

Cornell University's Student Assembly

Minutes of the September 21st, 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 4:47 pm.
 - 1. Members Present (17): 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, B. Terhaar, C. Ting, A. Vinson, P. Kuehl
 - 2. Members Absent (4): S. Son, A. Talone, B. Terhaar, A. Wang
 - 3. Also Present (6): A. Bangura, A. Coleman, E. Kalweit, N. Maggard, J. Swenson, J. Zhang
- 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.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Approval of the September 14, 2023 meeting minutes
 - 1. The motion to approve the minutes **passed** through unanimous consent with an amendment to the vote count of Resolution 19.
- V. Consent Calendar
 - a. There were no new items.
- VI. Announcements
 - a. There were no announcements.
- VII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons
 - a. Vice President of Finance
 - 1. CUTonight
 - R. DeLorenzo noted that following the 2020 Covid year, a significant amount of money was carried over into 2022. R. DeLorenzo noted the massive amount of increases in applications for events that led to a large decrease in money left to budget. R.



DeLorenzo noted concerns with the substantial increase in funding being requested which led to further questions. R. DeLorenzo noted the development of their own programming that began the previous year and further noted the few members in CUTonight that made it difficult to audit and watch over the full organization and budget.

- 2. K. Chirinos stated that many smaller clubs hesitated to apply for funding and host events, which led CUTonight to create programming to show many organizations their ability to put on their own events. K. Chirinos noted that through the development of their own programming, many younger club members became more engaged and involved in the organization and leadership.
- 3. R. DeLorenzo noted that there are currently no restrictions on how many times a singular organization can host an event and stated that many clubs had multiple events with CUTonight funding. R. DeLorenzo stated hopes for limits on the number of times funding could be approved. R. DeLorenzo noted current CUTonight policies implemented like checking receipts.
- 4. A. Barry questioned if the \$2500 per event limit would be raised.
- 5. K. Chirinos stated that the organization is recognizing the need to limit duplicate fundings.
- 6. I. Rezaka questioned if E-Board elections have already occurred.
- 7. K. Chirinos stated that while the current year E-Board is already filled, underclassmen are invited to E-Board meetings if interested in becoming involved.
- 8. A. Barry questioned if, should caps be implemented, the original \$20 request would still be necessary.
- 9. K. Chirinos stated that in the previous year, around \$18 per was utilized, but that a further increase in applications is expected.
- 10. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that having fully funded all organizations in the previous year, the \$20 wouldn't be necessary.
- 11. K. Everett questioned what amount would be voted on.
- 12. R. DeLorenzo stated the Committee recommendation of \$12.
- 13. J. Swenson questioned where the increased funding to CUTonight would be coming from and if they would detract from other organizations.
- 14. R. DeLorenzo stated otherwise.
- 15. R. DeLorenzo noted that even after the Assembly votes to approve funding, President Pollack must approve funding as well.



16. M. Wallen motioned to adopt. Approval of funding passed with a vote of 13-0-3.

2. Club Sports Council

- 1. R. DeLorenzo stated that the amount of money the Club Sports Council requested was more than they were granted. R. DeLorenzo noted that many teams had discrepancies due to the large amount of funding certain teams require in comparison to the low cost of others. R. DeLorenzo stated that the average amount of out-of-pocket dues teams had were \$285. R. DeLorenzo stated that the Club Sports Council was looking to increase the highest tier's monetary value to support high-cost sports and noted hope for further oversight. R. DeLorenzo stated the Committee's opinion that the Club Sports Council receive further funding.
- 2. J. Swenson noted that certain club sports such as those who use ice facilities must pay Cornell a large amount to rent facilities.
- 3. R. DeLorenzo stated belief that there is a need to fix and restructure how funding and payment works.
- 4. C. Lederman noted how much many club sports organizations need funding and supported the need to reduce barriers to entry.
- 5. K. Everett asked for further clarification on the value being voted on to increase.
- 6. R. DeLorenzo stated the recommended amount of \$29 per member.
- 7. J. Swenson noted how nuanced the issue is due to the differences across the different teams in terms of size, cost of sport, and more. J. Swenson probed the notion of limits for funding for the teams.
- 8. R. DeLorenzo stated that a tier system already exists.
- 9. A. Barry questioned how teams request funding from the Club Sports Council.
- 10. R. DeLorenzo stated that previously, payment requests needed to be approved or denied by the Club Sports Council but had a general idea on general budget based on a consultation, but that the current tier system could be applied to.
- 11. C. Lederman motioned to approve the funding allocation. The motion to approve allocation **passed** through unanimous consent.

3. Athletics

1. R. DeLorenzo stated that funding is being moved towards promotions, discounts for season tickets, and marking for Men's Ice Hockey. R. DeLorenzo stated that the Appropriations Committee



- recommended \$7.70 per student funding, which the Athletics department also agreed with.
- 2. C. Lederman motioned to approve the funding allocation. The motion to approve allocation **passed** through unanimous consent.

VIII. Presentations

a. There were no presentations.

IX. Old Business Calendar

- a. Resolution 20: Amendments to Article IV of the Charter
 - A. Coleman noted changes to Charter such as the start and end dates for the year term of the Assembly and the distinguishment of Ex-Officio status.
 - 2. M. Wallen motioned to end debate. S. Parikh dissented. The motion to end debate **failed**.
 - 3. C. Lederman noted the three amendments noted in the previous meeting.
 - 4. S. Parikh motioned to end debate. C. Ting dissented. The motion to end debate **failed**.
 - 5. C. Ting asked to make an amendment to add the line "4 other members as designated through University Bylaws".
 - 6. C. Lederman motioned to make an amendment and insert a line. The motion **passed** through unanimous debate.
 - 7. C. Ting motioned to end debate. A. Richmond dissented. The motion to end debate **passed**.
- b. Resolution 21: Solidarity with Grad Workers
 - 1. S. Parikh introduced the Resolution in support of the formation of a union by Graduate students in response to low pay, lack of medical coverage, and more. S. Parikh noted the need for solidarity and highlighted the year's theme of Freedom of Expression.
 - 2. A. Richmond motioned to vote. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 3. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** unanimously.
- c. Resolution 22: Student Assembly Transparency Initiative (SATI) Two
 - 1. A. Vinson stated an overview of the Resolution to provide an alternative to a past brought up Resolution to include a community sponsor for all resolutions.
 - 2. K. Everett stated support for the Resolution and questioned how the rules would be upheld.



