



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, February 25th, 2016 Meeting
4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

I. Call to Order (J. Batista)

- J. Batista called the meeting to order at 4:48pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* D. Barbaria [0]; J. Batista [1]; N. Billington [0]; S. Chadhaury [2.5]; J. Chessin [1.5]; V. Devatha [4.5]; R. Dunbar [3.5]; M. Ghandour [4.5]; M. Indimine [0]; M. Kasher [0]; G. Kaufman [0]; J. Kim [0]; C. Li [4.5]; D. Li [4.5]; D. Liu [1.5]; M. McBride [0]; J. Selig [3]; S. Tayal [4.5]; K. Zhu [3.5]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* B. Bacharach [4.5]; M. Chak [5]; R. Gupta [3.5]; E. Johnston [2]; S. Karnavat [5]; V. Michel [3]; P. Russell [2.5]; M. Stefanko [6]

II. Oath of Office

- Nelson Billington (Hotel Adm.), Matt Indimine (LGBTQ+), and Jung Won Kim (Arts & Sciences) took the Oath of Office.

III. Open Microphone

- Joseph Friedman '17 updated the Assembly on the creation of an Open Source Evaluation System working group. He was working under a Provost and worked with many Associate Deans, and wanted to assure Assembly members that there was a group that they could reach out to to gain insight from.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes of February 18th were approved by unanimous consent.

V. Announcements and Reports

- Director of Elections: Elections - M. Henderson stated that there were 24 available positions open for the Spring Election. He updated the Assembly that the deadline for the referendum process (placing a question on the ballot) was Tuesday March 1st at midnight.

VI. Initiatives

- Big Red Change Website
 - Shea Belsky '18 presented on the creation of a student initiative website oriented at Cornell students that would allow for community feedback of campus issues. The website allowed students to create and sign petitions using their NetIDs. If an issue got 200 signature, the results of the proposal would be posted on the website.

- V. Devatha congratulated Shea on the website and asked about how the website could best create discussion.
 - Shea Belsky stated that the goal was to get feedback on issues, and that representatives could use the information however they liked.
 - M. Ghandour asked how Big Red Change was different from the Referendum Process, and if there was room for collaboration.
 - Shea Belsky hoped that Big Red Change would address and discuss the largest campus issues.
 - J. Selig recommended that an email be sent to Assembly members when a petition reached 200 signatures.
 - The sponsor agreed, and stated that an email would be easy to implement.
- SA Composition Survey - Minority Liaison At-Large Representative Chaudhary and Freshman Representative Liu.
 - The sponsors worked with the Office of Assemblies to address a gap in information about the composition Assembly members and committees.
 - B. Bacharach asked if the goal of the survey would be working to encourage more diversity throughout student government. He additionally thought that they should continue surveying members to find out more about club involvement and other areas of student life.
 - D. Liu was in agreement, and stated future surveys would be easy to implement.

VII. Business of the Day

- Resolution 36: Attendance Policy
 - There was a motion to table to resolution.
 - By a vote of 15-3-1 Resolution 36 was **tabled**.

VIII. New Business

- Resolution 41: Increasing Sustainability of Lighting Within the Memorial Room.
 - G. Kaufman spoke about replacing the incandescent light bulbs in the memorial room to florescent or LED bulbs. With the campus focused on carbon neutrality, he wondered how far the Assembly wanted the resolution to expand. He knew the administration was in the process of converting all of Cornell's light bulbs, but sought to create a resolution that reminded Cornell Facilities of certain priorities.
 - M. Battaglia stated that the switch would amount in thousands of dollars in savings each year, which would pay for itself in the near future.
 - There was a motion to move the resolution to business of the day.
 - The motion was adopted.
 - M. Kasher stated that Cornell would be switching all bulbs to Florescent LEDs by the end of the year, and that the university was a third of the way there.
 - Trustee Bhandari thought that the resolution could have been resolved through outside meetings.
 - M. Battaglia believed the resolution was good for the publicity it raised, and additionally helped solidify a plan.
 - J. Chessin asked about the brightness of LED lights and especially the dimness of Memorial Room.
 - D. Liu was wondering about the necessity of the resolution.
 - G. Kaufman stated that it was good to show student support on the prioritization for lighting the hub of student life.

- M. Battaglia stated that changes could be made to mirror the lighting in the room.
- There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
- There was dissent.
- G. Kaufman stated he did not want to vote on the Resolution as it stood.
- By a vote of 5-12-0 the motion **failed**.
- S. Tayal asked the sponsors to make amendments, or if they would not, he wanted to see the resolution passed.
- G. Kaufman stated that if representatives had not more comments or possible amendments he would be happy to vote on the resolution.
- There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
- By a vote of 16-1-1 Resolution #41 was **adopted**.
- Resolution #42 Calling for Implementation of Open Syllabi
 - G. Kaufman and the Academic Policy Committee wanted students and faculty both on board to push for more class information. In order to provide class syllabi information professors would have to choose to opt-in. Additionally, some professors would prefer only allowing Cornell students access to the documents.
 - There was a motion to move the resolution to business of the day.
 - The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.
 - J. Chessin recommended that the sponsors work on incentivizing faculty support.
 - G. Kaufman stated that faculty would have a strong incentive, because classes with open syllabi would attract more students, and professors are paid by the number of students per course.
 - S. Tayal questioned what would be a good place to upload the syllabi. He suggested the Cornell Website or over Blackboard.
 - J. Kim stated that they were hoping to include a link on each class's page next to the discription. They additionally would try to create a system that would only allow for NetID login.
 - D. Barbaria stated that they may also look to include syllabi in the Course Roster.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - By a vote of 20-0-0 Resolution #42 was **adopted** with two community votes in the affirmative.
- Resolution #43 Elections Committee Vacancies
 - M. Henderson stated the resolution appointed Connor Riser and Maha Ghandour to fill vacancies on the Elections committee.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - By a vote of 17-0-1 Resolution #43 was **adopted**.
- There was a motion to adjourn.

J. Battista adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies