



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, September 17, 2015 Meeting

4:30pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

### I. Call to Order (J. Batista)

- J. Batista called the meeting to order at 4:49pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Batista [0]; L. Bushner [1]; M. Chak [0.5]; S. Chaudhary [1]; R. Dunbar [1.5]; M. Ghandour [2]; R. Gupta [0]; E. Johnston [0]; S. Karnavat [1]; G. Kaufman [0]; C. Li [1]; E. Liu [1.5]; M. McBride [0]; V. Michel [0]; J. Selig [0.5]; M. Stefanko [1.5]; S. Tayal [2]; P. Titcomb [1]; R. Uttamchandani [1]; K. Zhu [0.5]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* B. Bacharach (Unexcused) [2]; D. Li (Excused) [1.5]

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

- The minutes of September 10, 2015 were approved by unanimous consent.

### III. Open Microphone (E. Johnston)

### IV. Announcements and Reports

- Elections Update – M. Henderson brought up information about the upcoming elections. He stated that 16 freshman, and 2 transfers were announced as running, and that a candidate forum would be held at 6:45 for the upcoming Freshman and Transfer elections following the meeting.
- Towards New Destinations – S. Chaudhary announced the approval of three diversity initiatives. He further announced the election of Dr. Renee Alexander as the University Diversity officer.
- Health Initiatives Funding Council & JA Search – M. Indimine stated the council had received \$1000 for the health funding board and the board will begin accepting applications beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Interim Judicial Administrator – G. Kaufman announced that the University Assembly approved Jody Kunk-Czaplicki as the interim Judicial Administrator.
- Exams Schedule – J. Batista informed the Assembly that the Registrar's Office used an algorithm and posted a Final Exams Schedule that yielded the fewest bad events.

- Attendance – M. McBride informed the assembly that the minutes would now include attendance records. He further he stated this would be accomplished through coordination between the SA Clerk and VP of Internal Operations.
- Random Hacks of Kindness & Committee Recruitment – E. Johnston informed the assembly that students would be arranging a Hackathon with the Ithaca community. Cornell has the chance to submit four project ideas, which Johnston proposed be a central events calendar around campus, an app to show where free food is, an app for fixing the room reservation site, and “What to Fix Cornell”, an app used to point out problems around campus using crowd sourcing She further stated that Committee recruitment had received over 200 applications thus far.

#### V. Business of the Day

- Affirming Learning Style Diversity in Introductory Science Course (G. Kaufman, M. McBride, R. Dunbar, L. Bushner)
  - There was a motion to move Resolution 8 to the end of new business. By unanimous consent the motion was adopted.
- Byline Reports
  - M. Stefanko announced that the Appropriations Committee next Monday, September 21, 2015 would review Haven, MGLC, and ALANA, and invited anyone to attend the meeting.
  - J. Berger stated that the appropriation fees are reviewed by the SA and by a majority will be approved. Similarly by a 2/3rds vote the SA can overturn the fee and a new fee will be reevaluated at the end of the semester comparing it to the other fees set throughout the semester.
- Byline Report: International Students Union
  - M. Stefanko stated the ISU report asked for \$3.34 per student from the Student Activity Fee be awarded to the International Students Union but the committee decided that given the information received, \$3.10 was the best amount.
  - Ex-Officio M. Battaglia asked about the preliminary request.
  - M. Stefanko answered that in April the committee sent out a preliminary application, which asked organizations for the requested amount of funding by April 25th. \$3.34 was the requested amount at that time.
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**. The Byline Funding was **adopted** by the Assembly by a vote of 20-0-0
- Byline Report: CU-Emergency Medical Services
  - M. Stefanko stated that CU-EMS was previously funded at \$3.90 but requested \$3.50 for the 2016-2018 cycle. This request was due to previous funding

calculations made with the belief that the price per student was divided by 13,000 students rather than the true number. The committee believed the rollover amount was too large, and that \$3.50 would give CU-EMS a surplus around \$30,000 to \$40,000. The Appropriations Committee set the funding at \$3.24, with thoughts of future increases.

- G. Kaufman asked about the margin of error.
- M. Stefanko stated the margin of error was large. Asked for a \$10,000 surplus operating at \$20,000 surplus. \$7,000 would be cut over two years.
- Callie Pina '16 and Chad Lazar '15 on behalf of CU-EMS appealed the decision stating that CU-EMS requires more than the allotted amount, on reasons of not be able to hold community outreach events, and not having a backup fund if any financial problems arise.
- M. Stefanko read the appeal, which argued the new proposed amount created a large challenge especially concerning unexpected costs.
- S. Tayal spoke about the waste of excess money, which would occur with too large of a surplus.
- M. Stefanko reminded the Assembly to evaluate CU-EMS as a single organization not under the assumption that funding would go to another group.
- C. Pina spoke about the priority of the emergency services around campus and how a large capital reserve fund is necessary to keep the organization prepared.
- S. Chaundary asked about the figures of their surplus, and about how financial hardships would affect CU-EMS
- C. Lazar responded that the actual surplus was around \$31,000. He also stated that \$12,500 is saved every year in a separate fund so that every five years an ambulance can be replaced.
- M. Stefanko stated that the appropriations committee could make a change in two years if there are issues that arise.
- C. Pina responded that two years is a long time and stated that \$10,000 would be spent over the next month due to new equipment required by New York protocol.
- J. Burger mentioned working with CU-EMS during the CPR training during Cornell swim tests. She stated this origination serves to provide true health and safety around campus.
- J. Selig asked about the risk of putting a greater amount of money in CU-EMS.
- C. Lazar talked about the cost of a new truck being \$60,000.
- There was a motion to **Call the Question**. The Byline Funding **failed** by a vote of 11-6-1.

- Assembly moved back into discussion
- M. Stefanko requested a Point of Information regarding the vote.
- J. Batista stated that in order for the motion to pass, a majority of all Assembly Members are required to vote in favor.
- There was a second motion to Call the Question. The Byline Funding failed by a vote of 11-6-3.
- M. Stefanko stated that the Student Assembly's role was not to undermine the decisions of the Appropriation Committee.
- M. Battaglia requested a Point of Information on the role of the Student Assembly over the Appropriations Committee.
- J. Battista responded that the role of the Assembly is to review the decision made by the Appropriations Committee.
- There was a third motion to Call the Question. The Byline Funding was adopted by the Assembly by a vote of 16-1-1.

## VI. New Business

- Resolution 9 – Extending the Quarter System Review Committee (D. Li, Spencer Nord '17)
  - D. Li and Blake Brown '17 presented on behalf of the committee charged with investigating the use of the quarter system.
  - Being unable to staff the committee until April of 2015, the committee requested to extend their reporting deadline until December of 2015.
  - Student led investigation could be used to view the quarter system relating to the campus and especially Greek Life.
  - There was a motion to move this to business of the day.
  - By a vote of 16-0-0 the motion passed.
  - G. Kaufman asked about picking a chair in executive session.
  - D. Li clarified that the resolution should be amended for this reason.
  - Kaufman motioned to amend line 25 to read “Be it further resolved that the Student Assembly Chair be elected in Executive Session and that Kendal Grant '16 chair this committee as the Greek Co-Chair.”
  - G. Kaufman asked if chairs are always elected in executive session.
  - P. Titcomb stated that this resolution was created in order to stay in tradition with how other committees are chaired.
  - E. Liu motioned to approve the amendment. The motion to amend was approved by a vote of 14-0-1.

- There was a motion to **Call the Question**. The Resolution was **adopted** by the Assembly by a vote of 18-0-0.
- Resolution 10 – Changes to the ALANA Constitution (M. Stefanko, S. Chadhaury)
  - There was a motion to move this item to business of the day.
  - The motion was approved by a vote of 18-0-0.
  - There was a motion to extend the meeting by five minutes.
  - The motion was approved by unanimous consent.
  - S. Chaudhary stated ALANA faced issues related to funding and streamlining funds and costs.
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**. The Resolution was **adopted** by the Assembly by a vote of 19-0-0.
    - There was a motion to adjourn.
    - The motion **failed** by a vote of 4-13-0.
- Resolution 8 – Affirming Learning Style Diversity in Introductory Science Course (G. Kaufman, M. McBride, R. Dunbar, L. Bushner)
  - The Resolution’s sponsors ran a survey to those within introductory science classes and received 182 responses.
  - The results showed a slight movement towards dissatisfaction within these courses.
  - M. McBride stated he believed that students should not be forced to attend study sessions
  - There was a motion to approve
  - Kaufman stated that students don’t like these
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**
  - There was dissent.
  - M. Stefanko stated that there was not enough discussion on this issue.
  - The motion **failed** by a vote of 7-12-0.

J. Batista adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 6:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Peter Biedenweg  
 Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies