



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, February 4th, 2016 Meeting

4:45pm-6:30pm in Physical Science Building 401

I. Call to Order (J. Batista)

- J. Batista called the meeting to order at 4:47pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Batista [1]; M. Chak [3]; S. Chadhaury [2.5]; J. Chessin [0.5]; R. Gupta [2.5]; S. Karnavat [4]; M. Kasher [0]; G. Kaufman [0]; C. Li [3.5]; D. Li [4.5]; D. Liu [0.5]; M. McBride [0]; V. Michel [2]; P. Russell [0.5]; J. Selig [2.5]; M. Stefanko [5]; S. Tayal [4.5]; K. Zhu [3]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* B. Bacharach (Unexcused) [3.5]; L. Bushner (Resigned); V. Devatha (Excused) [4.5]; R. Dunbar (Unexcused) [3.5]; M. Ghandour (Unexcused) [5]; E. Johnston (Unexcused) [1.5]; R. Uttamchandani (Resigned)

II. The minutes of December 3rd, December 4th, and January 28th, were **approved** by unanimous consent.

III. Announcements and Reports

- Slope Day Programming Board's President, Samantha Batt, and Vice President, Chloe Chan, announced Walk the Moon and Cash Cash as the performers for this year's Slope Day on May 12th. They detailed that the North West gate would be disability accessible, and CU Lift would offer rides for permanently disabled students. They were additionally hoping to partner with food trucks. In choosing the artist they had close to 6,700 online survey responses, and also held a forum where 60 attendees showed up. They took into account whether artists would be inclusive to the Cornell community. Tickets they announced, would be available on March 15 at 9:00am through CornellConcerts.
- M. Henderson announced that a special election for the 2015-2016 year would be held for the Arts and Sciences, LGBTQ, Engineering, and Hotel Administrative representative positions. He requested that any interested community member direct questions to himself or the Office of Assemblies.
- G. Kaufman motioned to challenge the Executive Committees decision to reject his proposed Resolution 37.
 - G. Kaufman stated his resolution would have asked President Garrett to elect members of the community or assembly to her created committees. The student assembly's Standing Rules allowed the Assembly to override the decisions of the Executive Board by a 2/3rds votes.
 - J. Battista stated that the view of the Executive Board was that the resolution

- would overstate the roll of the Student Assembly. She informed the Assembly that students were already elected by Deans to certain committees.
- M. Battaglia stated that the Dean's choices were from the Dean's perspectives, but that these choices lacked the same goals of shared governance. He believed students needed to have a greater say and gave the example of students in the past having served in the selection of Cornell's President.
 - E. Johnston stated that the entire Executive Board voted against the resolution. She believed the goal of the Student Assembly was to have student opinion heard in Administrative decision making. With representatives already not attending their own liaison positions, requesting more positions for members seemed excessive to her. She would prefer students tied to their college's advisory board attending committees.
 - M. McBride stated he would not want the Assembly to overrule the Executive Board's decision.
 - M. Stefanko proclaimed that the goal of representatives was serving their constituents first and foremost, and that this resolution would move the Assembly in the wrong direction.
 - There was a motion to Challenge.
 - There was dissent.
 - By a vote of 8-10-0 the motion to call the question failed.
 - G. Kaufman stated that there were only four undergraduate students appointed to ten created committees. He amended his original resolution, allowing any student to serve as an appointed committee member, and wanted to see students appointed to the committees selecting the Dean of the Hotel School, the new Dyson School, and serving in shared governance liaison positions.
 - J. Chessin was in full support of student involvement and the idea of appointing students, but requested G. Kaufman reach out to Deans and speak with administrators beforehand.
 - Y. Bhandari informed the Assembly that President Garrett's committees were for short-term decisions.
 - G. Kaufman expressed that the current discussion was about overturning the decision of the Executive board. He requested that members who wanted to discuss the possible appointment of students to committees vote in favor of overturning the Executive Board's decision.
 - S. Tayal believed that Yamini and J. Battista did not fully represent student's interests. He was in favor of increasing the Assembly's presence in the shared governance system.
 - There was a motion to vote.
 - There was a motion for a roll call vote.
 - There was dissent.
 - M. Ghandour stated that it was ineffective to Roll Call vote.
 - By a vote of 3-12-1, the motion to roll call vote failed.
 - By a vote of 8-6-3, the motion to challenge failed.
- Bystander Trainings for Student Groups - EVP Johnston, UA Representative Indimine.
 - The sponsors were working on bystander training with specifically byline funded groups as well as other groups. They were hoping to positively affect the campus environment. They chose four common topics facing students: Alcohol Training with Cayuga Watcher, Diversity and Inclusion against Micro-Aggressions, Mental Health, and an optional one on sexual assault which Gannett had a program for.

- M. Battaglia informed the Assembly that when requiring byline funded groups to attend events, they need to make a public notice and make the GPSA aware of such events.
- R. Gupta stated that the sexual assault seminar by Gannett was only a fifteen-minute session in which information was put forward in a way that was neither interactive nor engaging.
- K. Zhu suggested the sponsors reach out to help fix Gannett's current program.
- M. Indimine stated that the Violence Against Women Act of New York requires Gannett by law to make group leaders attend events such as the one mentioned by K. Zhu and R. Gupta.

IV. Business of the Day

- There was a motion to move Resolution 34 and 36 to the top of the agenda together. The motion was **approved** unanimously.
- Resolution 34: Updating the Student Assembly Standing Rules
- Resolution 36: Attendance Policy
 - M. Stefanko stated that there was an amendment made to the policy on attendance. The new rule would make it so that 2/3 of the Executive Board was necessary to remove a member from the Student Assembly who had reached the maximum number of absences.
 - M. Battaglia thought the new amendment was a good change, especially placing the Director of Elections as the chair during a vote. He motioned to amend § 3 Rule 11 to read "...presented as an initiative, *the Assembly by a majority vote of members present may override the decision of the Executive Vice President.*"
 - M. Stefanko stated that this amendment would create excessive debates between the EVP and representatives over legislation that the EVP placed under Initiatives.
 - S. Chaudhary believed that taking power away from a single individual would be a good choice.
 - There was a motion to vote.
 - By a vote of 7-9-0 the motion **failed**.
 - S. Chaudhary motioned to amend § 3 Rule 11 to read "...presented as an initiative, *by a simple majority vote.*"
 - J. Battista stepped down from chair. She stated that the goal of the EVP was to set the agenda and the role of initiatives is so cut down on time.
 - There was a motion to vote.
 - By a vote of 0-15-1 the motion **failed**.
 - J. Chessin motioned to amend § 2 to read "Rule 8: The Vice President of Internal Operations can request documentation for proof of absence."
 - By a vote of 19-0-0 the resolution was **amended**.
 - J. Berger motioned to amend line 14 of the resolution to add "and 8."
 - By a vote of 19-0-0 the resolution was **amended**.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - By a vote of 19-0-0 Resolution 34 was **adopted**.
 - There was a motion to table Resolution 36.
 - By a vote of 19-0-0 Resolution 36 was **tabled**.
- Resolution 29: Improving Academic Advising
G. Kaufman and K. Zhu stated the Academic Policy Committee was in favor of changing the language, and requested the resolution be tabled or sent back to the Student, Educational Policy Committee.

- J. Chessin advised the sponsors to ask students about their personal advising experiences.
- K. Zhu stated that with Cornell being so large, each school controls their own advising protocol, but they would try to reach out to hear student's opinions.
- P. Russell asked what the final recommendation might try to express.
- G. Kaufman stated that the Faculty Senate and its Educational Policy Committee has no power over the advising protocol throughout the University.
- Y. Bhandari asked what the roll of advisors was.
- There was a motion to send Resolution 29 back to committee.
- By a vote of 18-0-0 the motion was adopted.

J. Battista adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 5:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies