



Cornell University Student Assembly

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Minutes of the Thursday, April 13th, 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. Anderson [0]; J. Berger [0.25]; T. Celestin [3.25]; D. Cox [1]; V. Devatha [2.5]; R. Herz [2.5]; A. Iglesias [1]; M. Indimine [0]; A. Issur [2.5]; N. Jaisinghani [1.75]; J. Kim [2.25]; D. Li [0]; L. Lipschutz [2.75]; M. McBride [1]; J. Montejo [0.25]; R. Musto [2]; H. Reichel [0.5]; E. Reppy (Unexcused) [2.25]; W. Rong [2.25]; M. Valadez [0.5]; A. Viswanathan [0]; R. Wang [3];
- *Not Present at Roll Call:* N. Chovanec (Unexcused) [1.5]; E. Dzodzomenyo (Unexcused) [1.25]; C. Lee (Unexcused) [4.5]; D. Liu (Unexcused) [2.5]; T. Magloire (Unexcused) [2.75]; J. Selig (Unexcused) [3];

II. Moment of Silence in Remembrance of Peiran “Joyce” Shi ‘19

III. Announcement from the 2017 Convocation Chair

- Chewy Baumel announced that the Convocation Speaker for the Class of 2017 would be Vice President Joseph R. Biden.

IV. Open Microphone

- Jevan Hudson stated that Brian Patchcoski, the Director of the LGBT Resource Center, would be leaving Cornell to join Pennsylvania State University.
- A community member announced that on Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00pm NASAC and ECO would be screening “Gathering Our Hearts at Standing Rock,” in Klarman Auditorium with filmmaker Fidel Moreno.
- A community member said that next week Cornell would be having a Sexual Assault Awareness Week, with events occurring around campus.

V. Announcements and Reports

- Rep. Valadez reminded all students that the Summer Experience Grant was due April 19th.
- President Berger announced that the referendum on American Sign Language had passed and was communicated to President Rawlings.
- Rep. Reichel said that within a few weeks both Anabel’s Grocery would open, and Wegman’s sushi would be in campus cafes. Additionally, on Monday Oakenshields would begin using reusable containers as a way for students to take food around campus.
- Rep. Issur stated that the Economics Department had agreed to continue Curricular Practical Training for two more summers. In regards to the Academic Calendar Committee, if Senior Days became a week longer, at least one dining hall would remain open during that time.

V. Business of the Day

- Resolution 33: Prescribing Conflict-Free University Contracts
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- The sponsors stated that they were bringing their resolution forward again to verify that Cornell's supply chains were not supporting conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
 - There was a motion to amend line 60 to strike "the Office of University Investments" and replace it with "Cornell Information Technologies".
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 19-0-0, with two community votes in favor, Resolution 33 was adopted.
- Resolution 34: Accessibility & Affordability of Cornell's Fitness Centers
 - The sponsors presented a plan to make Cornell's Fitness Centers more accessible and affordable.
 - J. Montejo stated that she was against the use of the Schwartz Center as a group exercise space, as the building already faced space limitations.
 - V. Devatha asked if the sponsors had talked to administrators about alternative spaces in Collegetown.
 - A. Iglesias said that the Schwartz Center was only a short-term solution to address the needs of students living in Collegetown. He also said that to address the needs of students in Collegetown would require a center similar in size to Noyes.
 - M. Valadez suggested adding a line that if new fitness centers were created, the fees would not increase.
 - There was a motion to amend lines 23-24, to strike "...so students end up going to Helen Newman that further exacerbates the problem;" and replace this with "and therefore students end up going to Helen Newman, which further exacerbates the problem of overcrowding;"
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - By unanimous consent Resolution 34 was tabled.

VI. New Business

- Resolution 36: Promoting University Action Against Pipeline Expansion
 - The sponsors said that this resolution recommended Cornell University address the concerns of indigenous and local communities by publically condemning four pipelines. It also requested that the University review and publish a report regarding its ties to corporations associated with the Dakota Access Pipeline.
 - A. Iglesias asked why these four pipelines were specifically chosen.
 - The sponsors stated that the Dominion and West Dryden pipelines effected local communities, while the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines would exemplify Cornell's commitment to condemning larger pipeline projects.
 - D. Cox asked about line 133. He wanted to know how Cornell would "commit its resources...to fighting local pipeline expansion."
 - The sponsors stated that this meant reviewing and possibly severing relationships with energy companies which designed, built, and managed pipelines.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was moved to Business of the Day.
 - D. Cox worried that a public condemnation may affect the job opportunity of students at energy businesses.
 - The sponsors believed that Cornell students had an obligation to look for ethical jobs. They also believed students could always clarify how their personal beliefs differed from the University's.
 - A. Viswanathan asked about lines 136-139 and if the sponsors wanted to focus on

- broad engagements instead of solely financial investments.
 - The sponsors said that the University had discretion over what they disclosed, but finances could be a first step.
 - There was a motion to amend line 141 to strike “the Office of University Investments shall” to replace with “The Student Assembly recommend that President Pollack forward this resolution to the Board of Trustee’s Investment Committee to...”
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 16-0-1 Resolution 36 was adopted.
- Resolution 37: Recommendations for College of Business Curriculum Review
 - The sponsors presented a resolution requesting a curriculum review of the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management.
 - There was a motion to amend line 25 to strike “College” and replace the word with “School”.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was moved to Business of the Day.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 17-0-1 Resolution 37 was adopted.
- Resolution 38: Special Projects: Slope Day
 - The sponsors announced that the Appropriations Committee voted in favor of granting the Slope Day Programming Board \$12,000 from the Special Projects Fund. Last year Slope Day had a \$70,000 surplus, however, this year under a new by-line funding cycle they needed funding for breakfast sandwiches and the Alternative Slope Day.
 - S. Park asked about the total size of the Special Projects Fund.
 - J. Berger answered that \$54,000 was recently added, and the total was slightly larger than this amount.
 - E. Reppy stated that the Byline Cycle would begin during the 2018 academic year, and therefore it would be extremely likely that the Slope Day Programming Board would require the same level of Special Project Funding next year.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 16-0-2 Resolution 38 was adopted.
- Resolution 39: Creation of the Vice President of External Affairs
 - M. Indimine presented Resolution 39 to consolidate the positions of VP of Outreach and the VP of Public Relations, believing their oversight was redundant, to create a single VP of External Affairs.
 - A. Iglesias asked why this was being addressed now, before the Restructuring Committee’s final recommendations.
 - M. Indimine clarified that this should be done before internal elections.
 - A. Viswanathan worried that removing a position from the Executive Board would result in a greater number of tied votes, with only six Executive positions.
 - D. Barbaria clarified that the Chair usually only votes as a tie breaker, therefore reducing the number of regularly voting Executive members from six to five would result in fewer ties.
 - There was a motion to table the resolution.
 - By unanimous consent Resolution 39 was tabled.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies