



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, September 15, 2016 Meeting

4:45pm-6:30pm in WSH Memorial Room

I. Call to Order

- J. Berger called the meeting to order at 4:45pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Berger [0]; T. Celestin [0]; N. Chovanec [0]; V. Devatha [0]; R. Herz [0]; A. Iglesias [0]; M. Indimine [0]; A. Issur [0]; M. Kasher [1]; D. Li [0]; D. Liu [0.25]; M. McBride [0]; J. Montejo [0]; H. Reichel [0.5]; W. Rong [0]; J. Selig [0]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* E. Vargas (Excused) [0.25]; Y. Wang (Unexcused) [1]

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the September 8, 2016 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Open Microphone

- Brian Murphy from the Office of the Assembly reported that Referendum 30, which asked, "Should pads and tampons be available free of charge to students in all bathrooms on campus?" passed the threshold to be placed on the next election ballot.
- Nate Rodgers introduced himself as President of the GPSA. He hoped that the two assemblies would work together on resolutions throughout the school year. He requested assembly members reach out to him for support and gave his NetID - NGR27.

IV. Announcements and Reports

- VP Finance Li updated the Assembly on the appropriations committee. Additionally, she met with Cornell Concert Commission and the Slope Day Programming Board. The Board informed her that an extra \$20,000 could not bring in any bigger artists. Instead, D. Li suggested the additional funding go to a Bartels Concert in the spring.
- Rep. Celestin stated that on Saturday, September 24 at 11:00am, The Africana center would be commemorating the takeover of Willard Straight Hall in 1969 and the destruction of the original Africana Studies building through a panel discussion. Additionally, at the same time, Cornell University would hold a commemoration ceremony at the site where 320 Wait Avenue once existed, acknowledging the destruction of the original Africana offices.
- Rep. Kasher announced that the Schwartz Center was undergoing renovations, and they would be hosting a meeting on September 21st from 5:30-7:30 at St. Luke's Church to discuss suggestions.

V. Initiatives

- Open IDEO - H. Reichel and Pamela Chueh explained their group Open IDEO which existed to host events and bring people together to solve social impact problems. The past weekend they hosted a workshop with students to gain insight into the problem of food

waste. They suggested that this type of process could be used for other social, environmental, and policy issues around campus.

VI. New Business

- Resolution 8: Requesting the Restoration of the Economics Department's CPT Policy
 - The sponsors discussed their resolution, which sought to reconsider the Economic Department's decision to remove the Curriculum Practical Training work authorization for international students. International students use CPTs to circumvent federal laws that require them to leave the country if they are not attending school. OPT is the other type of authorization available, which allows for an extended visa, but to be approved by the Department of Homeland Security the internship must be related to your major. Following approval of an OPT, students can apply for the H1B visa.
 - A. Issur stated the Economics Department is removing the authorization because they think it abuses the system to allow international students to pursue an independent study under a work visa. He stated that requiring students to produce a 6-7 page paper on the internship experience would be a positive change within the department.
 - A community member estimated close to eighty students in the Economics department would be affected by this change. She stated that because the Economics major is not part of STEM, it would mean many students would have to return to their home countries.
 - VP Montejo was concerned about the number of applicants to the College of Arts and Sciences from international students if this policy continues.
 - There was a motion to amend line 157 to read, "Be it finally resolved the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences will hold a meeting with the Economics department chair and Economics Director of Undergraduate Studies along with student leaders to discuss this issue."
 - By a vote of 14-0-0 the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to amend the resolution to add line 150 to read, "If the university follows through with the CPT policy the Economics department should state on their website that if international students are planning to major in the department, it is unlikely they will be able to intern in the U.S., and even less likely they will be able to get a job after graduation."
 - Rep. Wang believed this type of amendment was unnecessary.
 - Rep. Celestin also believed the resolution should be about changing the policy and not about making the department worse.
 - The amendment was withdrawn.
 - A. Issur stated that he hoped to table the resolution to have a member of the Economics department discuss the policy change at the following meeting.
 - There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - By a vote of 15-0-0 Resolution 8 was tabled.

- Resolution 9: Charter Updates
 - The sponsors stated that they wished to make an additional change to the Charter regarding attendance.
 - There was a motion to strike part of line 28 to read, "...whenever the three cumulative absences mark is exceeded."
 - By a vote of 14-0-1 the Charter was amended.
 - There was a motion to table.
 - By a vote of 15-0-0 the Charter was tabled.

- Resolution 10: Elimination of the Residential Life Committee
 - The sponsors introduced the resolution and explained their desire to simplify the Assembly's committee structure.
 - There was a motion to strike lines 16 through 18 beginning at “and the issue oversight...”
 - By a vote of 15-0-0 the resolution was amended.
 - A. Iglesias believed that the committees would be evolving and that they were moving in the right direction.
 - There was a motion to table.
 - By a vote of 15-0-0 Resolution 10 was tabled.

- There was a motion to adjourn.

J. Berger adjourned the meeting at 6:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies