



Cornell University Student Assembly

Cornell University Student Assembly

Minutes of the Thursday, April 27th, 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]; E. Dzodzomenyo [1.25]; A. Iglesias [1]; M. Indimine [0]; A. Issur [2.5]; N. Jaisinghani [1.75]; D. Li [0]; L. Lipschutz [2.75]; D. Liu [2.5]; T. Magloire [2.75]; M. McBride [1]; J. Montejo [0.25]; H. Reichel [0.5]; E. Reppy [2.25]; W. Rong [2.25]; J. Selig [3]; M. Valadez [0.5]; A. Viswanathan [0];
- *Not Present at Roll Call:* N. Chovanec (Excused) [1.5]; R. Herz (Excused) [2.5]; J. Kim (Unexcused) [2.25]; C. Lee (Excused) [4.5]; R. Musto (Excused) [2]; Y. Wang (Unexcused) [3];

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the April 20th meetings were approved by unanimous consent.

III. Announcement and Reports

- A. Iglesias met with the Office of Assemblies about archiving the Student Assembly's resolutions and minutes. He said that only records prior to 2005 were stored in the University Archives, while the rest were online. He suggested having hard copies of all of the records.
- J. Montejo stated that the Diversity Committee would be voting on resolutions this week. She requested that members of the student body attend the Committee's meetings to share their ideas.
- D. Li stated that the Appropriations Committee met to discuss a resolution which would help fund ethnic studies programs on campus.
 - T. Celestin requested that the funding go directly to campus organizations instead of the administration.
 - D. Li stated that she would be open to suggestions over the weekend.

IV. Open Microphone

- Lydia Anglin '18 (LMA86) asked about the Assembly's outreach into the local community.
- J. Montejo stated that the Assembly had a City and Local Affairs committee chaired by Michele Pothen (MP844) who would be happy to discuss outreach ideas.
- There was a motion to suspend the agenda and move Resolution 42 to the top of the agenda. By unanimous consent the motion was **adopted**.

V. New Business

- Resolution 42: Creating an Investigation into Hindu and Muslim Chaplaincies on Campus
 - The sponsors spoke about creating a task force through the Office of the Dean of Students and Cornell United Religious Work to help fundraise and investigate the

feasibility of having both a Hindu and a Muslim chaplain on campus. The sponsors hoped that the chaplains could serve as student mentors and provide a greater understanding of these religions. Currently students who are not academically trained in these religions must serve as religious leaders on campus when answering other students' questions, which was an extremely difficult task. The sponsors were not asking the University for funding, but for support in finding donors and addressing any issues which may arise in creating a safer space for practicing Hindus and Muslims.

- A. Iglesias asked why Alumni Affairs was not included in the task force, especially with the help they could provide for fundraising.
 - The sponsors wanted to focus on the Office of the Dean of Students so that administrators would take their cause more seriously and eventually help them work on fundraising.
 - V. Pendakur wanted to discuss the possibility of funding from outside sources, and stated that he could be reached without a resolution.
 - The sponsors did not wish to table the resolution.
 - J. Montejo believed that passing this resolution was a great way of showing collective support. She believed holding more meetings with administrators required a great deal of energy and time on behalf of the sponsors, and believed that passing this resolution would send a message right away.
 - There was a motion to amend the phrase “Cornell United Religious Works” on line 6, 51, and 66 to “Cornell United Religious Work”.
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question by roll-call vote.
 - By a vote of 23-0-2, with two community votes in favor Resolution 42 was approved.
- J. Anderson, Yes; J. Berger, Yes; T. Celestin, Yes; N. Chovanec, Abstain; D. Cox, Yes; V. Devatha, Yes; E. Dzodzomenyo, Absent; R. Herz, Yes; A. Iglesias, Yes; M. Indimine, Yes; A. Issur, Yes; N. Jaisinghani, Absent; J. Kim, Yes; C. Lee, Absent; D. Li, Yes; L. Lipschutz, Absent; D. Liu, Yes; T. Magloire, Yes; M. McBride, Yes; J. Montejo, Yes; R. Musto, Yes; H. Reichel, Yes; E. Reppy, Absent; W. Rong, Yes; J. Selig, Yes; M. Valadez, Yes; A. Viswanathan, Yes; R. Wang, Absent.
- Resolution 40: A Comprehensive Investigation into Cornell Exam Scheduling
 - The sponsors stated that this resolution looked at examination issues including the possibility of having four exams in a 48-hour period. The sponsors hoped that through the creation of an Ad-Hoc committee under the Faculty Senate they could find new solutions. They also favored looking at issues beyond final exam scheduling including the possibility of two hour exams and changing the 7:30pm exam slot.
 - R. Wang believed that spreading exams over a longer period of time may lead to a greater level of stress.
 - J. Selig did not see why a student would not want more time in between their exams.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 20-1-0 Resolution 40 was approved.
 - Resolution 41: Cornell Commitment to Web Accessibility
 - The sponsors stated that their resolution requested Cornell adopt a Web Content Accessibility standard making all Cornell.edu domains accessible to individuals with disabilities and language barriers. The sponsors requested that Cornell comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 AA Standards, set by the World
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Wide Web Consortium. The resolution also set a five-year goal of 85% domain-wide conformance.

- Nate Rodgers stated that a similar resolution was passed by the GPSA. He said that there was a working group being established, and requested that Assembly members look at President Rawlings' response to the GPSA's resolution.
 - There was a motion to amend line 57 to read "Whereas, the University Assembly, *the GPSA*, and the Employee Assembly have passed..."
 - By unanimous consent the resolution was amended.
 - W. Rong asked the sponsors how they believed Cornell should deal with outsources websites such as Blackboard.
 - The sponsors believed that Cornell had a choice to use certain vendors, and that they should consider accessibility in their decisions.
 - There was a motion to Call the Question.
 - By a vote of 18-0-0 Resolution 40 was approved.
- Academic Calendar Discussion
 - A. Issur stated that the two final academic calendar options were open to any type of voting process by the Student Assembly.
 - D. Barbaria asked why the Assembly was given a choice between only two calendars.
 - There was a motion to table the discussion and have a vote by ballot next week.
 - By unanimous consent the motion was approved.

J. Berger adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter F. Biedenweg

Assembly Clerk, Office of the Assemblies