



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, October 20, 2016 Meeting

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

I. Call to Order

- *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. Jaisinghani [0]; M. Kasher [1]; L. Lipschultz [0]; D. Liu [0.25]; T. Magloire [0]; M. McBride [0]; J. Montejo [0]; R. Musto [0]; H. Reichel [0.5]; 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]; J. Kim (Excused) [0]; D. Li (Excused) [0]; H. MacDiarmid (Unexcused) [0]; E. Vargas (Excused) [0.5];

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the October 13th, 2016 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Senior Leader Climate Action Group Report

- The director of the Campus Sustainability Office, Sarah Zemanick, and the Communications and Integration Manager, Sarah Brylinsky, discussed the recently released *Report: Options for Achieving a Carbon Neutral Campus by 2035* under the Cornell University Senior Leaders Climate Action Working Group. They explained that the report outlined the risks and possibilities of pursuing the goal of reaching carbon neutrality. The report investigated different ways of reducing carbon, and laid out ten solutions for reaching the same goal of 100% reduction of Cornell's carbon footprint. Financial breakdowns for each plan could be viewed at Climateaction.cornell.edu.
- G. Kaufman asked if the low returns on endowments would affect how the campus moved forward with its goal of Carbon Neutrality by 2035.
- The sponsors recommended G. Kaufman submit his question to the upcoming forum on October 31st from 5:00-6:00pm in Lewis Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall.
- A member of Climate Justice Cornell asked about funding and guarantees that the costs would not come at the expense of financial aid for students.
- The sponsors stated that there were real costs to pursuing climate change, but they hoped to find funding from other sources.

IV. Open Microphone

- Zoya Gonzalez '20 stated that she was discontent over the last Assembly meeting, specifically because a large portion of time was delegated to the Cornell Veterans, instead of community members hoping to discuss Resolution 12. She also requested that election results be disseminated in a more proactive way, rather than through an obscure website portal.
- Lena Ransohoff '17 speaking on behalf of Cornell's new Sober House requested that the Sober

House be included in the Assembly's next newsletter, and also invited members of the Assembly to a house warming party from 4:00-6:00 pm on October 26th.

V. Announcements and Reports

- VP McBride – Reiterated that changes were hopefully going to be made to reflect judicial violations on transcripts.
- EVP Indimine stated that Paul Russell would be chairing the Policy Research and Planning Committee.
- Rep. Reichel iterated that on Tuesday October 25th, the Dining Committee would be having their first event, Menus for Change in Oakenshields. She also announced that Risley's dining hall was now gluten free. Finally, Rep. Reichel announced Bear Necessities would begin serving local bread from Ithaca Bakery.
- VP PR Liu stated the Communication Committee was working on an initiative labeled ninety-nine problems which
- Brian Murphy stated Half Baked was going to be held Friday October 21st at 7:30pm at E-Hub - 409 College Ave in College Town. He hoped to discuss community concerns and ideas which lacked sufficient solutions at the event.
- Rep. Herz stated the Cornell Concert Commission had tentatively agreed to give \$20,000 to Slope Day Programming Board. She also talked about the Slope Day breakfast, which provided great benefits to the community, but would cost \$12,000. Gannett offered to pay \$1,000-\$2000, but the Board needed additional funding, and was looking for other ideas.

VI. Business of the Day

- There was a motion to move Resolution 14 to the top of the agenda.
- Resolution 14: Thanking and Celebrating President Emeritus Frank H.T. Rhodes.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - By unanimous consent Resolution 14 was **adopted**.
- Resolution 11: Changing and Ad-Hoc Committee with Investigating Student Assembly Membership
 - There was a motion to amend Resolution 11 to include all of Resolution 12's language on line 25.
 - M. Kasher believed that both resolutions should be discussed, however, she favored keeping the resolutions separate.
 - A. Viswanathan stated that he preferred keeping the resolutions separate because they dealt with different timelines, and he believed Resolution 12 should be passed prior to Resolution 11.
 - M. Valadez believed the resolutions could work hand in hand. However, she felt that Resolution 12 should be discussed first because the sponsors of Resolution 12 had not discussed their own ideas.
 - R. Wang believed the resolutions should be voted on together, because it was the best way to discuss both resolutions at the same time.
 - The sponsors of Resolution 12 stated they were hoping to pass Resolution 12 inside of Resolution 11 because it added requirements to restructure the Assembly.
 - A. Issur stated the sponsors of both resolutions agreed on the need of a committee because a group would be necessary to create a formal recommendation at the end of any forums.
 - G. Kaufman stated that before the first amendment was passed, additional amendments could be added, only requiring the support of half of present Assembly

members.

- D. Liu asked about the upcoming forums and if they could be changed
 - J. Montejo was concerned with creating ways to promote the forums.
 - D. Liu asked about having a much more fluid structure regarding dates.
 - There was a motion to amend lines 34, 35, and 38-39 of Resolution 12 to read, “...recommendations to studentassembly@cornell.edu or any member of the Student Assembly or its Executive Board...”, “...student body at least one-day prior to a forum.”, “...an open forum held prior to Thanksgiving Break at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
 - By a vote of 23-0-0 the amendment was amended.
 - M. Kasher believed that if a forum and committee were authorized at the same time, the committee would require a much longer time to be created than a forum, and worried about the committee member’s attendance at the forums.
 - There was a motion to amend Resolution 11.
 - By a vote of 17-4-2 the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to amend Resolution 11 to strike from line 30, “the sole responsibility of”.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to amend line 30 to read “directing restricting outreach effort, compiling research by seeking feedback and data from the student body, and collecting recommendations made both by the committee and other community members”.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to strike from line 54 “after two forums”.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to amend the Title of Resolution 11 to read “Empowering All Students in the Restructuring of Student Assembly and Charging an Ad-Hoc Committee with Investigating Student Assembly Membership Reform.”
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to amend line fifty of Resolution 11 to read, “six community members”.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - The sponsors of Resolution 12 said they were now comfortable with Resolution 11 because additional community members were present on the committee.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 18-1-3 Resolution 11 was adopted.
- 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