



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, August 25, 2016 Meeting

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

### I. Call to Order (J. Berger)

- J. Berger called the meeting to order at 4:47pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Berger [0]; N. Billington [0]; T. Celestin [0]; N. Chovanec [0]; V. Devatha [0]; R. Herz [0]; A. Iglesias [0]; M. Indimine [0]; A. Issur [0]; M. Kasher [0]; D. Li [0]; D. Liu [0]; M. McBride [0]; J. Montejo [0]; H. Reichel [0]; W. Rong [0]; J. Selig [0]; Y. Wang [0]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* E. Vargas [0.5]

### II. Oath of Office

- All present Student Assembly members took the Oath of Office.

### III. Open Microphone

- George Tsourounakis '18 spoke about Best Buddies, a campus group dedicated to building relationships for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He invited to assembly to join and invite other students to participate, stating participation could be bi-weekly.

### IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the May 5, 2016 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

### V. Announcements and Reports

- Fall Elections – Director of Elections M. Ghandour stated that there were ten open seats needing to be filled on the Assembly. She requested members continue reaching out to the Cornell community to create contested elections, in order to make sure the most qualified candidates fill the seats.
- Forum with OSC – EVP M. Indimine announced that on Friday September 2nd, an open forum would be held to meet Dean of Students candidates in the Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room from 1:30-2:30pm.

### VI. Business of the Day

- Resolution 1: Approval of the Fall 2016 Standing Rules (D. Barbaria, M. Indimine)
  - The sponsors stated proposed amendments to the previous Standing Rules included imposing a new absence system whereby arriving late but in the first fifteen minutes warrants a quarter absence, and missing the first fifteen minutes warrants a half absence. As well, discussion can be closed with 60 percent of present SA members

voting in the affirmative.

- There was a motion to strike the proposed amendment on line 27.
  - D. Barbaria stated that voting a member off of the Assembly requires two-thirds of Assembly members as stated in the Student Assembly Charter.
  - There was a motion to vote on the amendment.
  - By a vote of 13-2-2 the resolution was amended.
  - There was a motion to amend line 247 to state, "Discussion can be closed by a 2/3rds vote of SA members present."
  - There was a motion to vote on the amendment.
  - By a vote of 6-8-2 the amendment failed.
  - There was a motion to Call the Question.
  - By a vote of 13-0-2 the Standing Rules were adopted.
- Resolution 2: Bylaw Changes (M. Indimine, H. Reichel)
    - The sponsors talked about the proposed amendments. The first change would affect the Committee on Dining Services, and would clarify the committee's goals. They additionally made changes to the membership eligibility, allowing students to become a committee member by attending three consecutive meetings, and being voted in.
    - M. McBride found some of the language of the Committee on Dining Services unclear, such as when the chair's decision may be overturned.
    - Y. Wang believed that the description on the Committee on Dining Service went into too much detail. He suggested more general committee descriptions.
    - There was a motion to table the resolution.
    - By unanimous consent the Bylaws were tabled.
  - Resolution 3: Approval of the 2016-2017 Operating Budget (D. Li, M. Indimine)
    - The sponsors clarified that the Assembly's budget cut the technology committee by \$500, due to excessive funding the previous year. Additionally, due to the off cycle, smaller projects are under consideration this year.
    - G. Kaufman requested the Election Committee receive more funding for outreach.
    - M. Ghandour spoke about how the Communication Committee used less than one thousand dollars the previous year, and thus believed the election costs would likely consist of a similar amount.
    - There was a Point of Order over each committee's spending last year.
    - The estimated costs were Administrative: \$7825.75, Executive: \$437.03, Communications: \$618.28, Initiatives: \$2125.77, Appropriations: \$2170.36, Technology \$754.84, Elections \$1,840.95, Diversity \$3764.80 (\$2,500 to the diversity innovation fund.), Special Projects \$2369.07 (\$1,200 to Ezra Box.).
    - M. Indimine clarified that the budget could be adjusted throughout the year.
    - A. Iglesias asked if committees were able to request money from the special projects fund.
    - D. Li stated this was possible.
    - Brian Murphy clarified the Student Assembly's spending varies greatly each year.
    - Y. Wang stated that the Appropriations Committee acted much more stringently when looking at club funding, and asked how the Communications Committee could be funded at four times the amount of last year's spending.
    - D. Li stated that historically the Assembly funded itself where it assumed money would be spent.
    - G. Kaufman stated that if fifty four individuals ran for twenty seven seats, appropriating the election committee an allocation of \$4000 would grant each

- candidate \$75 to run.
  - R. Herz believed that no matter the decision some committees would receive excessive funds. She suggested the discussion move towards which committees deserved funding.
  - D. Li suggested that half way through the year the Assembly review their funds.
  - H. Reichel believed that funding would be best spent to incentivize committees to fully expend their resources.
  - M. Ghandour suggested the resolution be tabled, in order for committee chairs to reflect on where funding historically was spent and to get an idea of expectations.
  - There was a motion to amend the operating budget to reallocate the funds as thus: Administrative: \$2,000, Executive: \$900, Communications: \$1,200, Initiatives: \$2,500, Appropriations: \$2,500, Technology: 1,250, Elections: \$2,000, Diversity: \$2,000, Special Projects \$14,280.
  - W. Rong believed that this amendment granted excessive power to whoever manages the special project fund.
  - D. Liu recommended that the initiatives allocation be at a higher level.
  - M. Kasher believed committees should receive a greater amount of funding due to the role of the EVP and VP of Finance's control over the special project fund.
  - There was a motion to vote on the amendment.
  - There was dissent.
  - By a vote of 13-3-2 the motion to vote on the amendment was adopted.
  - By a vote of 6-10-1 the amendment failed.
  - There was a motion to table the Operating Budget.
  - By unanimous consent the motion was tabled.
- There was a motion to adjourn.

J. Berger adjourned the meeting at 6:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies