

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, March 10, 2022 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:30 PM

IN PERSON | WILLARD STRAIGHT MEMORIAL ROOM

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. A. Ononye called the meeting to order at 4:50 PM (EST).
- b. Roll Call
 - i. *Members Present: A. Juan, N. Reddy, K. Santacruz, L. Smith, V. Valencia, A. Williams, A. Ononye, D. Hernandez, P. Gronemeyer, C. Tempelman, J. Kim, M. Baker, J. Jiang, Y. Logan, B. Luckow, N. Overton, J. Bansah, D. Cady, A. Gleiberman, M. Louis, E. Yan, D. Eisman*
 - ii. *Members Absent: P. DaSilveira, A. Lampert, J. Mullen, M. Song, D. Ilango, C. Leon, L. Lu*

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogoho:no (Cayuga Nation)

- a. President Ononye delivered the Land Acknowledgement.

III. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. D. Cady motioned to move Resolution 46: Support of a New Natatorium (Pool) in the 'Do the Greatest Good' Campaign up the agenda. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
- b. J. Kim motioned to add her nominations to the Office of Ethics to the agenda. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of March 3rd, 2022 Minutes
 - i. K. Santacruz motioned to approve the minutes. Minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent.

V. Open Microphone

- a. There were no speakers present at open microphone.

VI. Announcements and Reports

- a. Faculty Senator Ashleigh Newman – Population Medicine & Diagnostic Science
 - i. The pools at Cornell are important and widely used for: Physical Education courses, ROTC, varsity swimming and diving, club swimming, intramural polo, open swim, etc.
 - ii. Aquatic exercise has both physical and mental health benefits.
 1. Some studies show it is preventative for seasonal affective disorder.
 - iii. There are two existing pools at Cornell University: Teagle Hall and Helen Newman Hall.



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1. There are inequitable bathrooms and shower spaces for opposite gender, transgender, and gender non-conforming persons.
- iv. A main issue is the gap between the high demand for pools and the supply.
- v. Further issues include increased pool closures due to unsafe water quality and aged facilities.
- vi. In 2020, \$750,000 was invested to prolong pool life to 2025 in both pools.
 1. This included structural shoring wherein wood was used instead of the more durable option of steel due to wood being inexpensive.
- vii. If the process for the construction of a new pool began now, it would take up to 10 years to complete.
- viii. The resolution proposes a 50-meter pool since it tackles the supply and demand issue as well as provides more optimal hours for availability.
 1. This allows to section off the pool, which Princeton University and Brown University provide.
- ix. Furthermore, Colgate University and Ithaca College both provide 50-meter pools as well.
- x. Cornell University would become the only Ivy League and Regional college without a pool.
 1. Aquatic activities would all be terminated, including Beginning Swimming (PE 1100) which reduces drowning risk.
- xi. A new natatorium would do an enormous amount of good but is still not a university priority or part of the Capital Campaign, which prevents Cornell from having to pay for the entirety of the project.
- b. Water Sports Teams for a New Pool
 - i. Jack Valiquette - Men's Varsity Swimming
 1. J. Valiquette is co-captain of Cornell's swimming and diving team.
 2. J. Valiquette affirmed that a new pool is needed for reasons including the frequent need to move team meets to the pool in Ithaca College as well as the uncertainty of the team's future with no pool on campus.
 - ii. Gillian Cavelry – Women's Varsity Swimming
 1. G. Cavelry is co-captain of Cornell women's swimming and diving team.
 2. A current senior, G. Cavelry has watched the pool decay and deteriorate throughout her four years at Cornell University.
 3. Algae growth as well as sand was found in the pool water on multiple occasions.



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4. There are only 10 showers and 5 toilets in the women's locker room at Teagle Hall for the entire building to use.
 5. Competing teams look down upon the facilities provided at Cornell.
 6. G. Cavelry emphasized the importance of a pool on mental health.
- iii. Andrew Martinez – Men's Club Swimming
1. After an injury in high school, A. Martinez could not swim for an entire year.
 2. Club swimming at Cornell allowed A. Martinez to slowly get back in to swimming and nurtured his love for the sport.
 3. Following COVID-19 restriction, A. Martinez and teammates returned to the pool and encountered limited access due to poor water quality.
- iv. Alexander Seyer – Men's Club Water Polo
1. A. Seyer is a current freshman and part of the men's club water polo.
 2. A. Seyer affirmed that it has been almost impossible to play water polo in the current conditions of the pools.
 3. During the first semester, the team was given no time for practice, and resorted to using the Second Dam and swim out in the open.
 - a. A. Seyer, having asthma, was unable to participate.
 4. After nationals, wherein the team performed poorly due to their lack of practice, the team was completely pushed out of the pool and told to practice during open swim.
 5. The future of the team does not seem very bright, and A. Seyer hopes that swimming opportunities will be made more available for the student population.
- v. Olivia Smith – Women's Club Water Polo
1. Commitment to athletics is a key part of diversity, which is a priority at Cornell University.
 2. O. Smith elaborated on how water polo grounds her experience at Cornell.
 3. Pools are extremely important, especially during the cold winters.
- c. Senator Ashleigh Newman – Questions and comments
- i. D. Eisman thanked Senator Newman for her presence. D. Eisman inquired on how the gap between 2025 and the completion of a new pool in 2032 will be facilitated.
 1. A. Newman stated that this issue has unfortunately been ignored but affirmed that discussions are now ensuing in light of this resolution.



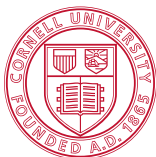
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2. The plan B that the administration may have is to rely on the Ithaca College pool, which would be insufficient and unreliable.
- ii. A. Williams inquired on statistics regarding pool closures throughout fall 2021.
 1. A. Newman stated that there has not been an ongoing record of the pool closures. However, the student athletes may have a rough estimate or further knowledge.
- iii. C. Templeman, as someone who frequently attends open swim, affirmed that the timings of the pool openings have been unreliable, and has experienced firsthand how the Columbia University facilities do not exhibit the same issues.
- iv. L. Smith inquired on how Yale is maintaining their pool from the 1930s, and how Cornell could strive to do the same.
 1. A. Newman replied that Yale University, apart from their main competition colosseum, has a 50-meter facility.
 2. Yale, furthermore, began a Capital Campaign for a new pool.
- v. P. Gronemeyer on why the pool construction process did not begin earlier, such as in 2015, which is 10 years prior to the projected date.
 1. A. Newman stated that the degradation of the facility was not linear, and therefore the issue escalated most in 2019 and that is when the issue began to receive attention.
 2. Furthermore, the estimated years sometimes underestimate the lifespan of the pools, and the admin's hope is that at least one of the pools will make it past 2025.
- vi. A. Juan and A. Newman reiterated that varsity swimming would be hard to uphold without proper facilities, and Cornell will receive backlash from multiple groups including alumni.

VII. New Business

- a. Resolution 46: Support of a New Natatorium (Pool) in the 'Do the Greatest Good' Campaign – co-sponsored by D. Cady
 - i. D. Cady affirmed that the Capital Campaign is a 5-million-dollar campaign with goals including personal wellbeing and growth of resources for physical and mental health at Cornell and R46 specifically tackles this goal.
 - ii. D. Cady affirmed the importance of a pool to student mental health and highlighted that this resolution would promote a better Cornell community.
 - iii. K. Santacruz motioned to vote on R46. Resolution **passed** by a majority vote of 21 – 0 – 1 .

VIII. Announcements and Reports



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- a. A. Ononye announced J. Mullen's resignation from the Student Assembly and the vacancy of a position. Elections will be held during the following SA meeting.
- b. A. Ononye announced that she will be providing a report on the SA to the Board of Trustees in two weeks and requested that the SA representatives reach out to her with any important comments to be shared with the Board.
- c. A. Gleiberman suggested posting the Office of Ethics appointments to the SA social media platforms.

IX. Initiatives

- a. L. Smith discussed interest in an initiative regarding COVID-19 regulations on the Cornell campus to discuss the ongoing updates.
 - i. A. Gleiberman looks forward to receiving a response from the administration regarding COVID-19 regulations.
 - ii. C. Templeman seconded A. Gleiberman and expressed concern regarding keeping the mask mandate while at the same time stopping surveillance testing.
 - iii. C. Templeman furthermore expressed that mere communication from the administration is important.
 - iv. A. Ononye confirmed that the student body should be receiving information regarding the masking mandate by the end of the week.
 - v. A. Williams reiterated her confusion regarding Cornell's current policy for COVID-19 and rationale.

X. Presentations and Forums

- a. No presentations and forums were presented.

XI. Business of the Day

- a. Office of Ethics – Nomination of Alhassan Bangura by Michelle Song '25
 - i. D. Cady motioned to present a nomination to the Office of Ethics in place of M. Song due to her absence.
 - ii. A. Bangura is a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences.
 - iii. A. Bangura highlighted his experience in Student Assembly in high school wherein he wrote a 22-page constitution which made his student organization into a separate judicial body.
 - iv. L. Smith inquired on why A. Bangura would like to be a part of the Office of Ethics as opposed to the Student Assembly.
 - 1. A. Bangura expressed that his skills serve a better role in the Office of Ethics as opposed to the Student Assembly.
 - v. K. Santacruz motioned to table the nomination. The nomination was tabled by a vote of 17 – 0 – 2 .
- b. Office of Ethics – Nominations of Glenna Lee and Carlene Mwaura by Joanne Kim



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- i. J. Kim motioned to vote on the appointment of G. Lee to the Office of Ethics. Nomination **passed** by a 2/3rd vote of 17 – 0 – 2.
- ii. J. Kim motioned to vote on the appointment of C. Mwaura to the Office of Ethics. Nomination **passed** by a 2/3rd vote of 17 – 0 – 2.

XII. Adjournment

- a. A. Ononye adjourned the meeting at 6:01 PM (EST).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jana Alzayer

Clerk of the Student Assembly