



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, September 22, 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]; 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]; Y. Wang [1]
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* R. Herz (Excused) [0]; E. Vargas (Unexcused) [0.25]

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the September 15, 2016 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Open Microphone

- Kimberly Anderson (KAB94) the Residential Director of Balch Hall spoke about the Energy Smackdown Competition, which began this week, and hopes to promote water sustainable behavior in face of Ithaca's drought. The competition allows faculty, staff, graduate, and undergraduate students to compete individually or in teams of two, sharing photos of themselves accomplishing weekly challenges, such as using hot water sparingly. The competition ends on October 31st. Additionally whichever dorm hall reduces their water usage the most compared to last year's usage for the month of October will receive a post midterm global food fest.

IV. Announcements and Reports

- H. Reichel announced and invited students to Ithaca's Streets Alive!, this Sunday, September 25th from 1-5pm on S. Plain St. and Clinton St. The event is open to every type of non-motorized vehicle.
- M. Kasher thanked those who went to the Schwartz Center design forum. She stated the design firm in charge would be presenting two ideas on October 26th at the Schwartz Center at 5:30pm.
- M. Indimine stated the Assembly would be undergoing a restructuring process in three weeks. He requested students submit comments to StudentAssembly@cornell.edu.
- V. Devatha read the following statement, "Class Councils is planning a fall festival on the Arts Quad on October 22nd from 12-3pm. Fall Fest will be a collaborative event amongst various student groups on Cornell's campus to foster bonds and promote student engagement. Each student group will have a table at fall fest where they will sponsor a fall themed activity, and have an opportunity to tell students more about their organizations, due to limited space at club fest this year. It will be similar to Applefest in the commons." In

addition, he stated one member of the Assembly is needed to table the event.

- J. Berger stated Vijay Pendakur was named Cornell's new Dean of Students starting on January 3rd 2017.
- D. Li spoke on behalf of the Appropriations Committee. This week they saw CPF, Alana, and ISU. Li went over the group's funding. If this were a Byline year CPF would receive decreased funding, based on previous spending, and lack of minority representation on their Board and at Events. Alana would stay at their current level of funding. ISU would receive an increase.
- J. Montejo stated that she and T. Celestin were open to receiving feedback related to the recent incident involving Cornell's retweet.
- T. Celestin stated that on Saturday, September 24 at 11:00am, the University would be commemorating the destruction of the old Africana center at 320 Wait Avenue, where it once existed.

V. Business of the Day

- Resolution 8: Requesting the Restoration of the Economics Department's CPT Policy
 - The sponsors stated that last week they tabled the resolution in order to talk to faculty.
 - The Chair of the economics department was glad the Assembly brought this issue to his attention. He stated that they were aware of the problem with the CPT policy and that they would be readjusting the policy in the near future.
 - There was a motion to withdraw the resolution.
 - By a vote of 15-0-0 Resolution 8 was **withdrawn**.
- Resolution 9: Charter Updates
 - The sponsors stated this charter change would remove a mistake in the Charter's attendance policy.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - By a vote of 13-0-1 the Charter was **adopted**.
- Resolution 10: Elimination of the Residential Life Committee
 - The sponsors would move the RLC into the Health and Wellness Committee because they had overlap with Resident Student Congress.
 - Joseph Anderson '20, believed the Residential Life Committee should be moved to the Health and Wellness Committee due to the Health and Wellness Committee's jurisdiction over many of the issues facing students in dorms. Residence Halls are often a place where diseases are spread, and he believed the Health and Wellness Committee was the best avenue to address these problems.
 - G. Kaufman suggested waiting until the University began updating the University's housing master plan. Such as adding new dorms on north campus where the soccer fields are. People are not interested because they don't know.
 - M. Kasher stated Health and Wellness could have a subcommittee on housing and resident halls, however she believed the Residential Life Committee covered more than just student health.
 - A. Iglesias stated the Residential Life Committee worries about student health, but also infrastructure. Therefore, he believed the Residential Life Committee should remain a separate entity.
 - R. Wang said he supported the elimination of the Residential Life Committee because the Residential Student Congress covers the same jurisdiction.
 - D. Barbaria stated that the Residential Life Committee was only active for one semester,

- and asked the sponsor what the Committee accomplished.
- M. McBride stated the Committee worked on the housing lottery system, West campus air conditioning, and residential training.
 - J. Montejo discussed that the City and Local Affairs Committee along with all other committees addressed the same issues as the Residential Life Committee. Therefore, she did not believe it necessary to have the Residential Life Committee.
 - V. Devatha stated the issues relating to residential life were limited, and because CLAC and other Committees often overlap he did not find it necessary to maintain an individual committee.
 - G. Kaufman believed Ad-Hoc committees could address specific concerns. He did not believe the elimination of the Residential Life Committee should reflect a belief that there are not issues to face in residential life.
 - There was a motion to amend lines 37-39 to read, “Furthermore, the Student Assembly review committees reserve, can, and should exercise at their discretion legislative authority over residential life policies of the University. When exercising this authority, review committees are recommended to consult the Residential Student Congress of Cornell. Be it finally resolved that the Student Assembly revisit this policy at the beginning of the next semester in discussion with the Residential Student Congress.”
 - There was a motion to vote on the amendment.
 - By a vote of 15-0-0 the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to remove lines 12-13 and 20-29.
 - By a vote of 13-1-0 the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to table.
 - By a vote of 11-2-0 Resolution 10 was tabled.
- Annabel’s Grocery Forum - Adam Shelepek (aws223) and Elizabeth Gorman (ewg29).
 - The sponsors updated the Assembly on the renovation process of Annabel’s Grocery Store. The store plans to be the first student run, not-for-profit grocery store in the nation.
 - The sponsors stated that due to a gap in budget, their estimates rose around \$100,000, or 30-40%. Nevertheless, through GPSA funding, and other financial sources they solved this funding gap. They planned to open the grocery store in late February. Given pressing concerns about addressing food insecurity, they will be having food builds over longer breaks, to address the more pressing issue.
 - G. Kaufman wanted to know why the store was delayed four times.
 - The sponsors stated that multiple delays, relating to faulty advice and design proposals, and construction issues which were unforeseeable arose. Additionally, Cornell Engineering Facilities, who were in charge of the construction, operated separate from the administration and were difficult to manage. The sponsors stated all the delays were external to the project managers, and as the end date gets closer, they would have a better sense of the timeline.
 - J. Selig asked about Greenstar’s new store and potential competition.
 - The sponsors stated that their costs would be much lower than Greenstar’s, as they served a separate market.
 - D. Li asked how the Student Assembly could help move the project forward.
 - The sponsors said that the Assembly could communicate to the campus about food security events.
 - A Hindu community member said certain religious students did not want meat in a building of worship.
 - The sponsors said that they would not be selling pork, and only a small number of meat

products.

- There was a motion to adjourn.

J. Berger adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies