

Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the April 20th, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. L. Kenney called the meeting to order at 4:32PM.
 - b. *Members Present:* H. Depew, N. Danev, D. Dunham, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, D. Hiner, R. Howarth, L. Kenney, C. Levine, J. Pea, L. Smith, C. Van Loan, P. Thompson, J. Withers.
 - c. *Members Absent:* V. Aymer, U. Chukwukere, A. Hong, C. Huang, B. Sherr.
 - d. *Also Present:* M. Pollack, J. Malina.
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. L. Kenney acknowledged Shawn West's death and held a moment of silence.
- III. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohó:nq (Cayuga Nation)
- IV. Approval of the Minutes (4/6/21)
 - a. L. Kenney noted that there were two grammatical and structural changes to the minutes.
 - b. Brandon moved to approve the minutes.
 - i. J. Withers seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- V. Business of the Day
 - a. Resolution 22: Appointment of University Hearing Board and University Review Board Members for Academic Year 2021-2022
 - i. B. Fortenberry stated that the resolution fills vacancies on the UHRB and proposes the cohort's appointments will extend until May 31st, 2022; graduation; or until all cases under the current Campus Code of Conduct have been resolved. In addition, when the new Campus Code of Conduct is enacted this fall, another cohort will be made to oversee cases under the new code.
 - ii. R. Howarth stated that they do not believe that the emergency appointments were made due to COVID-19.
 - iii. B. Fortenberry stated there was an emergency appointment at the beginning of last semester, but there was no formal extension process.
 - iv. R. Howarth affirmed that there was an appointment in July of last year, but it was not a product of COVID-19.
 - v. R. Howarth moves to remove "due to the COVID-19 pandemic" on line 27.
 1. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
 2. The motion was passed with unanimous consent.



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- vi. L. Kenney stated that L. Sterling might be a conflict of interest as there is no confirmation that she is no longer acting as an advisor to the OSA.
- vii. B. Fortenberry recommended that change the language to reflect that these appointments are depended on their agreement.
- viii. L. Kenney stated that three members were asked to step down due to their affiliation to the OSA and it would be unfair to only keep one member on the list. They recommend waiting for confirmation and voting via email to re-add her at a later date if she is no longer connected to the OSA.
- ix. G. Giambattista recommended that they could make a note that she cannot be accepted until such time they have confirmed so it is easier to transition into the OJA.
- x. B. Fortenberry stated that maybe they could amend lines to acknowledge the qualifications regarding conflicts of interest that need to be met.
- xi. N. Danev motioned to remove "Liel Sterling" from line 16.
 - 1. T. Fox seconded the motion
 - 2. L. Kenney added that if L. Sterling no longer has a conflict of interest, they can make an emergency appointment later.
 - 3. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- xii. D. Dunham motioned to vote.
 - 1. J. Pea seconded the motion.
 - 2. The vote **passed** with 13-0-2.
- xiii. D. Dunham motions for a 4-minute recess.
 - 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- b. Discussion with President Martha Pollack and Vice President for University Relations, Joel Malina
 - i. M. Pollack thanked everyone and acknowledged recent awards: Carla Gomes was awarded the biennial Feigenbaum prize from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence and J. Meejin Yoon and composer Roberto Sierra have been elected to the American Academy of Letters for Arts and Letters. They also recapped university updates: Donna Thomas Varner will be the new Vice President and General Counsel, Andrew Karolyi will be the acting dean of the SC Johnson College of Business, and they are looking forward to having other new deans in place by late summer or early fall. They also stated that most classes will be in person in the fall and will go into the process of re-densification. This is dependent, however, on having a campus that is overwhelmingly vaccinated, with students required to be vaccinated for the exception of medical and religious exemptions. They will be able to hold in-person ceremonies limited to students due to state



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guidelines. They also ask the body what changes that may have reactive to the pandemic should continue into the future.

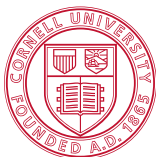
- ii. The president addressed questions including vaccination, return to campus, functional reviews, visas, anti-racism initiative, wellness days, and mental health. *The details of the discussion may be found at 36:00 on the Office of Assemblies' [website](#).*

VI. Committee Updates

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. P. Thompson stated that they had their meeting on April 13th. They had discussions on a letter of support for wellness days, Charter and Bylaw changes, the organizational meeting, and discussed any other possible resolutions which may remain on the timeline.
 - ii. L. Kenney stated that the last chance to submit By-Law and Charter changes would be the next meeting.
- b. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. J. Feit stated that the last meeting was canceled, but the next scheduled meeting is slotted to have a few resolutions.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. L. Kenney stated that there a CWC meeting on Friday. And, as part of the ad-hoc Veterans Committee, they plan to bring forward a few resolutions.
 - ii. J. Feit stated that there will be a meeting for the Renaming and Historical Preservation Committee tomorrow. Additionally, they are started reaching out to other organizations and are looking for ways to solidify the ad-hoc committee in the current charter.
- d. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. B. Fortenberry stated that they are still working on UHRB. They noted Ryan Lombardi would be visiting the CJC on April 30th with his plans for the new Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, Kevin Williams who is working with the Dean of Students Office will be visiting on May 12th. In that meeting, they will also have a presentation from the JA and the JCC offices to compare the different Student Codes of Conduct.

VII. Constituent Group Updates

- a. Student Assembly
 - i. L. Smith recounted that they passed the resolutions “Disengaging Cornell from the War in Yemen” and “Adding Mental Health Checks to the Daily Check.” Additionally, they introduced the resolution “Demanding Cornell Implement a University-Wide Slip Day System.”
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. D. Dunham said they heard three presentations from the Student Disability Services, the Center of Teaching Innovation, and the Diversity Preview



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Weekend. They also looked at two resolutions, one creating an open election where anyone across the professional community can self-nominate and the other renews appendix B of the GPSA Charter, establishing guidelines for byline funded organizations with additions regarding Ph.D. students in CornellTech. They will also be electing a new President, officers, and committee chairpersons.

- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. H. Depew stated that the EA is discussing how connect connects with the global and local community. They are continuing to work with Asian American groups to talk about Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander campaigns and a podcast. They are also hosting elections soon along with recognizing awards.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. C. Van Loan recounted that they met the candidates for the Dean of Faculty position and presented reports from two of the three working student groups on anti-racism initiatives. They aim to have closing arguments on the Center the next day. They also note that the large, negative resistance against the faculty piece.

VIII. Open Floor Discussion

- a. N. Danev thanked D. Dunham for serving as the representative for the GPSA and for working tirelessly towards engagement.
- b. L. Kenney echoed the sentiment and asked about the transition of their position.
- c. L. Kenney asked L. Smith in the event someone said they weren't doing well on the mental health check what would be the response.
 - i. L. Smith stated that they didn't come to a clear consensus on their meeting.
- d. L. Kenney asked if there is any outreach for the GPSA open elections.
- i) D. Dunham confirmed but was open to any aid in that regard. He also noted that was only the graduate student segment affected.

IX. Adjournment

- a. P. Thompson motions to adjourn.
- b. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
- c. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kassandra Jordan
Clerk of the Assembly