



**Minutes**  
**University Assembly**  
**November 15th, 2016**  
**4:30pm – 6:00pm**  
**401 Physical Science Bldg.**

**I. Call to Order**

- a. G. Kaufman called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M.
- b. *Members Present:* E. Baptist, J. Berger, L. Copman, M. de Roos, M. Hatch, R. Herz, R. Howarth, G. Kaufman, J. Kruser, E. Loew, M. McBride, M. Munasinghe, S. Park, N. Rogers, U. Smith, E. Winarto
- c. *Members Absent:* K. Fitch, C. Van Loan
- d. *Also present:* R. Lombardi, M. Kotlikoff

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- a. November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016
  - i. L. Copman motioned to amend “U.S. legislature” to “N.Y.S legislature.” The line was amended.
  - ii. The Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**III. Business of the Day**

- a. Mayor S. Myrick on the Ithaca Plan
  - i. Mayor Myrick said that Ithaca has been averaging one fatal overdose per month for the past few years, and that the state and federal government have no solutions to this problem.
  - ii. The Ithaca Plan will try a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, under which police will take people who overdose straight to treatment rather than to jail.
  - iii. Mayor Myrick said that undiagnosed mental illness is highly correlated with drug abuse.
  - iv. He said that in Vancouver, the use of supervised injection facilities caused a decrease in street crime and HIV/hepatitis rates. More people survived their addiction and went into recovery.
    1. In Vancouver, they found that no one has ever used heroine for the first time in these facilities, and outside people were not attracted to it.
  - v. M. McBride said New York State law currently does not allow this. He said he likes the idea does not think we should be encouraging unlawful conduct.
    1. Mayor Myrick said that the goal is to change the law, not break it, so that is why he will go to NYS legislature.
  - vi. M. Hatch motioned to amend line 77 of UA Resolution #3 to read: “present a status update on progress made towards achieving the legislation to implement the goals of the Ithaca Plan.” The line was amended.
- b. Presentation on Housing Master Plan and on Addressing Capital Needs

- i. Provost Kotlikoff said that we have a significant amount of deferred maintenance in our housing that has not been addressed. We have no way to address Balch currently because every bed is currently filled and we need 1 summer to fix the housing.
  - 1. He said that despite the policy that we provide housing for all of our students, we are not close to doing that; housing insecurity pushes people into housing that may not be the best option for them.
  - 2. He said that we not only have a deferred maintenance in our student housing, but also in our academic buildings.
- ii. R. Lombardi said that we guarantee on-campus housing to freshman and sophomores but if everyone took that opportunity, we would not have enough housing for everyone.
  - 1. Balch, Dickson, Risley, and the Gothics make up 2/3 of our deferred maintenance. The problem is not only the money, but also the space. At the very least, we have to build additional housing to have swing space to fix the deferred maintenance.
  - 2. Because we have so little capacity on campus, there has been an untenable market off campus, with owners raising prices.
  - 3. He said that North Campus is the most viable space for new residence halls.
- iii. Provost Kotlikoff said we have smaller endowment per student than other Ivy League schools and we also have more students, so we are doing more from our operating budget.
  - 1. He said that the general plan is to build residence halls to provide swing space, more sophomore capacity, and new students. The modest enrollment will enable construction financing without constraining academics, and the growth in student body will generate funds from academic investments.
  - 2. The details of the Housing Plan are to: increase the freshman class size by 250-275 students, initiate a capital project on North Campus for 1250 beds and new dining, renovate Balch, and improve Collegetown.
  - 3. Increasing the size of the freshman class will provide funds for academic investment and solve a major student life problem.
  - 4. Provost Kotlikoff said that potential downsides of the Housing Plan are: a potential drop in USN&WR rankings, class size increases, exacerbating gateway course issues, and a potential downgrade of Cornell's bond rating.
  - 5. Next steps include discussions with the Board of Trustees and the new President, M. Pollack.
- iv. M. McBride said based on his conversations with students, students would appreciate the ability to have 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year housing, but it is not a necessity.
- v. E. Baptist said that he thinks we need to do more to bring in more students, because more students are competing across the country for

seats. He asked what the Provost would like to see the University Assembly do.

1. Provost Kotlikoff said different groups have different concerns about this. Some people do not want more students because it will ruin student culture, some people are worried about the debt, and some say that Collegetown housing depends on this. He said that without signing onto any individual strategy, if the UA could express support for general goals, it could be valuable.
- vi. L. Copman said that she thinks it would be a good idea to have the new housing focus on international students or students who are studying abroad, so they could live on campus for one semester and would not have to worry about subletting
  1. Provost Kotlikoff said that this raises another problem because the 1250 new beds would not provide enough housing for sophomore students.
- vii. E. Baptist said that living on campus for at least one year is a common experience that everyone shares.

**IV. Assembly Reports**

- a. **Tabled** to next meeting.

**V. Committee Reports**

- a. **Tabled** to next meeting.

**VI. Liaison Reports**

- a. **Tabled** to next meeting.

**VII. Business of the Day (2<sup>nd</sup> part)**

- a. University Hearing and Review Board Faculty Appointments
  - i. The Faculty appointments to the UHRB were **approved**.
- b. For Discussion: UA Resolution #1: Updating and Clarifying University Assembly Charter and Bylaws
  - i. **Tabled** to next meeting.
- c. For Discussion: UA Resolution #3: Endorsing “The Ithaca Plan: A Public Safety Approach to Drugs and Drug Policy”
  - i. **Tabled** to next meeting.
- d. For Intro: UA Resolution #4: 2016-2017 Cornell University Campus Code of Conduct Update Part 2: Accepting Recommendation from Outdoor Space Working Group
  - i. **Tabled** to next meeting.

**VIII. Late Additions to the Agenda**

- a. No late items were requested.

**IX. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vishal Bhaya  
*Assemblies Clerk*

