



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, January 26th, 2016 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in WSH Memorial Room

I. Call to Order

- J. Berger called the meeting to order at 4:47pm.
- *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Berger; T. Celestin; N. Chovanec; D. Cox; V. Devatha; E. Dzodzomenyo; R. Herz; A. Iglesias; M. Indimine; A. Issur; M. Kasher; J. Kim; L. Lipschultz; D. Liu; T. Magloire; J. Montejo; R. Musto; H. Reichel; W. Rong; J. Selig; M. Valadez; E. Vargas; A. Viswanathan; Y. Wang;
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* N. Jaisinghani (Unexcused); D. Li (Excused); H. MacDiarmid (Unexcused); M. McBride (Unexcused);

II. Oath of Office

- Clouse Lee took the Oath of Office as a Representative of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the December 1st, 2016 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Open Microphone

- The new Dean of Students Vijay Pendakur introduced himself to the Student Assembly and looked forward to meeting and working with the members personally.

IV. Discussion with University Ombudsman

- Ombudsman Charles Walcott and Director of the Ombudsman Office Linda Falkson introduced themselves to the Assembly. They shared details about the office, which has been around for forty-five years, and serves as a safe, comfortable space on campus to talk about problems. The office is independent of the administration and specializes in dealing with issues of fairness and empowering students and faculty. They usually focus with non-academic staff issues, but have seen a recent rise in undergraduates. The Office is confidential except in times of eminent danger or under a subpoena.
 - Rep. Musto asked about the data presented and if the speakers knew the number of freshman specifically. He wanted to see an increase in advertising for freshman students.
 - Linda Falkson stated that they did not know the data because of confidentiality, but they were attending orientation events and were sharing information with new students.
 - UA Rep. G. Kaufman requested that in case of subpoenas, the office should work to not take down any unnecessary information about those who used the service.
 - T. Celestin suggested that the Office look to diversify their staff similarly to Gannett.
 - Rep. Kim asked how the Ombudsman differed from Counseling.

- Linda Falkson stated that the office focused more on legal rights and interpersonal help, but they refer individuals to CAPS as well.

V. Announcements and Reports

- President Berger stated that on Sunday at 1:00 the Assembly would hold its first restructuring meeting and requested the attendance of all members.
- Rep. Reichel announced that the Dining Committee would hold its first meeting this semester on February 14th in Martha's. Last semester the Dining Committee finalized a project to allow students to use their meal swipes at several locations around the campus over February break, with the possibility of extending the program to spring break. Additionally, she stated Annabel's Grocery was planning to open by April. The store would be stocked with only essential foods. She stated that the Board was looking to bring on two people with fundraising and purchasing experience.
- Rep. Devatha reminded the Assembly about the Ideation session on Sunday from 7:00-9:00pm.
- VP Indimine stated that on Saturday at 1:00pm there would be a welcome lunch for transfer and FISA students. Additionally, on February 7th there would be a Welcome Vijay event at 5:00pm in the Memorial Room.
- VP Montejo announced that the Diversity committee would be meeting next Wednesday at 8pm to discuss the logistics of splitting the committee into two groups. The Diversity Committee would now be separated into a Diversity Plan and Report Group and the Diversity Conference Working Group. The Plan and Report Group would help By-Line organizations push for more diversity inclusive events during the next By-Line cycle. The Diversity Conference Working Group, would work to plan a conference for after spring break, specifically for teaching diversity training.
- UA Rep. Kaufman reported that the new housing lottery system would go into effect this semester. Freshmen would now be able to block with up to six people, and blocking would be chosen before the time slots were known, helping to eliminate forced group dynamics on West Campus. You would now be guaranteed to live within your block, which was not the case previously, and there would no longer be a benefit to blocking in a larger group. This entire change would hopefully reduce stress and make the rooming process easier. He requested that members speak to him personally with any remaining questions.
- Parliamentarian Barbaria, Chair of the Academic Policy Committee, spoke about Rep. McBride's Resolution 25 which was tabled at the previous meeting. He requested input from anyone interested at the next Academic Policy Committee meeting, where a vote would be held.

VI. New Business

- Resolution 27: Approving the Spring 2017 Standing Rules
- The sponsors discussed the changes they made to the Standing Rules.
 - UA Rep. Kaufman spoke about how under Robert's Rules it would be possible for a two-thirds of the Assembly to remove any person from the meeting.
 - There was a motion to strike lines 76-78.
 - By a vote of 20-0-2 the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 20-0-2 the Standing Rules were approved.

VII. Semester Planning

- Rep. Liu led an exercise creating ideas for the semester.

J. Berger adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies