



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, December 1st, 2016 Meeting
4:45pm-8:30pm in Rockefeller Hall 103

I. Call to Order

- J. Berger called the meeting to order at 4:48pm.
- *Present at the Roll Call:* J. Berger; N. Chovanec; D. Cox; V. Devatha; E. Dzodzomenyo; R. Herz; A. Iglesias; M. Indimine; A. Issur; M. Kasher; J. Kim; D. Li; L. Lipschultz; D. Liu; T. Magloire; M. McBride; R. Musto; H. Reichel; W. Rong; M. Valadez; E. Vargas; A. Viswanathan; Y. Wang;
- *Not Present at the Roll Call:* T. Celestin (Excused); N. Jaisinghani (Unexcused); H. MacDiarmid (Unexcused); J. Montejo (Excused); J. Selig (Unexcused);

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the November 17th, 2016 meeting were amended.
- The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Open Microphone

IV. Discussion with Provost Kotlikoff

- Provost Kotlikoff spoke about Cornell's housing initiative. He stated that at this point in time, space for both Freshmen and Sophomores on campus was limited. Additionally, yearlong renovations to Balch Hall would soon reduce housing options. Maintenance costs along with requests from College Deans for an increase in student admittance placed the University in a difficult situation. 59% of Sophomores were housed in on-campus housing, with 1,400-1,500 living off campus. There was a goal of creating 1,250-2,000 new beds on north campus to allow for the growth of a greater Cornell Community. However, Cornell lacked the capital to create new 250 million dollar dorms. As Provost Kotlikoff did not want to solve the issue by reducing expenditures for academics, he stated the goal was to increase freshmen admittance by 250-275 students, which would help pay for the cost of the new dorms. Provost Kotlikoff believed that even with Cornell losing ranking, by solving the major housing problem this should not be considered a wrong decision. For initial investments, VP Lombardi was working on building a plan in order to find the best way of raising the 250 million dollars necessary.
- UA Rep. Sarah Park asked how Cornell was involved in Collegetown developments.
- Provost Kotlikoff stated that Cornell was conversing with developers to make sure there would be enough housing for potential new residents.
- M. McBride asked about what may happen to Cornell's US News and World Report ranking if this decision is approved.
- Provost Kotlikoff stated that Cornell was currently tied for 15th, and with this decision Cornell could jump out of the tie and move to 18th.
- A. Issur asked about what kind of new students would be accepted, because only accepting

those students requiring financial aid would not be helpful to paying for the new dorms.

- Provost Kotlikoff clarified that the 250-275 new students would be under the same exact financial aid parameters as other accepted students.

V. Announcements and Reports

- President Berger clarified that members would need to continue working over winter break, and that they should be in contact with members of the Executive Committee.
- EVP Indimine stated the Policy Research and Planning Committee met for a final time this semester and were moving ahead with a survey for the diversity requirement.
- VP Finance Li stated the Appropriations Committee saw the Student Assembly and if it were a by-line year they would receive a decrease in funding. They also saw Club Insurance, which would have maintained their funding level. Finally, they saw the Student Activities Funding Commission and although the organization requested an increase the Committee decided they would maintain their level of funding.
- VP McBride stated that in regards to the attendance policy, factual proof would now need to be shown for absences.
- Rep. Herz stated that the Slope Day Executive Board had reached out to artists and was planning to announce Slope Day's line up in February.
- Rep. Jaisinghani spoke about hosting outreach events for new students next semester, and requested that anyone interested speak to him.
- Rep. Valadez said the First-Generation Student Union started their First Generation Week on Monday, full of events build around fostering support for first generation students.

VI. Initiatives

- SAIFC Projects – Rep. Kasher said SAIFC decided on final projects. They were planning to build murals in Colletown, redevelop a room in MVR, place heaters around high traffic bus stops, install energy producing steps as well as more vending machines, establish more space for dance studios, and find a location for Big Red Bikes.

VII. Business of the Day

- There was a motion to approve the Restructuring Committee.
 - By unanimous consent the slate was approved.
 - Resolution 20 Student Assembly's Support for and Input on "Options for Achieving a Carbon Neutral Campus by 2035."
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote 24-1-0, with two community votes in the affirmative, Resolution 20 was approved.
 - Resolution 21: Approving the Spring 2017 Election Rules.
 - The Election Committee went over the rules and wished to change the reimbursement methods. They looked to increase the reimbursements from \$20 to \$35. Additionally the news rules require members to abstain from any challenges if they or their organizations have endorsed said candidate.
 - There was a motion to reinstate lines 132-149 and line 236.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - There was a motion for a roll call vote.
 - By a vote of 16-4-0 Resolution 21 was adopted.
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- J. Berger, Abstain; T. Celestin, Absent; N. Covanec, Absent; D. Cox, No; V. Devatha, Yes; E. Dzodzomenyo, Yes; R. Herz, Yes; A. Iglesias, No; M. Indimine, Yes; A. Issur, Absent; N. Jaisinghani, Yes; M. Kasher, Yes; J. Kim, Absent; D. Li, Yes; L. Lipschutz, Yes; D. Liu, Yes; H. MacDiarmid, Yes; T. Magloire, Yes; M. McBride, Yes; J. Montejo, Absent; R. Musto, Absent; H. Reichel, Yes; W. Rong, Yes; J. Selig, Absent; M. Valadez, Yes; E. Vargas, No; A. Viswanathan, No; R. Wang, Yes.

VIII. New Business

- Resolution 22: Amendments to Appendix B for Collegiate Readership Changes
 - D. Li stated that changes were made to Appendix B to bring it into compliance with SA-Resolution 16.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - By a vote of 21-0-0 Resolution 22 was **adopted**.

- Resolution 23: Declaring Cornell University a Sanctuary Campus
 - The sponsors believed that the Assembly should approve this resolution to make Cornell a sanctuary space for illegal immigrants in light of the presidential election. They also believed the resolution followed Cornell's value of "Any Person, Any Study".
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - There was a motion for a roll call vote.
 - By a vote of 22-1-0, with two community votes in the affirmative, Resolution 23 was **adopted**.

- J. Berger, Yes; T. Celestin, Absent; N. Covanec, Absent; D. Cox, Yes; V. Devatha, Yes; E. Dzodzomenyo, Yes; R. Herz, Yes; A. Iglesias, Yes; M. Indimine, Yes; A. Issur, Absent; N. Jaisinghani, Yes; M. Kasher, Yes; J. Kim, Absent; D. Li, Yes; L. Lipschutz, Yes; D. Liu, Yes; H. MacDiarmid, Absent; T. Magloire, Yes; M. McBride, No; J. Montejo, Yes; R. Musto, Absent; H. Reichel, Yes; W. Rong, Yes; J. Selig, Absent; M. Valadez, Yes; E. Vargas, Yes; A. Viswanathan, Yes; R. Wang, Yes.

- Resolution 24: Approval of Student Activities Funding Commission (SAFC) Charter
 - The sponsors detailed the proposed changes to the SAFC Charter, which further clarified funding guidelines.
 - There was a motion to **Call the Question**.
 - By unanimous consent Resolution 24 was **adopted**.

- Resolution 25: Request for the Faculty Senate to create a Faculty Diversity Task Force
 - M. McBride discussed how Cornell's Faculty Senate should create an ad-hoc committee to look into expanding the views of faculty. He outlined how a majority of Cornell professors were liberal and created an atmosphere that dismissed conservative viewpoints.
 - R. Wang discussed how for a majority of science classes, historically democratic ideas have dominated the field, and how he would not favor a biology class taught by a creationist.
 - M. McBride stated that a greater diversity of thought would require students to think more critically, and promote greater discussion amongst students.
 - By unanimous consent Resolution 25 was **referred** to the Academic Policy Committee.

- Resolution 26: Request for the Board of Trustees to refrain from adoption the provost's capital plan until further community input is received.
 - The sponsors stated that this resolution requested the Board of Trustees to withhold

- voting on the Provost's capital plan until greater community discussion.
- There was a motion to strike "leaders of" on line fifty.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - By a vote of 20-0-0 Resolution 26 was adopted.

J. Berger adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies