefit people who cannot make it to S.A. meetings.
- iv. Motion to vote on Resolution 17.
  1. S.A. member made a dissent.
- v. Motion to vote to vote on Resolution 17—passed 20-3-1.
- vi. Motion to vote on Resolution 17—failed with 8-11-5.

## **VI. Recess**

- a. J. Anderson called for a recess. The S.A. reconvened at 5:30pm.

## **VII. Business of the Day (Continued)**

- a. Resolution 19: Creating Internal Election Rules
  - i. N. Matolka noted that Resolution #19 would create rules for its internal elections and would amend the Standing Rules. The intention is to make the end of the year elections progress go a little smoother.
  - ii. S.A. member expressed concern over who would be reviewing the candidate statements.
  - iii. S.A. member agreed there is an identified need for a more formal process. However, there is a concern regarding Rule 4 on line 21 noting that only positive comments and statements in support could be made about a candidate. If there is something seriously wrong, there should be a way to let people know that is the case.
  - iv. S.A. member supported allowing for a platform for non-positive comments or perceived personal attacks to be discussed.
  - v. S.A. member suggested adding an appeals process in response to comments or statements.
  - vi. S.A. member suggested support for anonymous claims to be made.
  - vii. S.A. member suggested keeping comments and statements anonymous and allowing candidates to view them. If the candidate objects to a comment or

statement, it can be brought before the President, Executive Vice President, and Parliamentarian.

viii. Motion to table Resolution 19—tabled with 20-0-1.

### **VIII. New Business**

- a. Resolution 23: Establishing the Position of the Vice President of Oversight, Accountability, & Reform and the Creation of the Oversight, Accountability, and Reform Committee
  - i. G. Martin introduced the resolution, which seeks to create a new executive position and committee tasked with oversight, accountability, and reform. He highlighted line 32, which outlines a list of behavior, comments, and concerns regarding racism, sexism, harassment, and diversity. He stated that recent history has shown a need for this position and committee. He also noted the resolution would amend the Bylaws. This resolution is not something that needs to be voted on today.
  - ii. J. Anderson noted that Resolution 19 is indirectly related to this resolution. It would be beneficial for Resolution 23 to be passed before Resolution 19 is passed.
  - iii. Motion to table Resolution 23—Resolution 23 tabled to the 12/10/19 meeting.

### **IX. Adjournment**

- a. J. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Wendy Treat and Catherine Tran*

Senior Coordinator and Clerk of the Employee Assembly, respectively  
Office of the Assemblies