

# Cornell University's Student Assembly

Minutes of the September 28<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 4:47 pm.
  - Members Present (18): M. Bakri, L. Balestrieri, L. Barrett, A. Barry, R. DeLorenzo, N. Hite, C. Lederman, E. Ononye, S. Parikh, C. Platkin, P. Kuehl, I. Rezaka, S. Son, A. Talone, B. Terhaar, C. Ting, A. Vinson, A. Wang
  - 2. Members Absent (2): K. Everett, A. Richmond
  - 3. Also Present (9): A. Bangura, A. Coleman, N. Courtney, N. Maggard, K. Rahul, J. Swenson, J. Wallen, J. Withers, J. Zhang

# II. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

a. P. Kuehl stated the SA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.

## III. President Pollack and Vice President Lombardi's Remarks

- a. President Pollack acknowledged changes across campus such as the new Center for Racial Justice, new minors such as digital agriculture and sign language, the new Atkinsons Center, and the new Bowers CIS school building. President Pollack noted impacts of the Supreme Court ruling for race-blind admissions and acknowledged deep disappointment, but acknowledged the changes the school is undertaking such as recruitment and outreach initiatives. President Pollack noted the accolades that Cornell Dining received, the introduction of late-night dining services, and the end of Starbucks products use on Cornell campus. President Pollack noted additional services now being offered at Cornell Health. President Pollack noted current sustainability projects underway to help achieve 2035 carbon neutrality. President Pollack acknowledged the theme of year for Freedom of Expression and reiterated Cornell's commitment to equity, diversion, and inclusion.
- b. President Pollack noted a question on the institution's responsibility towards indigenous people. President Pollack stated the school's commitment to build and maintain relations with indigenous communities and ensure outreach towards indigenous youth.
- c. President Pollack acknowledged a question on unionization and stated the student's rights to unionize.

- d. Vice President Lombardi acknowledged a question on food accessibility and noted the Swipe Out Hunger program that is now live, as well as the increased utilization that has merited increased supplies and staff of the food pantry. Vice President Lombardi particularly noted that the Swipe Out Hunger program grants more swipes than those that are donated.
- e. Vice President Lombardi acknowledged the housing selection process and noted the new prioritization to apply for housing for rising juniors and seniors.
- f. M. Wallen questioned if the plans to help empowered indigenous populations.
- g. President Pollack confirmed the university's commitment.
- h. C. Lederman noted the previous mention of funding available to increase the amount of financial aid seats and asked for current statuses.
- i. President Pollack stated that there is \$500 million dollars of funding that can increase 1000 seats and decrease loans by 25%. President Pollack stated that currently, 668 students have been added.
- j. N. Courtney noted that the Cornell student has been named the number one school for veterans in the country and questioned how the administration is preparing to support veterans and potential growth for the veteran population.
- k. President Pollack stated that recruitment and support of veterans has been and will continue to be a priority.
- 1. S. Parikh acknowledged the graduate student unionization and questioned if there were plans to support them.
- m. President Pollack stated that plans are currently undecided due to how recently things have occurred.

# IV. Open Microphone

a. There were no new items.

### V. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Approval of the September 21, 2023 meeting minutes
  - 1. J. Wallen motioned to amend naming. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - 2. B. Terhaar motioned to amend attendance. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - 3. The motion to approve the minutes **passed** through unanimous consent.

## VI. Consent Calendar

a. C. Lederman acknowledged the announcement to extend the date for submission of petitions for nomination for election.



- b. P. Kuehl stated support of the extension.
- c. C. Lederman questioned if this change needs to be affirmed and voted upon by the Assembly.
- d. K. Rahul noted that there is no explicit date for the end of the petition submission period. K. Rahul noted that the intention of the extension was to encourage submissions for the College of Human Ecology and College of Art, Architecture, and Planning seats, which received no applications.

#### VII. Announcements

a. There were no announcements.

# VIII. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Liaisons

- a. Vice President of Finance
  - 1. Community Partnership Funding Board
    - 1. P. Kuehl motioned to move to an executive session. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
    - C. Lederman motioned to adopt the Appropriations Committee's funding recommendation. The motion passed through unanimous consent.

### 2. Alternative Breaks

 C. Lederman motioned to adopt the Appropriations Committee's funding recommendation. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.

## 3. Club Insurance

- 1. C. Ting motioned to adopt the Appropriations Committee's funding recommendation. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.
- 2. S. Son motioned to close executive session. The motion **passed** through unanimous consent.

## IX. Presentations

- N. Maggard introduced an overview of the different motions for Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure members could use.
- b. C. Ting asked for a clarification on the meaning of a rising vote.
- c. N. Maggard stated that a rising vote is completed by the current Assembly through the raising of placards.

### X. Old Business Calendar

a. There were no items.



- XI. Resolutions Calendar
  - a. There were no new resolutions.
- XII. Appointments and Vacancies Calendar
  - a. Appropriations Committee
    - 1. A. Coleman and E. Ononye were nominated for appointment to the Committee. The motion to appoint **passed** through unanimous consent.
  - b. Financial Aid Review Committee
    - E. Ononye was nominated for appointment to the Committee. The motion to appoint **passed** through unanimous consent.

# XIII. Adjournment

a. This meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted, *Jenny Zhang* Clerk of the Assembly