



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, February 16th, 2017 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 Roll Call:* J. Berger [0]; T. Celestin [1.25]; N. Chovanec [0.5]; D. Cox [0]; V. Devatha [2.5]; E. Dzodzomenyo [0]; R. Herz [2]; A. Iglesias [1]; M. Indimine [0]; A. Issur [2.5]; D. Li [0]; L. Lipschutz [1.5]; H. MacDiarmid [4]; T. Magloire [0]; M. McBride [1]; J. Montejo [0.25]; H. Reichel [0.5]; M. Valadez [0]; A. Viswanathan [0]; Y. Wang [2];
- *Not Present at Roll Call:* N. Jaisinghani (Excused) [1.75]; M. Kasher (Unexcused) [2.5]; J. Kim (Unexcused) [1]; D. Liu (Excused) [1.5]; C. Lee (Unexcused) [1.5]; R. Musto (Excused) [2]; W. Rong (Excused) [1]; J. Selig (Excused) [3];

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the February 9th, 2017 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Open Microphone

- Members of the community shared their opinions regarding whether or not a recent incident involving M. McBride constituted a breach of the Student Assembly's ethical conduct clause.
- R. Wang stated that the university had the right to bring a speaker to campus, and he also believed that students had a right to attend and speak about such events without policing.
- G. Kaufman stated that it was against the Campus Code of Conduct to protest indoors, and therefore believed there was no grave misconduct.
- T. Celestin stated that she took issue with restricting the free speech of students.
- J. Montejo stated that the crux of this debate was what it meant to serve as an elected representative of the Student Assembly.
- A community member believed that there had been an abuse of semantic arguments by those already in positions of power, and that the Code should be amended to address this imbalance.

IV. Announcements and Reports

- President Berger said members were not in attendance at the restructuring committee and that to combat this issue a rotating schedule was created.
- VP Li stated the Appropriations Committee funded the lending library to buy textbooks.
- Rep. Herz stated that there was a poster competition for Slope Day which awarded a \$50 gift card to CTB.
- Rep. Reichel stated that the dining halls open over February break would be RPCC and Cook.

V. New Business

- There was a motion to move Resolutions 28 and 29 to the top of the agenda.
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- By unanimous consent the motion was approved.
- Resolution 28: Amending the Class Councils Constitution and Creating the Class Councils By-Laws
 - The sponsors met with the Appropriation Committee to amend the Class Councils governing documents.
 - There was a motion to move the resolution to Business of the Day.
 - By unanimous consent the motion was approved.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 21-0-1 Resolution 28 was approved.
- Resolution 29: Promoting Fair and Humane Labor Practices in Qatar
 - The sponsors spoke about the Qatar government’s continued exploitation of workers and how Cornell’s position as a university operating in the country could allow it to both publicly and privately promote reforms.
 - There was a motion to move the resolution to Business of the Day.
 - By unanimous consent the motion was adopted.
 - There was a motion to amend line 24 to add a quotation mark, and line 36 to remove a superfluous “and”.
 - By unanimous consent the amendment was approved.
 - There was a motion to amend line 56 to read, “the dates of the President’s Council forums; *convened by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and leaders of the other branch campuses in Education City;*”
 - By unanimous consent the amendment was approved.
 - There was a motion to amend line 69 to read, “recommendation that it *allow unionization for all workers at its Education City campus*, recognize legitimate worker...”
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 25-0-0, with two community votes in favor, Resolution 29 was approved.
- J. Berger, Yes; T. Celestin, Yes; N. Covanec, Yes; D. Cox, Yes; V. Devatha, Yes; E. Dzodzomenyo, Yes; R. Herz, Yes; A. Iglesias, Yes; M. Indimine, Yes; A. Issur, Yes; N. Jaishingani, Absent; M. Kasher, Absent; J. Kim, Absent; C. Lee, Absent; D. Li, Yes; L. Lipschutz, Yes; D. Liu, Yes; H. MacDiarmid, Yes; T. Magloire, Yes; M. McBride, Yes; J. Montejo, Yes; R. Musto, Absent; H. Reichel, Yes; W. Rong, Yes; J. Selig, Yes; M. Valadez, Yes; A. Viswanathan, Yes; R. Wang, Yes.
- Resolution 19: Recommending Uniformity in Faculty Laptop Policies
 - The sponsors stated that the only change they made since this resolution was introduced last semester was the use of the word “recommends” instead of “requests” on line 39.
 - There was a motion to strike lines 39-41.
 - R. Wang believed that most of the language being struck was necessary to convey a point.
 - The amendment was withdrawn.
 - There was a motion to strike from line 39-40, “especially in the humanities and social sciences,”
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 23-0-0 Resolution 19 was adopted.

J. Berger adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 6:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg
Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies