



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, March 24th, 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 4:49pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* B. Bacharach [4.5] D. Barbaria [0]; J. Batista [2]; N. Billington [0.5]; J. Breuer [0]; J. Chessin [1.5]; W. Choi [0.5]; V. Devatha [4.5]; R. Dunbar [4.5]; C. Hodges [0]; E. Johnston [2]; S. Karnavat [5]; M. Kasher [0]; G. Kaufman [0]; D. Li [4.5]; D. Liu [1.5]; M. McBride [0]; P. Russell [2.5]; J. Selig [4]; M. Stefanko [6]; S. Tayal [5.5]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* S. Chadhaury [3.5]; M. Ghandour [5.5]; S. Gilbert [1]; M. Indimine [1]; J. Kim [1]; V. Michel [4];

II. Open Microphone

V. Announcements and Reports

- Elections Updates –Director of Elections Henderson stated that elections rules would begin revisions starting Wednesday April 6th and requested suggestions.
- University Assembly – Representative Kaufman mentioned the Codes and Judicial Committee would be amending the Campus Code of Conduct.
- Outreach Requirements & Restructuring Forum – E. Johnston requested representatives continue to attend outreach events. Additionally, she noted a restructuring forum would be held following the Assembly’s next meeting on April 7th.

VI. Initiatives

- Academic Policy Committee - Philosophy, Politics and Economics Minor (V. Devatha, J. Kim)
 - V. Devatha the creation of a new Arts and Sciences minor, which would have a gateway course and require eight courses in total for fulfillment.
 - M. Stefanko asked which schools had a similar minor. He also asked the sponsors what they were considering making the minimum number of courses in each subject to fulfill the minor.
 - V. Devatha stated that they were requesting two courses in each subject at this point, but they would consider changing this.
 - There was a **Point of Information** as to whether there were any other minors which required eight courses.
 - J. Batista stated the Economics as well as the International Relations minors required nine courses. She suggested the sponsors reach out to the new Dean of Faculty.

VII. Business of the Day

- There was a motion to swear in Won Choi.
 - Won Choi read the Oath of Office

 - Resolution 49: Reducing Academic Work Assigned Over Break (J. Selig, D. Barbaria, G. Kaufman)
 - The sponsors requested the Faculty Senate strongly enforce their Resolution 8 (AY 2010-2011), which discouraged faculty from assigning work over designated breaks.
 - There was a motion to amend to add Justin Selig to the list of sponsors, strike “and” from line 29, and add after line 37, “Be it therefore resolved, that the Student Assembly recommends that the Faculty Senate establish an ongoing reporting system for faculty members who violate this policy, and that this reporting system be housed within the Office of the Dean of Faculty; and”.
 - G. Kaufman explained how he had met with the Acting Dean of Faculty, and also heard suggestions for the creation of this type of resolution from the Faculty Senate’s Education Policy Committee.
 - J. Batista requested that the sponsors additionally communicate the resolution to the Acting Dean of Faculty.
 - By a vote of 19-0-1 the resolution was amended.
 - By unanimous consent the Resolution was brought to Business of the Day.
 - There was a motion to amend line 39-41 to read, “Be it Finally resolved the Student Assembly request the Dean of Faculty respond to this resolution within thirty days.”
 - There was a motion to vote.
 - By a vote of 19-0-1 the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 22-0-0, with two community votes in the affirmative, Resolution 49 was approved.

 - By unanimous consent Resolution 40 was brought to the top of the agenda.

 - Resolution 40: Usage of the Student Assembly Surplus
 - M. Stefanko stated that the Assembly maintained a \$39,000 surplus. He stated that there had been informal discussion about how to spend the surplus, and following the discussion created this resolution to aid the Students Helping Students Fund, the Cornell Social Consultants, the Diversity Innovation Fund, and establish a pilot program supporting underfunded resource centers.
 - G. Kaufman requested the sponsors explain the Social Consultants in more detail.
 - M. Stefanko stated the Social Consultants were similar to a group at Yale, which aimed at discussing healthy positive relationships. Cornell’s Social Consultants received much of their funding from within Gannett, and with \$2,500 over the next three years, he believed this monetary addition would provide the organization with the ability to create additional educational events.
 - M. Battaglia asked why only Graduate Students would be eligible for the Student and Campus Life Fellowship Program.
 - M. Stefanko explained that graduate students would be better prepared compared to undergraduate students for filling a major role on campus, and the fellowship would prepare them for very specific work in related fields.
 - R. Dunbar asked which resource centers would be provided funding.
 - M. Stefanko stated upon speaking with VP Ryan Lombardi the sponsors gained
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more insight into which centers required support. This fellowship would fill gaps related to centers who were losing funding from the administration.

- By unanimous consent the resolution was moved to Business of the Day.
 - M. Stefanko stated the campus fellowship program would receive \$15,000 but it would also involve a great amount of communication and accountability over the next two years from representatives to create what they would like to see.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - There was dissent.
 - G. Kaufman stated that the speakers list was not exhausted.
 - By a vote of 16-2-1 the motion to vote was approved.
 - By a vote of 20-0-0 Resolution 40 was **adopted**.
- Resolution #50: Revision to Appendix B of the Student Assembly
 - M. Stefanko stated that the current state of the resolution was not finalized, but that he wished to convey the revised version of Appendix B in the future. Broadly Appendix B created restrictions over how Appendix A would fund Byline groups. One amendment would involve better enforcement over group funding, relating to rule violations and fines. The second main point was changing all Byline funded groups leadership to make them student led. §3 would not undergo changes, but M. Stefanko believed the Assembly should further discuss funding to conference attendance. He believed funding was about providing for the local community. A non-discrimination funding procedure, where a group would stop receiving funding if it was applied in a discriminatory manner was added. CUtonight would additionally be enabled to decide if they want to require events to be non-alcoholic.
 - J. Chessin asked about §3 G. related to appointing non-SA representatives to groups, additionally he requested that the Assembly add language relating to the Student Union Board's decision to restructure the Willard Straight Hall's Memorial Room reservation policy by removing all historically reserved groups including the Student Assembly.
 - M. Stefanko stated that funding cuts would be the only way to retaliate against the SUB, but he was morally apposed to this idea.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was moved to Business of the Day.
 - G. Kaufman stated that three other additional organizations had reached out to the Assembly in regards to the reservation policy. He requested that the Assembly try its best to maintain a single space and make it accessible to all students.
 - M. Stefanko believed it would be wrong for the SA to control WSH.
 - C. Hodges requested that in §2 A. every time "should" arose, it should be changed to "shall", as future interpretations might be misunderstood.
 - M. Stefanko believed this issue did not seem to drastically miscommunicate intent.
 - Dean Hubbell stated that the power of the purse was central to the WSH issue. It seemed to him that the funding was a central part of the Assembly's power and it could be used if necessary.
 - E. Johnston believed it might be challenging to only allow the SA to have assured space. With WSH being the only place on campus with free reservations, paid for by the student activity fee, E. Johnston saw it as unfair to all other Byline groups.
 - D. Liu asked about the state of Cornell Cinema's funding.
 - M. Stefanko stated that he would continue to try and compromise on the issue of them playing too many movies with poor attendance.
 - S. Tayal believed WSH's role was changing. As a by-line organization leader he believed the prioritizing of organizations at certain venues meant a loss of equality.

- He wished to see renting costs addressed at another time.
- R. Dunbar declared the SA represented all students on campus, and thus it should receive the room. He further questioned why Outdoor Odyssey was required to conduct a demographics review during the 2016-2018 cycle.
 - M. Stefanko stated that the group historically was overrepresented on trips by white, tri-state area males.
 - E. Johnston stated the survey was for understanding how much of the funding was going to create unequal funding for white upper-class males.
 - R. Dunbar asked about why this survey was only for Outdoor Odyssey, and not other organizations.
 - M. Stefanko stated that it would be inappropriate to fund programs that would only support white males.
 - M. Kasher asked about the review costs, and additionally suggested that Outdoor Odyssey attendance may be related to factors unrelated to race.
 - N. Barbaria suggested that the tri-state area would obviously see greater representation due to the demographics around New York and Cornell, as well as the demographics of those willing to take outdoor trips away from home.
 - There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - By unanimous consent Resolution 50 was **tabled**.

- There was a motion to adjourn.

J. Batista adjourned the meeting at 6:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies