



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, March 4, 2021 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, M. Baker, C. Castillo, U. Chukwukere, L. Contreras, A. Gleiberman, S. Kapoor, A. Lampert, A. Miramontes Serrano, 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:* J. Bansah, K. Butler, E. Perez

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. C. Huang shared updates on the EARS initiatives, as peer counseling was reviewed by Cornell Health Insurance and is now under Cornell Health. Peer counseling is not covered by insurance and liability and thus EARS was cut. C. Huang shared an opinion piece written in the Cornell Daily Sun by Jeannie Yamazaki and a link to a petition to bring back peer counseling. C. Huang stressed the importance of sharing the petition as it needs to reach a mass threshold to be effective. Additionally, Anabel's Grocery has reopened for curbside pickup. C. Huang also shared that EdMobilzer is looking for students to help mobilize their peers to write Op-Eds to the campus newspaper focused on legacy admissions, more information on this will be sent in the Slack channel. C. Huang thanked members for sending their positional updates and stated they have been fantastic so far. Any members who still need to send their reports should do so as soon as possible, and C. Huang stated they are always open to helping. From the reports already submitted, many focused on working within their respected constituencies on mental health and diversity/inclusion topics. C. Huang encouraged members to engage with your constituents about these issues and do your due diligence when talking about these specific advocacy points.
- b. T. Reuning stated that, up until this past year, Cornell required a legal name change in order for transgender, non-conforming students or anyone who goes a different name than their legal to have their preferred name on their diploma. This is no longer the case and you are no longer required to have a legal name change in order



Cornell University Student Assembly

for your chosen name to appear on your degree, Additionally, students who have already graduated are allowed to request a replace diploma with their preferred name on it, regardless of whether they've gotten a legal name change This is not updated on the Registrar's website yet, but they are working on updating on. This will be in effect for May 2021 graduates.

- c. M. Shardow shared updates on their work on an initiative focused on creating a Serenity Space with help from the Interfaith Council. The Serenity Space will be an area where students of any religion or no religion can come and meditate or pray in a quiet place. This initiative came from the need of Muslim students to have a place to pray, as they pray five times a day and there is currently no great place on campus for this. M. Shardow stated they met with the Interfaith Council and hopes to assemble a task force focused on this and encouraged any members interested in helping to reach out.
- d. U. Chukwukere stated that if you are part of Class of 2021, you received an email invited you to join the Convocation Committee. If you are interested, please reply back to the email. Also, Outdoor Odyssey is looking for a SA member to be a liaison on their executive. U. Chukwukere encouraged anyone interested to reach out.

IV. Open Microphone

- a. No Speakers present at open microphone.

V. Approval of the Minutes

- a. February 25, 2021
 - i. C. Templeman motioned to amend section 1 part A of the February 25th minutes to remove "C. Templeman" from Members Present.
 - 1. Motion to amend – **amended** Unanimous Consent
 - ii. Motion to approve the February 25th minutes – **approved** Unanimous Consent

VI. New Business

- a. SA R31: Donating SA Communications Committee Funds to the Student Access Fund
 - i. Abstract: This resolution approves the transfer of funds from the SA Communications Committee to the Student Access Fund to support students with demonstrated needs given the many aspects of the Cornell college experience that might not be accessible to low-income students.
 - ii. M. Baker stated the purpose of this resolution is to donate excess Communications Committee funds to the Student Access fund, which supports low-income students with demonstrated needs. The Communications Committee was allocated \$1,000 this semester under the Appropriations Committee and feels the majority of their allotment would be better served in the hands of the Student Access fund, given the restrictive nature of the pandemic. They chose to donate to the Student Access fund in particular because it reimburses expense that is not covered by financial aid or other university programs. In the past year, the Student Access fund has received an influx of requests from students and it is important in this critical time to ensure the Student Access fund can continue serving Cornell's



Cornell University Student Assembly

most vulnerable populations equitably. Additionally, the Student Access Fund no longer covers Covid-19 related expenses, following the establishment of the Cornell Emergency Fund.

- iii. M. Baker motioned to amend line 19 of the resolution to remove “COVID-19 Relief”.
 - 1. Motion to amend Resolution #31 – amended Unanimous Consent
- iv. M. Baker motioned to amend the resolution to include S. Kapoor as a co-sponsor.
 - 1. Motion to amend Resolution #31 – amended Unanimous Consent
- v. L. Smith asked what the Communications Committee budget would have been spent on in non-Covid-19 times.
 - 1. M. Baker stated that in past years it was used feeding members during Communication Committee meetings, but as they cannot meet in-person, they do not need to do so. It is also spent on advertisements, this year they spent \$150 on advertisements, which is why \$850 is being donated.
- vi. L. Contreras expressed her support for this resolution and confirmed that the applications for the Student Access Fund have been exceptionally high, but there are just not enough funds to actually distribute them to the students. L. Contreras asked if it was possible to be added as a co-sponsor.
- vii. M. Baker motioned to amend the resolution to include L. Contreras as co-sponsor.
 - 1. Motion to amend Resolution #31 – amended Unanimous Consent
- viii. Motion to vote on Resolution #31 – passed 22-0-1

VII. Adjournment

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:11pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

Ciara Shanahan

Clerk of the Student Assembly