



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, September 29, 2016 Meeting

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

I. Call to Order

- J. Berger called the meeting to order at 4:47pm
- *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Berger [0]; T. Celestin [0]; N. Chovanec [0]; D. Cox [0]; E. Dzodzomenyo [0]; R. Herz [1]; A. Iglesias [0]; M. Indimine [0]; A. Issur [0]; N. Jaisinghami [0]; M. Kasher [1]; J. Kim [0]; D. Li [0]; L. Lipschutz [0]; D. Liu [0.25]; H. Macdiarmid [0]; T. Magloire [0]; M. McBride [0]; J. Montejo [0]; R. Musto [0]; W. Rong [0]; J. Selig [0]; M. Valadez [0]; A. Viswanathan [0]; Y. Wang [1];
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* V. Devatha (Excused) [0]; H. Reichel (Excused) [0.5]; E. Vargas (Excused) [0.5];

II. Oath of Office

- The newly elected members of the Student Assembly took the Oath of Office.

III. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the September 22, 2016 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Open Microphone

- Professor Charlie Van Loan, Dean of Faculty spoke about SA'15 Resolution 57: Towards a More Inclusive Learning Experience, which related to faculty diversity training. He stated the resolution was being reviewed in Senate committee, and would hopefully be voted on by November or December. Also on the Faculty Senate's agenda was a resolution to rename the Cornell Plantations. Dean Van Loan mentioned the Senate's plan to hold faculty-student forums on trigger warnings in January. Finally, he discussed the Academic Calendar and requested two undergraduates to serve on a committee working on the University's schedule.
- M. McBride asked about the Cornell Librarian Search Committee, and if Dean Van Loan would be open to having a student serve in the group.
- Dean Van Loan said that the committee already had been established, and believed the makeup could not be redone.
- Parliamentarian Barbaria asked about the requests of SA'15 Resolution 60: Adjusting the Cornell Academic Calendar. He wondered if the Senate was considering the resolution's request for a total of four undergraduates on the Faculty Senate's Calendar Committee.
- Dean Van Loan believed two undergraduates were enough given the challenges of scheduling.
- Y. Bhandari asked about the specifics of SA'15 Res. 57, and the Senate's role.
- Dean Van Loan stated the Senate was looking for ways in which the faculty could benefit and learn about diversity issues.

- T. Celestin asked about trigger warnings, and how the forum would be managed.
- Dean Van Loan said the forum was in response to the University of Chicago's announcement for students to have no expectations regarding triggers. He was hoping to have a discussion, which educated both faculty and students on what Cornell's expectations should be.

IV. Announcements and Reports

- VP for Finance D. Li stated the Appropriation Committee saw Cornell Cinema and would have voted to maintain their current level, because the Cinema would not be able to continue functioning without paying a head projectionist. The committee also contemplated granting all students digital access to the New York Times, while maintaining a few hard copies around campus.
- W. Rong invited members to visit the Johnson Museum, as well as watch the movie *Angkor Awakens: A Portrait of Cambodia* in the Cinema on Monday, October 3rd.
- R. Herz announced the University Assembly's discussion around their Charter rules regarding the removal of members from the University Assembly. She also said the Slope Day Executive Board would be holding forums to discuss potential artists on October 5th and 19th in Klarman Auditorium.
- J. Berger welcomed the eleven new members of the Student Assembly. She also stated that Referendum 30 received 78.6 percent approval, and would be communicated to President Rawlings.
- A. Iglesias talked about the Health and Wellness Committee's goals. The committee was planning to work with the Skorton Center to host a training on resilience for students on October 15th.

V. Initiatives

- A. Iglesias updated the Assembly on tobacco regulation on campus. He stated the University Assembly's Welfare Committee and the Student Assembly Health and Wellness Committee were working together to get student input on the issue.

VI. Business of the Day

- Resolution 10: Elimination of the Residential Life Committee
 - The sponsors discussed how the current form of the resolution would assure that the Assembly maintains authority over residential life matters.
 - There was a motion to amend lines 4-5 to strike "and move its authority to the Health and Wellness Committee."
 - By unanimous consent Resolution 10 was amended.
 - There was a motion to amend line 32 to add, "Be it resolved, the Vice President of Internal Operations, at the discretion of committee chairs, will engage applicants to the Residential Life Committee in other capacities in the Student Assembly or through the Residential Student Congress."
 - By a vote of 21-1-2 Resolution 10 was amended.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 22-2-1 Resolution 10 was adopted.

VII. New Business

- Resolution 11: Charging an Ad-Hoc Committee with Investigating Student Assembly Membership Reform.
 - The sponsors discussed how the resolution arrived out of a discharge petition of more than fifty percent of voting Assembly members. They favored the resolution because they

believed no single person should be in charge of restructuring, and Ad-Hoc committees are often created for the purpose of investigating long-term issues.

- A. Iglesias was not sure about if an investigation was necessary. He believed the student assembly should not restructure itself, and instead grant the authority to an outside group.
 - M. Kasher requested having more non-SA members of the Ad-Hoc committee. She believed the specific makeup of the committee would make it difficult to find members. She also asked about the chair of the committee being the VP for Internal Operations.
 - There was a motion to amend line 42, to strike, “SA Vice President for Internal Operations,” and add, “Voting member elected by the Student Assembly.”
 - By a vote of 19-1-2 Resolution 11 was amended.
 - A. Issur stated that including students who have run for the Student Assembly in the committee makeup would provide a useful perspective.
 - M. Indimine believed the Ad-Hoc committee could not speak for the entire student body.
 - A. Issur stated the committee would only do research into the Assembly’s structure, and provide feedback. Their goal was not about creating a final plan, but to create an open discussion.
 - Paola Rojas ’17 believed that even if the structure of the Ad-Hoc committee was not encompassing all students, the committee needed to speak to all minority groups on campus.
 - G. Kaufman stated that currently, the only way a new Assembly structure could reach the floor of the Assembly was through the seven members of the Executive Committee. He believed this was the bigger issue affecting the representation of the Cornell Community.
 - M. Indimine announced that in two weeks a restructuring forum would be held, at which any community member could discuss their ideas.
 - D. Liu stated that this resolution would only approve an investigatory committee. He believed having a group tasked with reaching out to different communities would be helpful to the Assembly, even if the makeup of the committee were still up in the air.
 - There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - By a vote of 12-11-1 Resolution 11 was tabled.
- There was a motion to adjourn.
 - J. Berger adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies