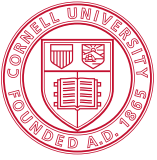


# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University's Student Assembly Minutes of the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting 4:45 pm – 6:30 pm Memorial Room Willard Straight Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
  - a. P. Kuehl called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.
    - i. *Members Present (20)*: M. Bakri, L. Balestrieri, L. Barrett, A. Barry, R. DeLorenzo, K. Everett, N. Hite, C. Lederman, E. Ononye, S. Parikh, C. Platkin, I. Rezaka, A. Richmond, N. Son, A. Talone, B. Terhaar, C. Ting, A. Vinson, A. Wang, P. Kuehl
    - ii. *Members Absent (0)*
    - iii. *Also Present (4)*: J. Withers, J. Zhang, A. Bangura, J. Swenson
- II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement
  - a. P. Kuehl stated the SA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.
- III. Open Microphone
  - a. There were no speakers present at Open Microphone.
- IV. Announcements
  - a. Legislative Agenda for 2023-2024 Term
    - i. P. Kuehl welcomed and gave thanks to the Student Assembly members for the 2023-2024 Term, particularly noting active participation during the 2023 summer. P. Kuehl noted updates to the standing rules and important items that would appear during the term.
- V. Consent Calendar
  - i. There were no new items.
- VI. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons
  - a. S. Williams noted work to increase communication and brainstorm ideas to connect with the student body over the summer.
  - b. C. Ting acknowledged the different assemblies across the Cornell community and encouraged participants to help staffing SA liaisons to committees on the University Assembly.



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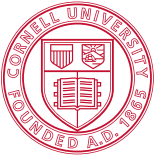
- c. C. Lederman acknowledged intentions of the Internal Operations Committee to review the Bylaws to ensure that they are up to date. C. Lederman motioned to place Resolutions 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 into the agenda.
  - i. The motions **passed** through unanimous consent.
- d. A. Barry noted intentions to review Orientation to create a more favorable welcome experience. A. Barry also noted the possibility of other internal changes to the Student Assembly to make it a more welcoming and accessible body.
- e. R. DeLorenzo noted amendments to the charter that Campus Activities hoped to see for the byline cycle.
- f. A. Wang noted congratulations for the introduction of a vending machine including over-the-counter medications and period products.

### VII. Presentations

- a. No presentations were introduced.

### VIII. Old Business Calendar

- a. Resolution 7: Community Engagement
  - i. S. Parikh gave an introduction on the intent of Resolution 7 to promote engagement between the Cornell community and the Student Assembly by increasing transparency so that all resolutions passed should have some sort of community sponsor to ensure additional stakeholders across the community.
  - ii. C. Ting noted work done alongside S. Parikh to edit the resolution. C. Ting expressed her support for the Resolution in increasing quality of resolutions over quality, as was the past.
  - iii. J. Kalinski asked if this would allow for critical resolutions that need to come out quickly, highlighting the timeliness of the resolution condemning Jewish hate, to occur.
  - iv. S. Parikh noted that should a resolution not have a community sponsor, especially given time-constraints, it would be possible to move forward without a community sponsor.
  - v. A. Richmond expressed concerns that the labeling of a resolution as time-conflicted could get hazy. A. Richmond noted issues with the efficacy of the resolution due to a lack of clarity and lack of a fully fleshed out process that would ensure issues don't slip through.
  - vi. C. Lederman noted that any standing rules can be suspended through a motion and a vote of two-thirds.



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- vii. S. Parikh stated that final decisions and interpretations would ultimately reside with the Assembly.
- viii. A. Bangura thanked S. Parikh for introduction of this resolution. A. Bangura noted concerns with definitions, particularly the definitions of what an organization would be, or what a reasonable attempt to secure a community sponsor would be.
- ix. S. Parikh stated that an organization definition would cause problems due to exclusion of certain community partners, leading to a more wide, inclusive definition. S. Parikh stated that a reasonable attempt would be up to interpretation, but
- x. P. Kuehl noted his thanks for the sentiment of the resolution in terms of improving engagement with community partners.
- xi. K. Everett questioned what community sponsor participation would look like.
- xii. S. Parikh stated that he imagined some inclusion in a resolution stating the sponsoring organization.
- xiii. A. Wang stated her support for the sentiment of the resolution. A. Wang questioned if it was deemed there was not a reasonable attempt, there would not be another opportunity to find one.
- xiv. S. Parikh stated that, should it be deemed that there was not a reasonable attempt, there would be further attempts.
- xv. P. Kuehl clarified that executive members could help members find sponsors.
- xvi. A. Richmond stated worries that should there be a controversial resolution, the resolution could be caught in political fighting that leaves it for weeks. A. Richmond recommended leaving this resolution out of paper and instead carrying the sentiment through.
- xvii. S. Parikh stated that there is the desire to instead make structural, real changes to rebuild institutional credibility, which means that putting the sentiments in writing through a resolution is necessary.
- xviii. A. Barry stated that, given how numerous different organizations and groups across the community body are, there shouldn't be an issue in finding a sponsor if members are acting in the best interest of the community.
- xix. L. Balestrieri motioned to close debate.
- xx. A. Richmond dissented and encouraged further discussion.
- xxi. The motion to close debate **failed** with a vote of 6-8-6.

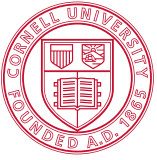


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- xxii. C. Ting agreed with the concerns A. Richmond had due to previous experience in the past term on Student Assembly and asked for clarifications on what A. Richmond would hope to see.
- xxiii. A. Richmond stated that in Section B, the Resolution states that there need be an individual representative from the community present. A. Richmond noted that there isn't clarification on what this would look like.
- xxiv. S. Parikh stated that it isn't the responsibility of one person to find a community sponsor, and that there are many resources to find a community sponsor.
- xxv. J. Swenson stated his agreement with A. Richmond's perspective and stated his desire that the process of creating a resolution can be quick. J. Swenson stated that the verbiage of the resolution opens the body up to the possibility of political fighting.
- xxvi. S. Parikh stated that the resolution was amended so that a sponsor was not absolutely required, but rather pushed to try.
- xxvii. P. Kuehl closed debate.
- xxviii. The motion to approve the resolution as is **passed** with a vote of 9-6-5.

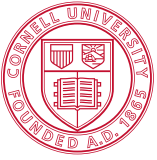
### IX. Resolutions Calendar

- a. Resolution 10: Requiring the VP of Finance to be granted full Admin Access on Campus Groups
  - i. R. DeLorenzo introduced the resolution to ensure VP of Finance has full access to the Campus Groups platform. R. DeLorenzo highlighted the history that Cornell has had with Campus Groups and the need for this access to be given due to the unique position the Student Assembly has by contributing funding to different campus groups through the platform.
  - ii. J. Swenson stated hopes that R. DeLorenzo share his attempts to retrieve access.
  - iii. R. DeLorenzo noted the countless emails and meetings that continued to maintain a lack of access, noting his hopes for tasks to be done quickly and efficiently, a hope that has been reduced by this lack of access.
  - iv. K. Everett questioned what the resolution would hope to accomplish.
  - v. R. DeLorenzo stated that including the weight of the legislative body could increase the weight of the request and restated the importance of having a member of the Student Assembly with full access.
  - vi. C. Lederman stated the importance of the resolution as a demonstration of the power of the legislative body to create mutual respect between the body and the administration so that important work can be done. C. Lederman



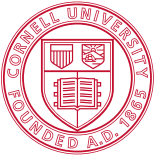
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- noted his disappointment that access wasn't already given, and that the situation went to this point.
- vii. P. Kuehl implemented 1-minute speaking times.
  - viii. A. Wang questioned if a good reason was given on why access was stripped.
  - ix. R. DeLorenzo stated that some previous students misused their access, leading to restriction of all access for any students.
  - x. A. Richmond stated the importance of Campus Groups data, especially given how pain-staking the process is. A. Richmond motioned to close debate.
  - xi. The motion was approved through unanimous consent.
  - xii. The motion to approve Resolution 10 **passed** with a vote of 16-0-4.
- b. Resolution 11: Approving the 2023-2024 Student Assembly Budget
- i. R. DeLorenzo introduced the resolution so that the budget for the assembly could be approved for the year.
  - ii. A. Wang requested a breakdown on the Internal Operations budget.
  - iii. R. DeLorenzo stated that the Internal Operations budget particularly comprises food for meetings.
  - iv. N. Hite questioned if the food budget need comprise \$7,000.
  - v. R. DeLorenzo stated that the budget is comparable to what is spent on food.
  - vi. A. Richmond noted that most budgets aren't fully spent, and that the Student Assembly is left with a large budget that often never gets fully spent.
  - vii. R. DeLorenzo noted that spending, in comparison to budget, is typically lower.
  - viii. L. Balesteiri questioned where money that isn't spent goes.
  - ix. R. DeLorenzo stated that money not spent is rolled over to the reserve account but noted that \$8,000 previous excess was donated.
  - x. P. Kuehl noted that all money re-allocated was evaluated through historical precedent.
  - xi. S. Parikh questioned how much of the summer experience grant funding was utilized in previous years.
  - xii. R. DeLorenzo stated that all the funding was used.
  - xiii. J. Swenson questioned if this money was sourced from the Student Activity Fee.
  - xiv. R. DeLorenzo stated that the budget was from the Student Activity Fee.
  - xv. C. Lederman highlighted that the Student Assembly budget comprises an extremely small part of the overall fund from the Student Activity Fee.



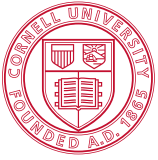
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- xvi. E. Ononye asked for clarification on the change in the Internal Operations budget. E. Ononye questioned if there was discussion to increase the Summer Experience budget given the increase in number of incoming students.
- xvii. R. DeLorenzo stated that the change in budget was due to meeting food purchases. R. DeLorenzo stated that the money for the Summer Experience Grant funds the next year, rather than the current.
- xviii. N. Son questioned if funding requests would be made through ISU or the Student Assembly.
- xix. R. DeLorenzo stated that requests could be made to the Student Assembly.
- xx. A. Wang asked for clarification on the opportunity to increase allocations, noting the small budget for Academic.
- xxi. R. DeLorenzo stated that allocations could be passed through a majority vote in the body.
- xxii. S. Parikh noted the possibility of shifting the budget away from the Internal Operations allocation into others.
- xxiii. R. DeLorenzo noted that almost \$20,000 in the previous year was unspent and moved to the reserve account.
- xxiv. C. Ting noted that for special projects, requests for funding can range up to \$1500, after which further funding can be voted upon. C. Ting supported the increase in the special projects' allocation given the popularity and noted the amount of thought that R. DeLorenzo put into the budget.
- xxv. C. Ting motioned to end debate.
- xxvi. A. Wang dissented.
- xxvii. A. Wang noted concerns with allocations to the Internal Operations budget.
- xxviii. P. Kuehl stated that all other assemblies cater food and that, should other allocations need further funding, the reserve account can absolutely be pulled from. P. Kuehl noted that in previous years, full allocations were not used.
- xxix. C. Lederman motioned to end debate.
- xxx. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- xxxi. The motion to approve Resolution 11 **passed** with a vote of 10-4-6.
- c. Resolution 12: Amendments to the Community Partnership Funding Board governing documents
  - i. R. DeLorenzo introduced the resolution to amend some governing documents.
  - ii. C. Lederman motioned to end debate.
  - iii. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.



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- iv. The motion to approve Resolution 12 **passed** by a vote of 18-0-2.
  - d. Resolution 13: Amendments to the International Students Union governing documents.
    - i. R. DeLorenzo introduced the resolution to affirm changes made to International Students Union governing documents.
    - ii. A. Wang questioned if Resolutions 12-15 all just amended names of organizations.
    - iii. R. DeLorenzo stated that some of the changes outlined in the Resolutions were operational.
    - iv. P. Kuehl motioned to end debate.
    - v. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
    - vi. The motion to approve Resolution 13 **passed** with a vote of 14-0-6.
  - e. Resolution 14: Amendments to the Multicultural Greek and Fraternal Council governing documents
    - i. R. DeLorenzo introduced the resolution affirming changes to governing documents.
    - ii. A. Wang questioned what the term “informational” in section 3, part A meant.
    - iii. R. DeLorenzo stated that “informational” meant information sessions.
    - iv. P. Kuehl motioned to end debate.
    - v. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
    - vi. The motion to approve Resolution 14 **passed** with a vote of 16-0-4.
  - f. Resolution 15: Amendments to the Slope Day Programming Board governing documents
    - i. R. DeLorenzo introduced the resolution.
    - ii. C. Lederman noted a previous error and motioned to insert lines into the Resolution.
    - iii. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
    - iv. P. Kuehl motioned to end debate.
    - v. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
    - vi. The motion to approve Resolution 15 **passed** with a vote of 16-0-4.
- X. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar
  - a. There were no appointments.
- XI. Adjournment
  - a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:11pm.



Cornell University  
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Respectfully Submitted,  
*Jenny Zhang*  
Clerk of the Assembly