



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, March 5th, 2020 Meeting
4:46-6:02pm in the Memorial Room of 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, S. Ali, J. Anderson, M. Baker, U. Chukwukere, J. Clancy, O. Egharevba, J. Feit, M. Haddad, C. Huang, J. Kroll, Y. Li, I. Pavlov, T. Reuning, L. Smith, N. Watson, B. Weintraub, K. Wondimu, S. Xu, J. Youngblood, Y. Yuan
 - ii. Absent: C. Benedict (excused), N. Matolka (excused), P. Solovyeva (excused), V. Xu
 - iii. Arrived After Roll Call: A. Cass (excused), G. Martin (excused), S. Sun (excused)

II. Announcements

- a. J. Anderson said that everyone should wash their hands and use hand sanitizer above 60% alcohol content if needed. He added that everyone should stop touching their face, and that if he can break that habit, so can everyone else.
- b. B. Weintraub said that anyone who feels like they are getting sick and have more respiratory symptoms than usual should go to Cornell Health, and that anyone who has any indication that they are sick with more than a cold should also go to Cornell Health.
- c. C. Huang said that C. Benedict is approving \$400 for Mortarboard.
- d. J. Kroll and I. Pavlov began setting up for a presentation.
- e. O. Egharevba said that the working group's first meeting will be tomorrow from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm in a location that is yet to be determined but will be put on the Slack.
 - i. B. Weintraub asked who is in the group and what its purpose is.
 - ii. O. Egharevba said that the agenda for tomorrow will be to evaluate the current structure of the SA at this time, and use that to see where it goes. He added that he does not have a list of names for who is in it, but that members off the top of his head are J. Feit, N. Watson, and J. Youngblood.
- f. J. Anderson said that there will be a sprint meeting on Sunday.
- g. Lydia Zheng said that the candidate elections that are uncontested are the College of Arts and Sciences Representative; the College of Art, Architecture, and Planning Representative; the College of Human Ecology Representative; the LGBTQIA+ Students Liaison At-Large; the Minority Students Liaison At-Large; and the Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly. She added that they still

need to fill one seat for both the Minority Students Liaison and the Undergraduate Representative to the UA.

- i. M. Haddad asked if those seats would therefore be filled next year.
- ii. L. Zheng said that the precedent has been to wait until the fall, but that it could technically be done at the end of this current election cycle.

III. New Business/Business of the Day I

- a. Resolution 45: Approving Special Projects Request for Student Assembly/Amending the Student Assembly Budget
 - i. B. Weintraub moved to amend the agenda such that Resolution 45 would be presented now while J. Kroll and I. Pavlov continued to set up – amended.
 - ii. M. Adeghe moved to amend the title of the resolution such that it would represent the budget.
 1. J. Anderson said that the title could be “Amending the Student Assembly Budget”.
 - iii. Motion to amend Resolution 45 such that the title would become “Amending the Student Assembly Budget” – amended.
 - iv. M. Adeghe presented the resolution.
 - v. Motion to vote on Resolution 45 – approved 20-0-1.
 1. Despite the resolution having been counted as New Business, there was an agreement that the resolution would have automatically been counted as moving into Business of the Day if it passed with more than a two-thirds majority.

IV. Presentation

- a. Divestment
 - i. J. Kroll and I. Pavlov presented on fossil fuel divestment.

V. Open Microphone

- a. No speakers at the open microphone.

VI. New Business/Business of the Day II

- a. Resolution 46: In support of Joining Today’s Students Coalition
 - i. J. Anderson presented the resolution.
 - ii. There was a motion to suspend the rules of debate such that a motion to vote can also be an implicit motion to move to Business of the Day if it reaches a two-thirds majority – approved.
 - iii. Motion to vote on Resolution 46 – approved 19-0-2.
- b. Resolution 47: Guaranteeing Centralized Housing for All Transfer Students
 - i. C. Huang and N. Watson presented the resolution.
 - ii. A. Cass said that they have the impression that it’s pretty standard that other universities tend to guarantee transfers housing, and that it seems like the university is admitting more people than they can house, and asked if the administration has said anything about that. They added that it seems like a weird and unsustainable policy to have.
 - iii. N. Watson said that they have been admitting fewer transfers and freshmen in recent years to account for the lack of beds, and that they are also looking at the expansion project to give housing to everyone who wants it and thereby increase enrollment.

