



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, February 23rd, 2017 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 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 16th, 2017 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Open Microphone

- Two community members spoke about the actions taken against them from the JA.
- They requested action taken by the Assembly to
- T. Celestin believed
- J. Berger believed that the actions taken by McBride did not violate the ethics clause of the Student Assembly. There were
- By a vote of two-thirds
- There was a motion to have the relevant sections of the charter read regarding the actions
- By a vote of 13-1-5
- Dale read the part of the charter regarding the recall of members.
- The community members believed that although

IV. Announcements and Reports

- M. McBride stated that M. Kasher had resigned but he believed the amount of work she put into
- Reichel Tuesday night sanctuary county resolution was passed.

V. Engaged Cornell Presentation

- The Office of Engaged Initiatives. It favors engaged leadership into a coherent model of change. Dialogues across leadership differences. Four state leadership process, get students involved in on/off campus communities. 20, 40, 80 hours of experience. The certificate requests 2, 4, or 8 engagement opportunities. The certificate is done through a process of learning about the community and taking healthy risks that can lead to successful outcomes.

- M. Indimine asked about data and promotion.
- 60 students in the initial stage. Stage 4 has brought together students from across the U.S. 15 students in the fall, 22 expected in the spring. Inside the classroom there are already 200+ . After students pass the 4th stage students can apply to serve on the steering committee.
- D. Cox asked about how the engaged leadership felt about veteran students.
- The presenter spoke about how the first stage helped orient students to the local community, but they were looking at ways to bring in external experience. With transfers they were very cognizant on being sure that the program could be completed in two years.
- Anyone can apply for stage 1-3 if they have completed a capstone project. Bishop@cornell engagedleadership@cornell. A member of the group can go to organization's meetings and promote their work

VI. Academic Calendar Committee.

- Charlie with the dean of faculty was presenting on the final exam structure. They took into account over 1000 comments and 100 emails. There are two fall calendars, one with a week long thanksgiving break, and one with the standard three day. The Dean looked at past exam schedules going back to 1981. They also looked at peer schools. Cornell has more exam days than the average school. Only three schools have more exam days and only three have more study days. Regarding breaks there are only two schools with a two break spring semester, with Cornell as one. The gap between Thanksgiving and Christmas changes between 26 days and 32 days which means some years will have more and less time.
- The two schools that are most similar are Columbia and Penn, which have a shorter exam period.
- He suggested not worrying about the stress when looking at the calendar. He did not see the placement of breaks as a complete solution.
- V. Devatha asked about the two choices for break.
- The two options were to move February break or keep it.
- H. stated there were four study days plus the weekend. He believed that weekends should not be used for exams.
- Students would rather take weekend exams
- The sponsors stated that
- The Saturday and Sunday exams help balance the number of exams on other days.
- G. Kaufman spoke about Princeton's model of study days before exams.
- V. Devatha asked about believed that taking away study days would be detrimental to student's health. It is hard to study for multiple exams in one or two days.
- Daniel asked about the reduction of the length of winter break.
- 11.5 week summer but there are 12 week for lots of programs over summer. People were unwilling to be orientation leaders because of this. Commencement would have to move
- The winter session question
- Winter session would
- D. Barbara
- It was not a referendum but rather a collection of opinions which would be formulated into a solution.
- R. Wang believed that with more compression there would
- The Dean believed that if there was compression students would pick the classes which fit their schedule best.
- J. Montejo hoped that slope day would be taken into consideration as well as Senior Days.

- A. Viswanathan believed that study days throughout the exam period. He asked what measures would be available to the dean to create a study week without exams due.
- Dean was asking what could be done with wrapping up, which would allow for a wrap up and follow rules, faculty would have to be accountable from syllabi.
- A. Issur stated that many essays were due in the study days, and that it would change the way teachers assign papers if the calendar changed.
- A. Iglesias asked about
- Dean stated that it was all open, you could have days with only one or two exams scheduled.
- The theory was that by using software to calculate the optimum schedule was one way to move forward.
- February break was important to maintain as a break.
- The dean was including questions about faculty abuses in the
- Reichel did not want weekends for study days. She also wanted the dean to pay attention to reviews for architecture.
- Class days plus exam days have to add up to 75.
- H. Case asked about the 24 hour rule regarding no more than two exams. How this would change.
- Most universities have rules against no more than two exams in one day. They have not thought about extending this to say 30 hrs.
- He believed there could be more protocol for faculty to mitigate conflicts with exams for their students.

VII. Update from Anabel's Grocery

- Carrie Cals Junior Co-Director for Anabel's Grocery. She area is now a closed construction zone where a full renovation would
- M. McBride wanted to hear from the Anabel's reps. About what
- Reichel, a rep said that she was keeping tab and was excited to work on programming efforts
- M. Indimine was hoping to open in early April.
- Reichel stated that with the closure of the Synapsis there would be a possibility to move into Anabel's.
- M. Valadez asked what specific details the board looked to keep track of to find out daily operations.
- They would keep track of all financials especially what food would be bought, and the number of students from each years with socioeconomic questions. CJM288@cornell.edu

J. Berger adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies