



# Cornell University Student Assembly

Ee46

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, October 1, 2015 Meeting

4:30pm-7:00pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

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

- J. Batista called the meeting to order at 4:47pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Batista [0]; L. Bushner [1.5]; M. Chak [0.5]; S. Chadhaury [2]; J. Chessin [0.5]; V. Devatha [0]; R. Dunbar [1.5]; R. Gupta [0]; E. Johnston [0]; S. Karnavat [2]; M. Kasher [0]; G. Kaufman [0]; C. Li [1.5]; D. Li [2.5]; D. Liu [0]; E. Liu [2]; M. McBride [0]; V. Michel [0]; P. Russell [0]; J. Selig [1.5]; K. Zhu [0.5]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* B. Bacharach (Unexcused) [2.5]; M. Ghandour (Excused) [2]; M. Stefanko (Unexcused) [2]; S. Tayal (Unexcused) [3]; P. Titcomb (Unexcused) [2]; R. Uttamchandani (Unexcused) [1.5]

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

- The minutes of September 24, 2015 were approved by unanimous consent.

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

### IV. Announcements and Reports

- Faculty Senate EPC & Prelim Scheduling – G. Kaufman informed the assembly that he would be attending the Educational Policy Committee's meeting tomorrow, Friday October 2, and requested if anyone would like to attend that they speak with him after the meeting.
- National Healthy Campus Award – Ex-Officio and UA Representative M. Indimine and Angelica Cullo '16 announced that Cornell was one of five schools to win the Active Minds Healthy Campus Award healthy minds. With programs like Lets Talk, EARS, and Cornell Minds Matter, Cornell showed that it promoted a healthy environment and deserved the achievement.
- Residential Life – E. Liu spoke about the Residential Life Committee, which deals with manners of campus life and administrative decisions. They are working to establish a

large committee, and she invited members to join her when the committee meets, every Saturday from 10:30-11:30am on West Campus.

#### V. Business of the Day

- There was a motion to move Resolution 12 prior to Byline Funding.
- The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.
  
- Resolution 11 – Charter Change Establishing a Student Health Fee Advisory Committee Liaison and Student Insurance Advisory Committee Liaison (J. Berger, M. Indimine)
  - There was a motion to Call the Question.
  - The resolution was adopted by a vote of 22-0-0.
  
- Resolution 12 – Establishment of Cornell in China Programming Board and Sponsorship by the Student Assembly (E. Liu, M. McBride)
  - This resolution would create a China Programming Board committee that would be funded independently, and would work to create events in China.
  - E. Liu stated she held a previous event at which nearly one hundred individuals attended. This committee would create more events and a sponsorship would allow the chair to have more say over event planning on behalf of Cornell.
  - M. Chak stated she had concerns over the funding, and that students at Cornell would see this as being bias towards Chinese students. She also worried about the chair of the committee being filled after the initial year.
  - M. McBride stated this was a chance to start international programming on behalf of the Assembly.
  - There was a motion to move this to Business of the Day.
  - The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.
  - S. Karnavat asked about the funding, and asked if the resolution should be an international committee.
  - E. Liu stated alumni events already existed, meaning funding is already coming from outside sources.
  - M. McBride stated these events cost money to attend, and that the Assembly could offer these events legitimacy. Chinese are the largest international group
  - V. Devatha asked about the reasons for requesting the Student Assembly's permission, and if this would be disadvantageous to the Assembly in the future.

- D. Li stated this might be unfair to other international groups. She mentioned that events occur in India and other areas around the world, and wondered if it is necessary to have the backing of the Student Assembly.
  - E. Liu stated that this could be a precedent that would lead to further creation of more international groups and events.
  - S. Tayal addressed the resources and brought up that there are 40+ clubs in Asia, which already exist. This might disadvantage other groups and resources around campus. He recommended that E. Liu instead involve herself in other groups that already exist.
  - M. Stefanko stated that although other groups already exist, the Student Assembly should still make a real effort to increase programming. He stated this resolution advances international causes at very little cost to the Assembly.
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
  - There was dissent.
  - M. Ghandour stated that although the points brought up by M. Stefanko were convincing, there was still a greater discussion to be had.
  - The motion was **withdrawn**.
  - E. Liu stated she spent her summer in Beijing and that no events were occurring around her. She believes that having an Assembly member on an international group's Eboard would grant the Assembly more sway over events held and decisions made.
  - There was a motion to table the resolution.
  - The resolution was **tabled** by a vote of 21-0-0.
- Byline Report: Alternative Breaks
    - M. Stefanko stated that Alternative Breaks requested to maintain \$1.50 through the next two years.
    - There was a motion to **Call the Question**. The Byline Funding was **adopted** by the Assembly by a vote of 23-0-0.
  - Byline Report: Community Partnership Funding Board (CPF)
    - M. Stefanko stated that CPF asked for \$2.00. The Appropriations Committee believed that there was a slight rollover from the past, but the committee did not believe this would continue and approved the amount.
    - There was a motion to **Call the Question**. The Byline Funding was **adopted** by the Assembly by a vote of 23-0-0.

- Byline Report: The Environmental Collaborative (ECO)
  - M. Stefanko stated that ECO requested \$0.76. The Appropriations Committee believed this request was an appropriate amount.
  - There was a motion to **Call the Question**. The Byline Funding was **adopted** by the Assembly by a vote of 22-0-1.

## VI. New Business

- Resolution 13 – Enhancing the Layout of Duffield Atrium (J. Selig, E. Liu)
  - This Resolution recommends that the College of Engineering increase and improve the tables and chairs in Duffield Atrium.
  - B. Bacharach asked if the sponsors have talked to Duffield management. He further inquired why this resolution was not a project under the Infrastructure Fund Committee.
  - E. Liu stated that she had talked to the head of Duffield Atrium, and that they had created new ideas about how to maximize the use of the space.
  - There was a motion to table.
  - The resolution was **tabled** by unanimous consent.

## VII. Questions and Answer Session with President Garrett and Vice President Lombardi

- President Garrett and Vice President Lombardi discussed running a strategic plan in relation to the findings of the Association of American Universities Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct.
  - Q: Samari Gilibert '17 asked that the emphasis on diversity and where this university sees itself going in the coming years.
  - A: President Garrett stated that diversity is strength on this campus. She acknowledged that although she is new to the university, she still wants to address the issues of all diverse groups.
  - A: VP Lombardi stated that he heard many issues relating to diversity during his own interview process, and stated that he wanted to focus on supporting open dialogue.
  - Q: UA Chair & Ex-Officio member M. Battaglia asked about tuition costs and supporting middle class families with a high tuition high financial aid system.
  - A: President Garrett stated that she would like to work on securing access to education for all people. Programs like Engaged Cornell have played a role in keeping the community involved. Furthermore, President Garrett stated keeping Cornell's programs strong and working to make sure students leave with a low debt were challenges worth pursuing.

- Q: Jevan Hudson '16 asked about student resources and how the University plans to grow programming around campus.
- A: President Garrett stated that increasing visibility and resources are two of her main concerns.
- A: VP Lombardi responded that working to further understand the allocation of resources around campus, and speaking with members of campus to determine where extra needs are necessary will be his goal over future years.
- Q: D. Li asked about relationships between faculty and students.
- A: President Garrett stated there is an effort in the Faculty Senate to look at relationships between students and those with authority over them. She defined three positions: A full ban, a conflict of interest law, and a conflict of interest but full of ambiguous difficulties.
- Q: Emily Dong '18 asked what the conclusion of discussions would look like.
- A: President Garrett stated that bystander involvement is a large part of campus safety and is an action, which goes a long way.
- A: Vice President Lombardi stated that he wished to find out what to prioritize around campus.
- Q: V. Devatha asked about specific legislation that President Garrett and Vice President Lombardi have in mind.
- A: Vice President Lombardi stated that these decisions should be made in the future after he and President Garrett had adjusted to the campus.

J. Batista adjourned the meeting to a Campus Roundtable on Climate for Sexual Assault with VP Lombardi at 6:03pm.

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