



Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, March 11, 2021 Meeting
4:45pm via Zoom

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. C. Huang called the meeting to order at 4:47pm (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present:* M. Baker, J. Bansah, 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:* L. Abd Elmagid, 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 stated that members of the Office of Student Government Relations are present at the meeting and encouraged SA members to ask them any questions.
 - i. E. Rubin introduced themselves and stated that the OSGR has just finished recruitment. E. Rubin encouraged anyone with questions to reach out.
- b. There was a motion to confirm the members of the Office of Student Government Relations.
 - i. Motion to confirm – **passed** 20-0-2
- c. C. Huang stated that anyone interested in working with EARS to message in the chat and they will be added into a Slack channel.

IV. Open Microphone

- a. No Speakers present at open microphone.

V. Approval of the Minutes

- a. March 4, 2021
 - i. Motion to approve the March 4th minutes – **approved** Unanimous Consent

VI. New Business

- a. SA R32: Amendments to Election Rules for Spring 2021
 - i. Abstract: This resolution updates the Student Assembly Election Rules of the Spring 2021 Election. This is necessitated by the ongoing public health



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restrictions related to COVID-19, and the need to be more inclusive of all students, whether they are on campus or attending remotely.

- ii. P. Mehler explained this resolution updates the SA election law. There was a bit of outdated language and items that specifically said they needed to occur in person, which due to the pandemic, will take place virtually. The resolution also changes anything that says Fall 2020 to Spring 2021. The SA Election rules used to state that you had to be in Ithaca to run for office. The language has been rewriting to state that you just need to be a fully enrolled student taking classes to run for office. Further, this resolution changes the rules for committee members of the election committee in order for the Election Committee to better represent a reflection of Cornell's diversity in background and class year. Typically, the Elections Committee is heavily dominated by seniors and upperclassmen, as it is difficult for freshman to commit to not being able to run for office for the next three years. This resolution no longer states that you cannot run in the academic year, but in the academic semester. The purpose of this to increase the diversity of the committee to include more underclassmen.
- iii. Motion to approve Resolution #32 – passed 21-0-1
- b. P. Mehler walked the Student Assembly through the upcoming elections calendar. The official announcement of the Elections and Election Committee will occur on March 22. There will be two information forums on March 23 and March 24 to best accommodate international students and students in different time zones. All people running for SA will have until April 5 at 12pm to collect all signatures. There will be a mandatory campaign meeting at 9pm on April 5 and campaigning can begin at 11:59pm on April 5. There will now be three separate debate forums, one for College Representatives on April 7, one for At-Large Representatives and UA on April 9, and one President and Vice President on April 14. The purpose of this is to increase election turnout and people running for office. Additionally, having College representatives meeting on a specific day and at a specific time will make it easier for all constituents in the respective colleges to attend and not have to sit through the entire debate. If there is 5+ candidates for the UA, there is a possible UA debate/forum on April 13. Voting will open at 12pm on April 20 and end at 2pm on April 22, all challenges and hearings occur the afternoon of April 22. The three-day window intentionally runs alongside the Board of Trustees to make it easier for students to vote.
 - i. A. Gleiberman asked if there was a special election for the four seats currently empty in the SA.
 1. P. Mehler stated there is not enough time for special election to occur and those seats will remain empty for the semester. Additionally, if



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there was both a special election and an election following each other, there would be a drastic decrease in voter turnout.

- c. W. Treat stated the Student-Elected Trustee Election calendar is almost finalized and will more than likely be on the same ballot as the SA election.
- d. C. Huang explained that members are uncomfortable with seats remaining vacant for too long and stated they would be happy to take nominations from anyone in the SA to appoint these seats. C. Huang also stated that the P. Mehler was very intentional about making sure this calendar didn't cause any religious conflict.
 - i. P. Mehler stated that there were numerous religious holidays that occurred within the same 10-day window. To accommodate this, the signature collecting period is about four days longer than it typically is and no events occur on religious holidays. P. Mehler stated they are available if anybody has any concerns about this or questions about elections.
- e. P. Mehler asked that if anyone knew a student in the School of Hotel Administration interested in joining the Elections Committee to please reach out.
- f. C. Huang reminded members of the SA who still need to complete their policy reports to turn in reports by next week.

VII. Adjournment

- a. C. Huang adjourned the meeting at 5:15pm (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

Ciara Shanahan

Clerk of the Student Assembly