- iv. C. Huang said that the reason that Cornell has the guaranteed transfer program for state schools is the lack of housing, and that they don't have room for these students.
- v. T. Reuning said that he had a conversation with the Director of Undergraduate Admissions last semester, and that they said that they're planning on increasing freshman enrollment even though it works against the idea of having enough beds.
- vi. M. Adeghe said that she knows that these things can take a very long time, and asked when the presenters foresee this going into effect.
- vii. C. Huang said that she's only gotten to this now after a year and a half due to all the roadblocks involved, and that they have a meeting with VP Ryan Lombardi tomorrow. She added that the resolution says this will go into effect in 2021, and that they will then have the housing thereafter.
- viii. O. Egharevba said that the housing market in Ithaca is crazy, and that this is a very good resolution.
- ix. I. Pavlov said that T. Reuning's comment had reminded her about how the Campus Master Plan has a quota on the number of students, and that the administration likes to say that it's not official. She asked if the presenters could push to have that quota met until students are guaranteed housing.
 - x. C. Huang asked I. Pavlov to clarify.
 - xi. I. Pavlov said that she thinks that there is a cap of 15,000 students.
 - xii. Discussion continued in this regard.
- xiii. J. Feit said that he is fully supporting this resolution, but that he isn't certain that the administration won't just cut transfer admissions upon receiving it rather than increasing housing.
- xiv. C. Huang said that that is an important thing to keep in mind, and that they will be discussing that with VP Lombardi tomorrow, and then the new VP of Enrollment following that.
- xv. M. Haddad said that she wanted to share her experience as a transfer student, and that while she is an international student, she did transfer in from an American university, but that international transfers can be left stranded off-campus. She added that everyone should vote for this resolution.
- xvi. There was a motion to vote.
 1. N. Watson moved to have the vote done by roll-call – approved 17-3-1.
- xvii. Motion to vote on Resolution 46 – approved 23-0-0.
 1. M. Adeghe: for
 2. S. Ali: for
 3. J. Anderson: for
 4. M. Baker: for
 5. A. Cass: for
 6. U. Chukwukere: for
 7. J. Clancy: for
 8. O. Egharevba: for
 9. J. Feit: for
 10. M. Haddad: for
 11. C. Huang: for
 12. J. Kroll: for

13. Y. Li: for
14. G. Martin: for
15. I. Pavlov: for
16. T. Reuning: for
17. L. Smith: for
18. N. Watson: for
19. B. Weintraub: for
20. K. Wondimu: for
21. S. Xu: for
22. J. Youngblood: for
23. Y. Yuan: for

- c. Resolution 48: Calling for the Extension of Cornell Health Services to Students Forcibly Withdrawn from the University for Non-Disciplinary Matters
 - i. Liel Sterling presented the resolution.
 - ii. B. Weintraub asked if the presenters had spoken to the administration and if they seem on board with it, or if they just have the idea and this resolution is the beginning steps.
 - iii. L. Sterling said that it's more the latter, and that she hasn't spoken with anyone in the administration about it.
 - iv. Motion to vote on Resolution 48 – **approved** 21-0-1.
- d. Resolution 49: Amendment to S.A. Resolution 7 (Establishing the Office of Student Assembly Bylaws): Creation of the Director of International Student Affairs
 - i. G. Martin said that there needs to be a discharge petition in order for this resolution to come to the floor.
 - ii. There was a motion for a discharge petition for the next four resolutions – **approved** 21-0-1.
 - iii. G. Martin said that this just needed to be done because Exec didn't meet this week, and that it's nothing to write home about.
 - iv. U. Chukwukere presented the resolution.
 - v. Y. Li said that he does find a problem in this resolution in that it's opposed by the relevant body in the administration.
 - vi. M. Haddad said that as an international student who has sought out the Office of Global Learning multiple times, it was a bunch of people who did not understand her situation telling her what to do. She added that her CPT was wrong, and that if she had left the country with the wrong CPT, she wouldn't have been able to get back into the country, and that this was not acceptable. She also said that if she had the Office of the Student Advocate, they would have gone and fought the office with her and retrieved her right. She added that the office is overworked and she gets that, but sometimes people need a student who gets it.
 - vii. Discussion continued in this regard.
 - viii. L. Sterling said that she wants to clarify a misconception, and that the Office of the Student Advocate are in no way trying to replace the Office of Global Learning, and that it's just providing a connection. She added that it's easier sometimes to get a response so that if something could happen like it did with M. Haddad, she wouldn't be doing it on her own.
 - ix. T. Reuning said that his understanding of the Student Advocate is for when the administration is failing someone so that they can have a student on their

side, such that there is no conflict of interest between helping the student and being an employee of the university. He added that this would not be replacing any preexisting office.

- x. Y. Li said that he just saw this resolution today, and that he was thinking about possibly tabling it and speaking with the Office of Global Learning first. He moved to table the resolution.
- xi. U. Chukwukere said that in hearing M. Haddad's experience, he doesn't think that tabling it is necessary, and that he doesn't want to table it.
- xii. Motion to table, **failed** 7-12-3.
- xiii. There was a motion to vote on the resolution.
 - 1. Y. Yuan dissented.
 - 2. Vote to vote – **approved** 20-3-1.
- xiv. Motion to vote on Resolution 49 – **approved** 19-1-3.
- e. Resolution 50: Requesting the Establishment of the Cornell University Police Department Oversight Committee
 - i. U. Chukwukere presented the resolution.
 - ii. A. Cass said that this is a very good idea, and that they were wondering if the presenters could speak to the experiences of people who have tried to use the existing channels.
 - iii. G. Martin said that it's important to preface this by saying that not every interaction with CUPD has been negative, but that police institutions are inherently racist. He added that they have heard about certain marijuana-related instances, as well as students being called certain things by police.
 - iv. I. Pavlov said that she would like to hear more about the structure of the reports. She added that the committee meets two times a year and whenever grievances come in, and asked whether it would ever meet with the police chief or if the process would be electronic.
 - v. U. Chukwukere said that it could be both, and that he wanted it to be such that the chief of police is there at the meetings, probably as an ex-officio member, and that in situations where it's not necessary for them to be in the room, it would be possible.
 - vi. J. Feit said that he thinks that this is a fantastic resolution, and asked if this resolution would have to be passed through the Employee Assembly and Faculty Senate as well, since it would be seating employees and faculty members.
 - vii. U. Chukwukere said that the steps following the passing of the resolution would be to coordinate with those two bodies and the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly to get people on this body.
 - viii. J. Feit asked if U. Chukwukere knows the numbers regarding diversity on CUPD.
 - ix. U. Chukwukere replied in the negative and said that he was having a lot of trouble even getting access to those reports online. He added that this committee would make that more transparent and available to them.
 - x. J. Clancy asked if this would differ from similar bodies had at other universities.
 - xi. G. Martin said that Brown University has the best example of a body, and that they don't have employees or faculty sitting on the body, and that they do have a quota of seats for students representing their Black Students

United. He added that they are trying to bring more people to the table, but that it is largely the same.

- xii. S. Sun asked what the presenters' plan is to make sure people are aware of these resources.
- xiii. U. Chukwukere said that it's really just about connecting to a lot of different student organizations, and that he is already in direct communications with BSU and other ALANA organizations. He added that they're definitely going to push this to make sure it gets out there and is a very well-known thing.
- xiv. T. Reuning said that he thinks that it is something that they can also make RAs aware of and let their residents know about the resources.
- xv. L. Smith asked if there is a vision for relations with people external to the Cornell community, such as Ithaca PD, and what that vision is if there is one.
- xvi. G. Martin said that he had brought up earlier that students sometimes have run-ins with Ithaca PD, and that a lot of the negative reputation that CUPD has is in part because of that, and that this would ameliorate that. He added that Ithaca PD would not be on the body.
- xvii. L. Smith asked if this means there will not be communication with them.
- xviii. G. Martin said that that is not the current plan, but that it can be arranged should there be a dire need for communications.
- xix. J. Anderson said that there is also an Ithaca Community Police Board that can also be reached out to.
- xx. J. Feit said that T. Reuning brought up a good point regarding different residential buildings, and asked if there would be any way to ensure that RAs get a seat on this committee. He also said to disregard his thought if necessary since he is not a member of a group that has been historically oppressed or targeted by police, and said that he is curious as to whether or not it would be beneficial to have an officer on the committee.
- xxi. U. Chukwukere said that he would prefer not to have an officer on the committee, but that they could be ex-officio, and that the outgoing JA sits on CJC as ex-officio, and she therefore does not vote on anything. He asked what J. Feit's other question was.
- xxii. J. Feit repeated his question.
- xxiii. U. Chukwukere said that they can amend that so that it is explicit.
- xxiv. G. Martin said that they could also have the people who chair the committee prioritize those applications.
- xxv. B. Weintraub asked if they could get someone from RSC on the committee.
- xxvi. S. Sun asked how the presenters would feel about making this body a branch of the Office of the Student Advocate, such that they could go to that office and then direct them to other resources if necessary, but have this office under the umbrella if it is necessary.
- xxvii. U. Chukwukere said that he can see that, and that he thinks that is part of why he wanted to have at least one of the undergraduate students on the committee being from that office, such that it will be represented.
- xxviii. S. Sun said that if they want people to find out about the committee faster, it might be easier for them to find out about it if it is part of an existing body.
- xxix. T. Reuning said that he thinks that the issue is that it's not really the role of the Student Advocate, and that it is meant to point people toward resources or help them get them, rather than being an investigative board. He added

that having that link is the point of having the Office representative on the body.

- xxx. B. Weintraub said that they do need to be careful regarding the Office of the Student Advocate, in that they don't want to give them the idea that they can tell them anything, and that they are not a lawyer. He added that they want to make sure that people don't think that, and avoid getting students into legal trouble.
- xxxi. There was a motion to vote on Resolution 50 – approved 20-0-1.
- f. Resolution 51: Requesting the Establishment of the Policy 6.4 (Prohibited Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual and Related Misconduct) Cornell Title IX Oversight and Advisory Board
 - i. U. Chukwukere and M. Haddad presented the resolution.
 - ii. S. Sun asked if this would be within the Title IX office or if it would be a separate entity.
 - iii. U. Chukwukere said that it would be completely separate.
 - iv. There was a motion to vote on Resolution 51 – approved 20-0-1.

VII. Adjournment

- a. J. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Hannan
Clerk of the Assembly