



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Cornell University Student Assembly

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

### II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

### III. Open Microphone

### IV. Announcements and Reports

- EVP Indimine reminded the Assembly that the Policy Research and Planning Committee was meeting weekly, and would be discussing the PMA department next week.
- Rep. Valadez updated the Assembly on the Financial Aid Review Committee. She explained that the Summer Experience Grant would be going live on Handshake on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The application deadline would be April 19<sup>th</sup>, and applications would be accepted on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Rep. Viswanathan stated the American Red Cross would be hosting blood drives on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-4:30pm in Anabel Taylor, on Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00-3:00pm at Noyes, and on Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-3:00pm in Sage Hall.
- DOE Austin McLaughlin stated that for the spring elections over eighty percent of the election seats would be contested, and there were only three vacant seats, for AAP, First Generation, and LGBTQ+ representative.
  - There was a **Point of Information** over who had the authority to extend the petition deadline for the three vacant positions in the election.
  - A. McLaughlin stated that the Elections Committee, by a majority vote, decided against extending the petition deadline or running a special election this semester. The Committee believed that a special election would increase voter fatigue and be unfair for candidates already running. The Committee decided that they would hold elections in the fall.
  - J. Montejo believed this decision was a disservice to the Assembly. She saw a fall election as prohibitive to those elected to serve on the Appropriations Committee, be appointed liaisons, or serve on the Executive Board.
  - G. Kaufman thanked DOE McLaughlin for setting up the election. He stated that the

previous Student Trustee election would make a special election the third election this semester, and believed this would cause extremely low voter turnout.

- Rep. Reichel stated the number of swipes over February break was up 270% from last year. Seeing the need for an increase in the number of open dining halls, she said that a similar plan would be implemented over spring break.

#### IV. Dragon Day

- The Dragon Day this year carried a message in response to the political climate of America. In the 1920s Dragon Day protested prohibition, in 1954 McCarthyism, and in 1968 the Vietnam War. This year's the architect students, with help from the marching band, were promoting the idea of being loud.
- There was a motion to recommend to the Elections Committee "To overrule the elections rules and to have elections occur for the LGBTQ+, First Generation, and AAP liaisons at large, concurrent with the Student Assembly election, with petitioning until Tuesday at 12:00pm."
- J. Montejo believed that having an election this semester for the unfilled seats was important because the unfortunate circumstances involving the passing of a student meant that some students who would have run were unable to. She also favored a spring election because those elected in the spring would have a better chance of serving on Appropriations Committee, be appointed liaisons, or serve on the Executive Board.
- Austin stated that the date of the election was an independent decision of the election's committee.
- E. Reppy believed it would be difficult to run an election in six days.
- J. Montejo believed this did not disenfranchise candidates who were currently running.
- EVP Indimine stated that every member running would have the same amount of time to run his or her election.
- A community member believed that given that no one ran for these positions, a special election that gave the Elections Committee more time to publicize a second election, would be the best method forward.
- M. McBride believed that the independence of the Elections Committee mattered most during petitioning.
- There was a motion to Call the Question by roll-call vote.
- By a vote of 17-2-0 the motion was adopted as a recommendation to the Elections Committee.
- J. Berger, Yes; T. Celestin, Absent; N. Covanec, No; D. Cox, Absent; V. Devatha, Absent; E. Dzodzomenyo, Yes; R. Herz, Yes; A. Iglesias, Yes; M. Indimine, Yes; A. Issur, Absent; N. Jaisinghani, Yes; J. Kim, Yes; C. Lee, Absent; D. Li, Absent; L. Lipschutz, Absent; D. Liu, Yes; H. MacDiarmid, Absent; T. Magloire, Yes; M. McBride, Yes; J. Montejo, Yes; R. Musto, Yes; H. Reichel, Yes; E. Reppy, Yes; W. Rong, Absent; J. Selig, Yes; M. Valadez, Yes; A. Viswanathan, Yes; R. Wang, No.

#### V. Restructuring Conversation

- J. Berger wanted to have a focused conversation about what members viewed as important positions to have on the Assembly. She wanted to get feedback from the Assembly so that the Restructuring Committee could move forward at their next meeting on Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm in Morrill 107.
- Rep. Celestin wanted to talk about minority liaison, and if the position could be broken up to better represent constituencies.

- E. Reppy thought breaking up the position into something too specific could cause hesitations from people who would otherwise run for the Assembly.
- Rep. Herz believed having By-Line funded organization representatives could be a way of separating based on minority representation.
- D. Liu asked about positions for the Executive Board. He suggested the idea of having five Executive Committee positions at large.
- Ex-Officio Kaufman opposed direct elections of executive positions.
- E. Dzodzomenyo believed the main goal was creating more initiative for minority students to run for Assembly positions.

#### VI. Business of the Day

- There was a motion to table Resolution 31 indefinitely.
- By unanimous consent Resolution 31 was tabled.
- There was a motion to table Resolution 32 until the next Assembly meeting.
- By a vote of 14-4-0 Resolution 32 was tabled until March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

J. Berger adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies