



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, September 3, 2015 Meeting
5:00pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

I. Call to Order (J. Batista)

- J. Batista called the meeting to order at 5:00pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* B. Bacharach; J. Batistia; L. Bushner; M. Chak; S. Chaudhary; R. Dunbar; R. Gupta; E. Johnston; S. Karnavat; G. Kaufman; E. Liu; M. McBride; V. Michel; J. Selig; M. Stefanko; S. Tayal; P. Titcomb; R. Uttamchandani; Z. Zhu
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* M. Ghandour (unexcused); C. Li (unexcused); D. Li (unexcused)

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes (J. Batista)

- The minutes of May 1, 2015 were approved by unanimous consent.
- The minutes of August 28, 2015 were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Open Microphone (E. Johnston)

- Z. Praiss '16 presented information about the Campus Connection (now known as *Let's Get Coffee*) web platform that allows new students to connect with upperclassmen students. The survey opens on Sunday, September 6, 2015 and the organizers encourage members of the Assembly to participate.
- L. Moffett '16 presented an update on the initiatives of the Student Assembly Dining Committee. Cornell Dining replaced mayonnaise products with a vegan, more sustainable alternative. In addition, Cornell Dining has also made significant progress on creating a healthier offering for students.

IV. Announcements and Reports

- M. Stefanko announced the non-Assembly community members staffed to the Student Assembly Appropriations Committee. This year is a Student Activity Fee-setting year, so the committee will be reviewing the application packages for byline funding and proposing the Undergraduate Student Activity Fee for the 2016-2018 academic years. The selected non-Assembly members are:

- Rohan Bhatia
- Saif Azam
- Iyore Olaye
- Brandon Dennis
- Georgina Hudja
- Yuchen Richard Wang
- Matthew Indimine
- M. Henderson noted that the Student Assembly Elections Committee held two outreach events for freshman and transfer students. The deadline for registration is September 11, 2015.
- P. Titcomb gave an update on the Student Assembly Infrastructure Fund Commission. The projects were: Duffield Outlets; Garden Room Mirrors; Upgraded Water Fountains in Barton Hall, Helen Newman Hall, Bartels Hall, Kennedy Hall, and Teagle Hall; Ho Plaza electrical infrastructure update.
 - M. Stefanko congratulated the committee and noted that this project was a long-term initiative of the Assembly.
 - E. Liu asked about how the locations for the new water fountains were selected. P. Titcomb said that each of these locations were high-traffic areas.
- G. Kauffman provided the following updates from the University Assembly, the Faculty Senate, and the Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee.
 - Matt Bataglia '16 (undergraduate) was elected the chair of the University Assembly.
 - Ulysses Smith '13 (staff) was elected the chair of the Campus Welfare Committee.
 - Ellis Loew (faculty) was elected chair of the Campus Infrastructure Committee.
 - Greg Mezey '09 (staff) was elected chair of the Codes and Judicial Committee.
 - The Faculty Senate is having a Financial Aid forum in the near future. Contact G. Kauffman for more information.
 - President Garrett and Provost Kotlikoff spoke at the Faculty Senate about reducing competition between academic units, reducing bureaucracy, and centralizing certain functions the University.
 - G. Kaufman also noted that the Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee is looking for a vice-chair.
- M. McBride reminded the Assembly to continue recruitment for the Student Assembly committees.

- University Vice President for Campus and Student Life Ryan Lombardi introduced himself to the Assembly.

V. Business of the Day

- Resolution 3 – Approval of the 2015-2016 Bylaws (E. Johnston, J. Berger, M. Indimine)
 - The sponsors provided an overview of the changes.
 - E. Liu motioned to **amend** line 88 to add dining committee to the list of committees that the Executive Vice President has oversight responsibility for. The motioned to amend was **approved** by a vote of 17-0-0.
 - M. Battaglia asked about the change made to line 12, which allows the Director of Elections position to be held by “any member of the Cornell community.” M. Henderson said that the change was made to bring the guidelines in line with other ex-officio positions.
 - M. McBride asked about the change made in 491-493, which changes the appeal process from the Ombudsman to the Judicial Codes Councilor. G. Giambattista noted that this change was made to bring the Student Assembly By-laws in line with other University policies.
 - There was a motion to **call to question**. The resolution was **adopted** by a vote of 17-0-0.
- Resolution 5 – Approval of Elections Committee Slate (M. Henderson, M. McBride)
 - The sponsors explained that the slate contains a diverse set of individuals that represent both individuals familiar with the Student Assembly and individuals not familiar with Shared Governance.
 - E. Johnston said that the group is very approachable and reliable.
 - M. Stefanko said that, in his experience, this slate represents a more balanced group of individuals than in the past.
 - M. Stefanko motioned to **call the question**. The resolution was **adopted** by a vote of 18-0-0.

VI. New Business

- Resolution 6 – Mental Health Week Organization (M. Indimine, M. Chak)
 - The sponsors noted that this event is being coordinated and sponsored by many different student organizations.
 - S. Tayal said that this issue is particularly relevant to international students and recommends that the sponsors include and reach out to international student organizations.

- M. Indimine motioned to amend line 34 to include “ISU” in the list of collaborating organizations. The motion to amend was approved by a vote of 18-0-0.
- E. Liu asked about specific events happening during the week. The sponsors noted that there will be a speaker in Bailey Hall, Yoga on the Arts Quad, and other events.
- M. McBride motioned to move this item to Business of the Day by unanimous consent. Because no dissent was announced, the item was moved to Business of the Day.
- E. Johnston recommended that individuals interested in working on this initiative join the Student Assembly Health and Wellness Committee.
- B. Bacharach motioned to call the question. By a vote of 21-0-0 the two community votes were allocated to the “in favor” vote of the resolution. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 20-0-0.

VI. Question and Answer with VP Lombardi

- VP Lombardi answered questions from the Student Assembly and community.

J. Batista adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 6:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Murphy

Secretariat, Office of the Assemblies