- 3. A. Vinson stated interest in setting up mechanisms to enforce and systemize this system. A. Vinson acknowledged concerns R. DeLorenzo raised and noted support to omit actual signatures from published materials out of the Assembly.
- 4. M. Wallen stated support for the Resolution but noted belief that 30 signatures is too much, noting fluctuating club sizes.
- 5. M. Wallen motioned to amend the Resolution to require 15 signatures instead of 30. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- 6. A. Barry motioned to close debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- 7. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** unanimously.

X. Resolutions Calendar

- Resolution 23: Authorizing the Transfer of Reserve Funds to the Slope Day Programming Board
 - 1. R. DeLorenzo stated the overview of the Resolution to transfer \$400,000 in funds to the Slope Day Programming Board. R. DeLorenzo noted the rapidly continuously increasing price for different artists.
 - 2. A. Barry questioned if the increase in funds would be expected in upcoming years.
 - 3. R. DeLorenzo stated that there should be less fluctuation in upcoming years.
 - 4. M. Wallen noted support for the Resolution.
 - 5. M. Wallen motioned to vote on the Resolution. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
 - 6. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of 16-0-1.
- b. Resolution 24: Condemning Sexual Assault and Supporting Survivors
 - 1. A. Bhangra motioned to suspend the rules on need for a community sponsor. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
 - 2. A. Bhangra introduced the Resolution and noted its timeliness considering a recent sexual assault incident on Cornell campus.
 - 3. L. Balestrieri noted clauses to encourage action rather than just words. L. Balestrieri noted the suggestion to University administration for further academic programming on sexual assault for incoming freshman.
 - 4. C. Ting noted the need for a response from the University administration.
 - 5. K. Everett motioned to vote. L. Barrett dissented. The motion to end debate **failed**.



- 6. L. Barrett stated support for additional trainings but noted that the police alert was sent because the victim reported and that it was unfair to shine a spotlight on the victim.
- 7. C. Ting noted that the need for a University response would not need to be with more information, and that anonymity would be supported.
- 8. L. Balestrieri stated that a message would not want to expand on details of the crime, but rather offer resources such as the police or support groups.
- 9. J. Swenson noted that while the Resolution is great, in the name of speed direct conversations with the administration to have acknowledgement.
- 10. A. Richmond noted that when resolutions on hot-topic issues are released, unwanted attention may be shone on the victim.
- 11. C. Ting stated that attention on sexual assault has already been given. C. Ting noted precedent on pressuring the administration to release a statement and offer help.
- 12. I. Rezaka stated support of the Resolution.
- 13. K. Everett stated acknowledgement of A. Richmond's concerns and questioned the possibility of an amendment to take attention away from the actual incident and focus rather on generally specific resources available.
- 14. A. Bhangra motioned to amend the Resolution to focus on general support. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- 15. C. Platkin noticed hesitancies to put additional stress and unwanted attention on the issue that could exacerbate harm to victim.
- 16. L. Barrett noted that pressures on the victim will be exacerbated and would be insensitive and felt that the timing of a communication shared out to the entire University is inhumane.
- 17. L. Balestrieri stated acknowledgement of L. Barrett's sentiments but noted the action points in the Resolution to highlight resources and create further trainings.
- 18. C. Lederman stated support on the action points of the Resolution but noted the time-sensitive nature of the communication portion of the Resolution. C. Lederman noted support for a shared communication as a general statement on the problem rather than the specific incident.
- 19. C. Lederman motioned to extend time until 6:45pm. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- 20. C. Ting acknowledged the concerns brought up but noted the importance of emphasizing support and resources, especially given the amount of



- unreported sexual assault. C. Ting stated that current structures to address sexual assault are simply not enough.
- 21. J. Swenson acknowledged the feelings that C. Ting stated but noted that these feelings are not best conveyed through the administration. J. Swenson stated belief that the best approach to institute change would be direct dialogue with the administration.
- 22. A. Bhangra noted that publicly making a stand is not unique, as many previous situations have merited similar responses from the Assembly.
- 23. I. Rezaka motioned to end debate. The motion failed.
- 24. R. DeLorenzo stated that the administration is trying to address this issue in different tactical plannings.
- 25. C. Ting stated belief that consent can be taught and that the assembly has responsibility towards constituents to attempt to address the issue.
- 26. P. Kuehl noted the President's attendance in the next meeting.
- 27. C. Ting acknowledged their attendance but noted belief that conversations would be better in private.
- 28. A. Barry questioned why voting couldn't be moved forward.
- 29. M. Bakri noted that precedent had been set to release public responses to incidents like this.
- 30. M. Wallen concurred that no statement is a statement.
- 31. L. Balestrieri clarified the Resolution's contents given amendments.
- 32. M. Bakri motioned to end debate. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- 33. The motion to approve the Resolution **passed** through a vote of 15-0-1.

XI. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar

- a. Appropriations Committee
 - 1. Item was postponed for next meeting.
- b. Dining Committee
 - 1. Item was postponed for next meeting.

XII. Adjournment

a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jenny Zhang Clerk of the Assembly