



**Minutes**  
**University Assembly**  
**October 6th, 2015**  
**4:30pm - 6:00pm**  
**Uris G08**

**I. Call to Order**

M. Battaglia called the meeting to order at 4:29 PM.

Attendance:

*Present:* J. Batista, M. Battaglia, J. Burns, M. Hatch, K. Herleman, R. Howarth, M. Indimine, G. Kaufman, E. Loew, M. McBride, G. Mezey, BJ Siasco, U. Smith, P. Thompson, A. Thomson, R. Walroth

*Absent:* N. La Celle

*Others Present:* V. Bhaya, G. Giambattista, E. Garrett, J. Malina

**Call for Late Additions:**

No late items were requested.

**II. Discussion with President Garrett**

President Garrett said she has had a wonderful experience so far. She had a couple of things she wanted to share with the Assembly regarding what has happened since she became President. She said that there is no stronger supporter of freedom of speech than she is. She believes that the University is about reason, debate and discussion, and that they are about putting out propositions and figuring out what is right. Having said that, there are minimal restrictions on how to go about that, such as not shouting one another down. President Garrett said that we are here to learn, to teach, to do research and to engage in our public mission. These dialogues have to take place in a way that allows us to conduct the mission of the University. We will use the Campus Code of Conduct to enforce that. Referring to the Community Bill of Rights, she stated that the idea of consolidating the rights of our community in one place is a great idea. She suggested that the Assembly moves as quickly as they can on the search for a new Judicial Administrator (JA). One thing they need to do is to provide more collegial support for that institution. President Garrett said that Policy 6.4 is an issue that she is very engaged

in personally; she is confident that they are compliant with all legal rules on the state and federal level, but she wants to do the best she can on education and prevention.

M. Battaglia asked if there was anything President Garrett would like the UA to consider. She said that the Assembly would keep finding other places where there are statements of rights and responsibilities, and that she commends them on their efforts to create a Community Bill of Rights.

A. Thomson said that the Federal Perkins Loan has expired and asked if there was any other way President Garrett was planning on helping those in the lower/middle income groups. President Garrett said that undergraduates and graduates face different kinds of challenges regarding financial aid. To start with the undergraduates, she said, we need to take a look at how we take those resources, which are generous, because there are always trade-offs. We have a lot of priorities, like affordability and access. As a University, we have to ask ourselves how we want to allocate that. The Provost is going to be leading that conversation, but she welcomes that discussion. With respect to graduate aid, our PhDs are well supported, which includes teaching assistants and research assistants. We need to think about how we should allocate that money. One of the things the Law school has done is working to raise money for aid but they also have programs where, if you take jobs after you graduate (for example, at a nonprofit), then there is some loan forgiveness. She said our medical school has been very successful at keeping their debt below the national debt, but it is still six figures. She thinks we ought to be talking more about graduate debt. President Garrett looks forward to having input from all the various constituencies.

R. Howarth raised the issue of the University's commitment to carbon neutrality. He asked how the new renovations play into carbon neutrality and how cognizant President Garrett was of the plans of carbon neutrality. President Garrett said that she is definitely cognizant of how renovations play roles into sustainability. One of the things she has been asking IPP is how they can use space better. It is very important to her that Cornell continues to be seen as a leader in sustainability.

BJ Siasco asked about some of the challenges President Garrett faces regarding working as one Cornell versus working with the various colleges and units. President Garrett said she comes from a very decentralized place. She think the process the Provost is kicking off is really important because we have to pick those things that seem to call to us from more than one discipline, which will allow the Provost to invest more resources in those shared goals. The only thing she demands is that excellence is that goal we shoot for. She believes that Cornell will move forward on some things.

M. Indimine brought up the issue of mental health and asked President Garrett what her view was about mental health issues on campus. President Garrett said that often there are people who come to Cornell who struggle with issues of mental health, but it is also a time that some mental issues can manifest for the first time. She thinks what we have to do is continue to work with Ryan Lombardi and other officials in Gannett. Cornell's grad students can also struggle with these issues- it looks different, but it is equally serious. We need to make sure we have enough support for our students and to also get the word out, that there is nothing wrong with asking for help. Nobody here is going to think less

of someone because they are overwhelmed, she stated. She thinks of every student here as someone she wants to take care of. She said that due to the banning of pledging, hazing has gone down by about 13 percentage points. People should be treated with nothing more than respect.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of September 22nd, 2015 were approved via unanimous consent.

### **IV. Reports From Assemblies**

#### **i. Student Assembly**

J. Batista said that the SA had a roundtable with over 25 co-sponsoring organizations. It was a great start for them. They are also underway in their Byline funding process. The roundtable was in response to the AAE climate survey and sexual assault on campus.

#### **ii. Graduate & Professional Student Assembly**

R. Walroth said that they elected their first Vice President of Communications at the last meeting. They also had a discussion about possibly changing their Finance Commission's guidelines; there is a sense that they are too restrictive. He also had a teleconference with some leaders at Weill in order to build some more relationships between the two campuses.

#### **iii. Employee Assembly**

BJ Siasco said that they have 3 open positions and that they will also have President's address in November.

#### **iv. Faculty Senate**

J. Burns said that they are having the Faculty forum in about two weeks. The financial aid budget is increasing rapidly. The Faculty should play a role in how Cornell should handle this changing landscape. At their first meeting, the President and Provost spoke. At the next meeting, the Provost will give a 75-day report of his term. K. Herleman asked if J. Burns had a way of increasing Faculty turnout at the Sexual Violence and Prevention training. Burns said he is searching for an answer to that. G. Giambattista asked if the financial aid forum is an open forum. J. Burns clarified that it is.

### **V. Committee and Liaison Updates**

#### **i. Executive Committee**

A. Thomson said that the Stakeholder review of Policy 6.4 has been rescheduled to the October 20 meeting. Professor Booker has resigned from his position in the University Assembly so the Executive Committee has reached out to the Faculty Senate on how to fill that vacancy. M. Battaglia said that the JA search is fully staffed and underway. M. Hatch stated that the CJC still needs one EA member. Two employees and two Faculty positions are needed for the CIC. On the CWC,

one GPSA and one Graduate or Professional student are needed. From EA, they need 1 of each and 1 Faculty member.

## **ii. Other Committees and Liaisons**

E. Loew said that the CIC needs to get staffed.

U. Smith said that the CWC had their first meeting last week. They laid out some priorities for this year. They are looking at a usage policy under the LGBTQ+ umbrella that they are asking the University to create and adopt to allow people to use facilities that align with their gender identity. As for Policy 6.4, he will be sending something to the CJC with a list of things that should be taken out of the code. M. Hatch said that the CWC is missing 5 members so they need full representation. G. Mezey asked at what point they could move forward without fully staffed committees. M. Battaglia said they are passing that point.

G. Mezey, from the CJC, said that a Doodle poll would be going out late Wednesday or early Thursday to determine when everyone can meet.

For CPC updates, R. Howarth said that there are around 336 beds in Maplewood, and that the University wants to replace them to hold about 600 beds.

G. Kaufman said that he has not yet heard from the Policy Advisory Committee.

K. Herleman, from the Council of Sexual Violence and Prevention said that the Campus Climate survey is available on SHARE. At their last meeting, they focused on a few groups that seem vulnerable.

M. Indimine said that the Student Advisory Insurance Committee talked about future meeting dates.

## **VI. Business of the Day**

### **i. Discussion regarding resolution structure**

M. Battaglia said that he has spoken with a number of members and the past practice was that the Chair would append their signature at the bottom of a resolution. Roberts Rules say that the Secretary or Chair validate any Resolution passed by them. He asked if there was any discussion or comments. M. Indimine recommended that the Assembly add in the Chair of the Assembly and any other sponsors. M. Battaglia moved onto the Resolutions.

### **ii. For Vote: UA Resolution #1: Bylaws Change Establishing a Student Health Fee Advisory Committee Liaison**

G. Kaufman said that they already have a Student Health Fee Advisory Committee Liaison. This Resolution updates the Assembly's Bylaws to reflect that. There was a motion to vote and it was seconded. Resolution passed by a vote of 12-0-0.

### **iii. For Vote: UA Resolution #2: Charter Change Aligning the University Assembly's Role in a Judicial Administrator Search Process with Practice**

G. Kaufman stated that this is document that aligns what the Assembly is doing regarding the appointment of the JA with their Charter. Resolution passed by vote of 13-0-0.

**VII. Late Additions to the Agenda**

No late items were requested.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vishal Bhaya

*Assemblies Clerk*