



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, April 21st, 2016 Meeting

4:45pm-6:30pm in Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room

I. Call to Order (J. Batista)

- E. Johnston called the meeting to order at 4:46pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* B. Bacharach [5.5]; D. Barbaria [0]; N. Billington [0.5]; J. Breuer [1]; J. Chessin [1.5]; V. Devatha [4.5]; R. Dunbar [4.5]; S. Gilbert [3]; M. Indimine [1]; E. Johnston [2.5]; S. Karnavat [5]; M. Kasher [0]; G. Kaufman [0]; J. Kim [1.5]; D. Li [4.5]; D. Liu [2.5]; M. McBride [0]; V. Michel [5]; P. Russell [2.5]; J. Selig [4]; S. Tayal [5.5]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* J. Batista (Unexcused) [4]; S. Chadhaury (Unexcused) [4.5]; W. Choi (Unexcused) [1.5]; M. Ghandour (Unexcused) [5.5]; C. Hodges (Unexcused) [1]; M. Stefanko (Unexcused) [6];

II. Open Microphone

- Kurt (Riley) Fritjofson '16 said on Friday April 29th his band would be hosting a performance in Klarman Auditorium at 9pm. The eight-piece band would be performing from Kurt's album *Kismet*, which received positive reviews from *The Daily Sun* and other newspapers. Tickets could be purchased online for \$10.
- P. Biedenweg updated the Assembly on library rental equipment fees. He met with Wendy Wilcox, Cornell's Access Services Librarian, about ways to mitigate the \$1/minute late fee. He asked the Assembly to suggest questions to be used to survey students and better understand the challenges associated with rental policies.

III. Announcements and Reports

- a. SA Strategic Plan – P. Russell was working on creating a master document containing the types of resolutions and initiatives students were working on. He believed the process would take a long time, but wanted to collaborate with as many representatives and students as possible on May 3rd, at 5:00pm to build an initial repertoire.
 - b. Attendance – VP Internal Operations McBride explained, to promote operational transparency, how the Assembly's Executive Board voted that missing a meeting's first or final fifteen minutes would not constitute a half absence. He was concerned that different standards were now being applied, because this new procedure was decided mid-year, and negatively affected past members, who received absences under stricter guidelines.
 - J. Berger clarified that missing executive sessions would still count as an absence.
 - M. Ghandour believed that because the Charter allowed the Executive Board to make such decisions, the change was just. She additionally believed it was most important that members stay active in the community, whether or not they arrive five minutes late to a meeting.
 - c. International Students on Campus – S. Tayal promoted the Give for Beth campaign, which would fund both student scholarships and colon cancer research. Additionally, he stated ISU
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was working on a photo campaign supporting international students. Finally, S. Tayal stated that he had spoken with the new International Representative and VP Lombardi to work on building better support and creating a relationship.

d. Common Curriculum Committee & College of Business Undergraduate Synergy Committee – N. Billington stated the Common Curriculum Committee was working to determine if a diversity requirement was an important addition to colleges. He also stated within the College of Business Undergraduate Synergy Committee there was a push to maintain a sense of individuality between the College of Hotel Administration and the College of Business.

e. GPSA, University Assembly, SA R29: Housing Lottery – G. Kaufman stated that the GPSA met Monday, electing their internal representatives. Additionally, Dara Brown was elected the new Graduate Student trustee. He stated that the UA confirmed a new JCC, as well as a new Judicial Administrator. Finally, G. Kaufman expressed how SA R29, the housing lottery resolution, which he initially expected to go into effect in five years, may go into effect fall 2016.

f. RAW Expo – S. Karnavat informed the Assembly that on April 29th, AAP would be hosting RAW EXPO, and event showcasing designs and projects from students in all seven colleges.

IV. Gorge Safety Committee

- The Gorge Safety Committee Chair, Todd Bittner and Aastha Wadhwa '17, the committee's undergraduate representative, discussed goals of education, enforcement, alternatives, and infrastructure around the gorges and gorge swimming. They showed a new educational video and further discussed how the committee offered guided hikes, and were continuing to provide educational programming. The sponsors requested that the Assembly Representatives promote their video and website: Gorgesafety.cornell.edu.
 - M. Henderson asked when the Cascadilla Trail would open.
 - Todd Bittner stated that the trail was undergoing stair renovations, but should be open in no more than two weeks.
 - V. Devatha recommended that the sponsors work to promote gorge safety during orientation.
 - M. Stefanko suggested the sponsors look to create a shorter video that would provide students with quicker information on gorge safety.
 - The sponsors stated that the video was four minutes long because they attempted to provide information on alternative ways to experience the gorges.
 - M. Kasher again suggested the sponsors look for multiple ways to provide both emotional and informational aspects of gorge safety.

V. Initiatives

- Cornell Make (Representative J. Selig, Brendan Elliott)
- J. Selig presented on behalf of the Cornell Maker Association, a new university-wide initiative designed to build student collaboration on personal projects. He witnessed a disconnect between students who wanted to build projects and open spaces. The initiative was undertaken to provide tools, people, workshops, and the overall chance to connect and build projects. The sponsors were working with Slope Studio, Popshop, also in Mann Library to create spaces for electronic and mechanical projects. They recently launched their website Cornellmake.com, where one could upload current projects looking for support and other students could search for interesting projects.
 - M. Battaglia stated groups like E-Hub and also entrepreneurial groups who were looking for space to use would be helpful resources.
 - J. Selig stated he had reached out to the community and planned to collaborate.
 - V. Devatha asked about long term sustainability.

- J. Selig stated the sponsors were working in part with the Diversity and Innovation fund, Life Changing Labs, and the Dean of Research in Cornell Engineering, and that as long as funding continued the group would be able to continue.

VI. New Business

- Resolution 52: Quarter System Review Committee Report (D. Li)
 - The sponsors were working to see how the Quarter System could be used to promote better alcohol safety.
 - There was a motion to more the resolution to Business of the Day
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - By a vote of with two 23-0-0 with two community votes in the affirmative Resolution 52 was **adopted**.
- By unanimous consent Resolution 56 was moved to the top of the agenda.
- Resolution 56: Approving the Fall 2016 Election Rules
 - M. Henderson stated that the Election Rules underwent revisions every semester. He expressed that this semester there were few changes. One idea not introduced was for yearly revisions, with the main benefit being reduced conflict of interests (individuals who changed the rules one semester could not use these changes for their benefit in an election the next semester). The election committee amended the rules to explicit state one could not hold simultaneous positions on the UA and SA, and removed text that was redundant and in the Charter.
 - J. Chessin asked about Article I. B's language: Using "New Transfer Seat".
 - G. Giambattista asked about Article III. D. Tabulation voting.
 - M. Henderson stated that these were both examples of redundancy, as the Charter's language already clarified the seat was only eligible to new transfers, and that voting would occur through tabulation.
 - M. Henderson believed the document should stay on the floor for consideration until the end of the Assembly's session.
 - There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - By a vote of 18-0-0 Resolution 56 was **tabled**.
- Resolution 53: Updating the Charter
 - The sponsors, J. Berger and M. Stefanko discussed changes to the Charter. They were considering amongst other changes, adding a liaison to the Student Health Plan Advisory Committee, not allowing attendance policy changes after the second meeting of the session, changing Appedix A, and no longer having to send internal resolutions to the president.
 - M. Battaglia was concerned about member vacancies caused by attendances and that the process of removal was not affecting members who were elected to serve the following term.
 - There was interest in making Election Committee meetings open to the public during challenges.
 - M. Henderson considered the idea, but was opposed to non-committee members speaking at the meetings.
 - M. Indimine declared he would be working to increase byline funding deadlines for groups with extenuating circumstances.
 - M. Stefanko believed that if the extenuating circumstances were defined very

- specifically he would entertain an amendment.
 - S. Tayal believed Gannett visits and exams should not be considered as an absence.
 - N. Billington asked about the Readership Programs choice of newspaper.
 - M. Stefanko stated that unlike the New York Times, extra USA Today copies were not charged to the Assembly. He suggested N. Billington follow up if he had further suggestions.
 - Gina Giambatista asked about applications for Byline Funding. She wanted to make sure that the policy was followed quickly.
 - M. Stefanko stated that the VP of Finance needed to be diligent in terms of making sure the office put materials up during off-years, as he worried the VP of Finance would be responsible for any issues groups raised about not having the application easily accessible or early enough, to fill out by the deadline.
 - J. Chessin asked if the Appropriations Committee had discretion over the number and location of newspapers.
 - M. Stefanko stated newspapers were delivered proportionally, and he recalled that the placement of newspapers was not easily altered.
 - J. Berger requested discussing these measures before the next byline cycle.
 - G. Kaufman stated that the West Campus Living Learning Council no longer existed. He wanted to discuss why the Assembly needed a 2/3rds vote, not only a majority, to overturn the Appropriations Committee's funding decisions.
 - M. Stefanko believed that the Appropriations Committee's role designated by the Assembly was to make more informed financial decisions.
 - There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - By a vote of 18-0-0 Resolution 53 was **tabled**.
- Resolution 54: Updating the Bylaws
 - The sponsors clarified that the proposed amendments clarified the roles of officer positions, struck the number of outreach events, and removed the delegation section because they delegates no longer operated under the Assembly.
 - G. Giambatista asked about the election of the Director of Elections. She further asked about internal elections and executive sessions.
 - The sponsors stated they would work to redefine the position. As well, the executive sessions were further defined in the amendments.
 - There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - By a vote of 19-0-0 Resolution 54 was **tabled**.
- Resolution 55: Updating the Special Rules
 - The sponsors explained amendments to committee procedures, proxy voting, liaison appointments, and creating a list for ad-hoc committees and procedures.
 - B. Bacharach wanted to further discuss the role of FARC within the assembly.
 - M. Kasher agreed, and also hoped the Assembly would reconsider the makeup of the Infrastructure Fund.
 - G. Kaufman asked about delegating power to the Assembly's President for committee appointments.
 - The sponsors believed the process currently was efficient and effective.
 - J. Batista agreed that it was better to grant the president the authority to quickly appoint a student to a committee, rather than miss the opportunity because of rules regulating appointments.
 - G. Giambatista asked about including wording motivating committees to post meeting summaries onto the Dashboard.

- There was a motion to table the resolution.
- By a vote of 18-0-0 Resolution 55 was tabled.

- There was a motion to adjourn.

J. Batista adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies