



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, December 3, 2020 Meeting
4:45pm via Zoom

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:48pm (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present:* L. Abd Elmagid, D. Anadkat, M. Baker, J. Bansah, K. Bentley, K. Butler, U. Chuckwukere, L. Contreras, A. Gleiberman, S. Kapoor, A. Lampert, S. Lim, A. Miramontes Serrano, E. Moy, E. Perez, T. Reuning, K. Santacruz, M. Shardow, L. Smith, C. Tempelman, V. Valencia, N. Watson, S. Woldai, V. Xu, Y. Yuan, R. Zohar, L. Zumpano, S. Zverev, C. Huang
 - ii. *Members Absent:* C. Castillo (excused)

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga Nation)

- a. Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayogohó:nq' (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayogohó:nq' are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign Nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The Confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York State, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayogohó:nq' dispossession, and honor the ongoing connection of the Gayogohó:nq' people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

III. Announcements and Presentations

- a. Title IX Policy 6.4 Presentation by Student Advocate Anuli Ononye and Associate Vice President of the Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator Laura Rugless
 - i. Policy 6.4 is the university policy addressing prohibited bias, discrimination, harassment, sexual and related misconduct, currently at an interim status due to changes made because of Title IX regulations. New requirements apply to sexual harassment defined in the regulations. To meet these legal requirements, Cornell University created two hearing panel processes for student cases when a student is accused of misconduct. One process is called Hearing Panel Process A which includes real-time oral cross-examination conducted by party's advisor Hearing Panel B involves written submission of cross-examination by party. If the student case involves Title IX and/or suspension or dismissal is a potential sanction, Hearing Panel Process A is used. If the student case does not involve Title IX and suspension or dismissal is not a potential sanction, Hearing Panel Process B is used. Policy 6.4 Stakeholder Review Group purpose is to review the policy changes and gather input from the University community in order to finalize the policy through the University process. The main discussion of this group related to

policy is the Evidentiary Standard, which remains unchanged, and the Designated Reporters (DRs), which changed broad duty to consult for all non-confidential employees to list of DRs. The main discussion of the group related to procedure is changes to Alternation Resolution, an addition of informal as well as formal means of alternate resolution, Hearing Panel Process, an addition of oral-cross-examination led by parties' advisors. Additionally, unrelated to the Title IX changes, some members have interest in the bias process and protected status definitions. The Policy 6.4 Stakeholder Review Group is asking for feedback on what to consider as the policy changes are being finalized. To ensure consideration, email input to titleix@cornell.edu by December 8, 2020.

- ii. C. Huang asked how long this interim status will last.
 - 1. L. Rugless stated that typically be six months or less. The changes being discussed went into effect as required on August 14, 2020, so until mid-February. This can be extended as needed. L. Rugless anticipates by February 22 for it be at the executive policy review group.
- iii. T. Reuning asked if RAs would still be mandatory reporters with the changes.
 - 1. L. Rugless answered that RAs would remain mandatory reporters.
- b. Announcement from Dyson Presentation Mardiya Shardow
 - i. M. Shardow stated that one of their initiatives for the semester is to bring gender-neutral bathrooms to Warren Hall. There is actually a gender-neutral bathroom in the building, however it does not have the proper signage and there is confusion on whether it is a gender-neutral bathroom. M. Shardow asked if any representatives are interested in this initiative to reach out via Slack.
- c. Announcement from Director of Elections Moriah Adeghe
 - i. Over the past week, people who have opposed Resolution 11 have claimed to be victims of harassment and cyberbullying. M. Adeghe stated that constituents holding their representatives accountable and making their displeasure known is a cornerstone of democracy. If one is not ready to be held accountable for their actions made at the assembly, one should not be serving on the SA. Furthermore, it is insensitive in the face of the villainization of the organizers of Resolution, specifically U. Chukwukere who has been aggressively harassed this past week. M. Adeghe urged all representatives to speak out against the anti-black discrimination and homophobic behavior that occurred this past week.
- d. Announcement from Dining Chair Bryan Weintraub
 - i. B. Weintraub acknowledged that people have been less than thrilled with the food at Cornell Dining this year. In the spring, Cornell Dining will be making several changes. If you are interested in hearing about the changes, please reach out to B. Weintraub. There will be a Cornell Dining leadership team meeting on December 8 that will be discussing meal planning, sustainability, operating hours and other items for the spring.
- e. L. Smith stated that Annabel's Groceries has a survey regarding food insecurity and access to food. L. Smith encouraged members to fill out the survey.
- f. A. Miramontes Serrano stated that they have met with the Office of Cornell Dining several times throughout the semester and has made several changes throughout the

semester. Cornell Dining has changed from plastic Tupperware to cardboard and has worked to add variety in the different dining halls. There have also been many petitions for more vegan options, which is currently being worked on improving. A. Miramontes Serrano encouraged members to message them any recommendations or suggestions before the Cornell Dining Leadership meeting on December 8.

IV. Open Microphone

- a. L. Kenney stated that the Board of Trustees will be voting on the Code of Conduct on December 11 at a special meeting. L. Kenney urged the SA to discuss jurisdiction at this meeting, as moving jurisdiction away from the University Assembly to the Vice President of Student and Campus Life is being considered.
- b. E. Moy confirmed that the Board of Trustees will be voting on the Code of Conduct that includes sweeping changes to the judicial process that will affect Cornell students for generations. The new Code was allegedly written in full by this assembly last semester and was passed in April with little debate, as Resolution 65 last academic year. Resolution 65 was very unorthodox, as typically changes are proposed and handled from the Student Judiciary Committee, which is part of the University Assembly. From discussions with the UA, E. Moy discovered Resolution 65 was not written by the assembly, as is often stated. Rather, it was most likely written by a University Console. The resolution was used to subvert to the authority of the CJC and E. Moy stated that this relationship of shared governance should not be eroded for the convenience of the administration. E. Moy motioned to amend the agenda to include two new resolution.
 - i. C. Huang stated that a motion cannot be made during open microphone, but once open microphone ends, E. Moy should promptly do so.
 - ii. E. Moy withdrew their motion.
- c. B. Sherr added a point of clarification that Resolution 65 was put forward by university representatives in an effort to subvert UA authority. It was rejected by the Code and Judicial Committees. The actual body in charge of handling alterations to the code rejected this proposal and it is still being used.
- d. K. Restrepo stated that C. Castillo, who recently made a statement to the Cornell Sun calling for a revote to Resolution 11, cannot attend the current SA meeting due to a family emergency. K. Restrepo urged members who voted no on the resolution to call for a revote on behalf of him, in light of current circumstances.

V. New Business

- a. E. Moy asked for the agenda to be amended to include the Resolution 19: Maintaining the University Assembly's Jurisdiction Over the Code of Conduct and Resolution 20: On the Proposed Changes to the Student Code of Conduct.
 - i. Motion to amend – **amended** 16-12-1
- b. SA R15: Demanding Cornell to Support the Black Lives Matter Movement
 - i. Abstract: The purpose of this resolution is to have Cornell University and the Student Assembly to be in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement.
 - ii. S. Woldai stated that this resolution includes statistics provided about black life on campus, black students dissatisfaction on campus, and representation throughout the University. It also includes different aspects of systemic racism and the Black Lives Matter movement, especially over the summer.

The Student Assembly has yet to make a stance on the Black Lives Matter Movement.

- iii. Motion to vote on Resolution #15 – passed 26-0-2
- c. SA R16: In Support of the Cornell University Caribbean Students' Association's Demands
 - i. Abstract: This resolution asks for the Student Assembly to support the demands of the Cornell University Caribbean Students' Association (CSA).
 - ii. L. Farquharson stated that the CSA was founded in February of 2019 with five members, but now has over 200 members. The CSA is committed to providing an open and safe place for the entire Cornell community, but specifically Caribbean students to embrace their culture and history.
 - iii. S. Brownie explained that the perception of the Caribbean as Cuba, Haiti, and Jamaica is incorrect, as the Caribbean includes parts of South and Central America. This lack of representation extends into the teaching the Caribbean culture.
 - iv. S. Lawrence reaffirmed that we need to be more inclusive of what we understand the Caribbean to be. The CSA thinks of the Caribbean as product of the labor experience of the mixing pot of many histories and many global histories. The CSA represents over 25 countries internationally and almost 50 different languages. The CSA surveyed students as to what it means to be Caribbean on campus, where at times it can feel a bit isolating. Other students shared sentiments of dispelling stereotypes about their culture and proving what it isn't or is and having to sit through difficult discussions. It is important to remember no one story can be summed up, there are many different complex stories.
 - v. S. Brownie stated that even in one culture, there can be several different cultures.
 - vi. A. McKenzie stated that the CSA began writing their demands in the summer through discussion with members of the CSA. The main discussions focused on amplifying the student voice, stopping academic segregation based on language, and the history and culture of the Caribbean, considering the contributions worldwide. When it comes to the Cornell Campus, it is a decentralized community based on where one came from, one's skin tones, etc. The CSA wants to increased Cornell's cultural competence and support international students and their academic path as they get to Cornell, and also not to erase their past.
 - vii. Motion to vote on Resolution #16 – passed 27-0-1
- d. SA R17: Reduction of Convocation Committee's Student Activity Fee Allocation
 - i. Abstract: This resolution is putting in place a temporary reduction of Convocation Committee's SAF allocation due to their violation of Appendix B of the Student Assembly Charter.
 - ii. U. Chukwukere asked this resolution to be tabled.
 - iii. Motion to table Resolution #17 – tabled 26-0-2
- e. SA R18: In Recognition and Appreciation of Cornell Employees and Staff
 - i. Abstract: This resolution formally recognizes and thanks Cornell employees and staff for their invaluable work in keeping the campus community safe

and supporting students through reopening and a successful in personal residential semester.

- ii. L. Smith explained this resolution is thank Cornell employees and staff that have continued to work tirelessly throughout the pandemic.
 - iii. Motion to vote on Resolution #18 - passed 27-0-1
- f. SA R19: Maintaining the University Assembly's Jurisdiction Over the Code of Conduct
- i. L. Kenney stated they have brought this resolution before the University Assembly this past Tuesday. Before the 1970s, the Campus Code of Conduct was with the faculty. The Henderson Law requires the Board of Trustees of each college in New York State adopt regulations for the maintenance of public order. At Cornell, the Board of Trustees acted with strong community support and delegated the University Senate, now known as the University Assembly, jurisdiction over the Campus Code of Conduct. The charter has held that members examine standards of conduct and have one calendar month to review and respond to proposed changes in policies. The Codes and Judicial Committee (the CJC) is the committee created to handle changes to the Campus Code of Conduct. The current draft of the Code of Conduct removes jurisdiction from the UA and providing jurisdiction to the hands of the Vice President of Student and Campus Life. L. Kenney expressed concern over this change, as the UA has always been an unbiased group filled with all constituent parties. It is pertinent that it remains with the UA to prevent bias.
 - ii. M. Adeghe expressed confusion over who would be making the revisions.
 - 1. E. Moy stated that jurisdiction currently belongs to the CJC. If this resolution passes, jurisdiction would not move to the Offices of Student Campus Life.
 - 2. L. Kenney stated there is still no clear answer as what the definition of advisory consultation and input means.
 - iii. T. Reuning clarified that currently the CJC has representatives from all Cornell community with voting power. The proposed change would give any final decisions to the Vice President of Student and Campus Life with no obligation to listen to input from members of the community.
 - iv. B. Sherr emphasized the importance of this resolution. There is nothing in the code as it is currently written to stop VP Lombardi from unilaterally

making adjustments to the Campus Code of Conduct and that has grave repercussions for all students.

- v. L. Smith expressed concern over the fact that the Board of Trustees has been frustrated with the full code revisions and this resolution does not change the current situation.
 - 1. L. Kenney stated that the Code does have to be with one assembly. The UA has the least opportunity for a power grabbed.
 - vi. B. Fortenberry provided clarification to the amendment process of the Code of Conduct.
 - vii. T. Reuning stated that having input from faculty can be extremely valuable.
 - viii. E. Moy motioned to amend Resolution #19 to change L. Kenney to UA Representative instead of GPSA Representative in the conclusion.
 - 1. Motion to amend – amended 24-0-3
 - ix. E. Moy motioned to amend Resolution #19 to include M. Baker, K. Butler, C. Templeman, V. Xu, R. Zohar, K. Santacruz, D. Anadkat, A. Miramontes Serrano, T. Reuning, L. Smith, M. Shardow, B. Sherr, A. Lampert, M. Adeghe, L. Zumpano, S. Kapoor, J. Bansah, L. Contreras, A. Ononye, V. Valencia, U. Chukwukere, S. Zverev, and N. Watson as co-sponsors.
 - 1. Motion to amend – amended General Consent
 - x. L. Kenney asked if any members had input as to what consultation from the SA and GPSA means in the resolution.
 - 1. A. Miramontes stated that it would be nice for members of the community to attend CJC meetings.
 - 2. M. Adeghe stated the CJC could provide formal updates the SA about the process.
 - 3. L. Kenney stated that one method of consultation would be having amendments immediately going to the SA for input.
 - xi. T. Reuning motioned to amend Resolution #19 to define consultation as periodical formal updates from the UA to the Student Assembly and Graduate & Professional Student Assembly and having amendments immediately sent to these bodies, whose recommendations and concerns be seriously considered by the CJC.
 - 1. Motion to amend – amended 24-0-3
 - xii. A. Miramontes Serrano asked if members could attend University Assembly meetings.
 - 1. L. Kenney explained that meetings are open to the public. Due to the pandemic, email the Office of the Assemblies for the Zoom link.
 - xiii. Motion to vote on Resolution #19 – passed 24-0-3
- g. SA R20: On the Proposed Changes to the Student Code of Conduct
- i. Abstract: The Student Assembly expresses its dissatisfaction with the procedures in changing the Code of Conduct. The SA makes demands of the university to share information and delay the Board of Trustees vote.
 - ii. E. Moy explained that currently the final draft of proposed changes that the Board of Trustees is voting on is not public information. Certain bodies do have it, but it is not public information and the SA does not have it. This resolution formally requests this final version to be public information and

- asks the Board of Trustees to delay the vote indefinitely to give time for the SA to comment on these changes.
- iii. E. Moy motioned amend Resolution #20 to include M. Baker, K. Butler, C. Templeman, V. Xu, R. Zohar, K. Santacruz, D. Anadkat, N. Watson, A. Lamper, B. Sherr, A. Gleiberman, A. Miramontes Serrano, T. Reuning, V. Valencia, L. Smith, and S. Zverev as co-sponsors.
 - 1. Motion to amend – **amended** General Consent
 - iv. C. Huang asked for clarification for the length of time for indefinitely.
 - 1. E. Moy stated the SA needs time to process and review the changes of the current draft of proposed changes.
 - 2. A. Gleiberman asked if would be possible to hold an impromptu meeting to discuss the changes to the code.
 - a. N. Watson asked that someone reach up to them to set up a time to schedule an informal meeting for all members.
 - v. B. Sherr proposed having the Board of Trustees hold their meeting next semester, as it is equally important for the general student body to have access to and be able to comment on the revised code.
 - vi. E. Moy motioned to amend lines 25 to 27 of Resolution #20 to include “...delay until the first Board of Trustees meeting of the spring semester, once the constituencies, organizations...”.
 - 1. Motion to amend – **amended** General Consent
 - vii. Motion to vote on Resolution #20 – **passed** 22-0-3
 - h. M. Adeghe asked if it would be possible to have an informal discussion of police disarmament with people currently present.
 - i. C. Huang stated they are working with the Office of Assemblies to coordinate a town hall for the upcoming week where everyone will be able to have proper notice to speak on the issue.

VI. Adjournment

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 6:48pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,
Ciara Shanahan
Clerk of the Student Assembly