

Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Agenda of the May 4, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Only

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Welcome and Introduction
 - b. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - c. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohó:’no_i (Cayuga Nation)
- II. [Approval of the Minutes \(4/20/21\)](#)
- III. Business of the Day
 - a. [Resolution 23: Resolution on Bursar Billing for Certain Student Organization](#)
 - i. Resolution 23 attachment linked [here](#).
 - b. [Resolution 24: Making the UA Charter Gender-neutral](#)
- IV. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - c. Employee Assembly
 - d. Faculty Senate
- V. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - d. Campus Infrastructure Committee
- VI. Liaison Reports
- VII. Late Additions to the Agenda
- VIII. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations, contact Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 prior to the meeting.



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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:noꝓ (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



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APPENDIX A
Chat Transcript

00:11:04 UA - Caroline Levine: Can we collectively keep an eye on the Chauvin verdict, supposed to come in the next half hour?

00:13:26 UA - Jacob Feit: ^^^^

00:43:07 Gina Giambattista (she/her/hers): The court is in session

00:44:07 UA - Nikola Danev: 2nd degree - guilty

00:44:14 UA - Jeff Pea (he/him): Also guilty on 3rd degree

00:44:39 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): Thank you both for reporting

00:47:08 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): After Bob concludes, I am going to go through the questions previously submitted and then open the floor to additional questions and comments

00:54:00 UA - Bob Howarth: Congrats to Pres. Pollack on vaccination. I was lucky enough, as an older person, to get my second shot on Feb 11. My whole family is now vaccinated. Life is starting to return to normal.

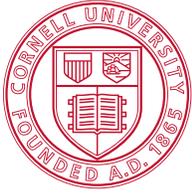
00:57:42 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): Just to add re: the Chauvin trial - Chauvin was found guilty on all 3 charges: second- and third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter

00:59:02 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): Additionally, bail revoked and remanded to custody

00:59:58 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): The law school did not cancel classes for wellness day / offer an asynchronous option

01:05:13 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): And I apologize everyone, I would like to include the faculty in employees in that question as well

01:05:18 UA Chair - Logan Kenney (she, her): and*



U.A. Resolution #23

Resolution on Bursar Billing for Certain Student Organizations

[05/04/2021]

1 **Sponsored by:** Max Trauring; Erik Andreassen; Trevor Bacchi; James Baccile '22; Jack
2 Bennett '24; Daniel Berstein; Saul Chavarria-Barrera '23; Dennis Child '23; Myles
3 Choromanski '22; Tom Crocker '21; Blake DeSantis '22; Alec Diamond; Nick Fanelli;
4 Oliver Fisher; Nick Fenton '24; Fernando Ferrer '22; Jordan Fuentes; Aj Galassi '23;
5 Nicholas Grazioso '23; Nick Hahn '22; William Harvey '22; Marshall Henshaw '23; Thor
6 Illick '22; Mitchell Jones '22; Jacob Levy '22; Logan Kenney, GPSA; Xavier Lu '22; Wyatt
7 Marshall '22; Jack Megrue '23; Caleb Myers; Matisse Nelson '23; Harrison Nicholas '22;
8 Connor Novak '23; Connor Phelps '22; Robert C. Platt '73; Nick Pope '23; Dillon Potter
9 '22; Jaden Queen '24; Zach Russell '24; Charlie Russell '22; Jake Schneider '23; Grayson
10 Shaw '24; Liam Sullivan '21; Billy Turner '24; Jack Waldman; Simon Warfield '23;
11 Cameron Wright '22; John Yerger '82, President of the Alumni IFC.

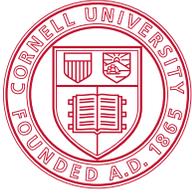
12
13 **Whereas,** for 40 years, the Cornell Bursar's Office has provided services to collect specified
14 charges from students who live in Residential Colleges, Program Houses, West Campus
15 Houses, fraternities, sororities and other small living units; and

16
17 **Whereas,** these charges include "Program Fees" for students in Residential Colleges and
18 Program Houses. Charges for fraternities and sororities are categorized as "room,"
19 "board," "social," "dues," and "damage deposits." The Bursar has also processed charges
20 for certain other professional organizations; and

21
22 **Whereas,** other universities provide similar services through their Bursar Offices in order to
23 enhance campus life and a variety of living arrangements; and

24
25 **Whereas,** under the current plan for fraternities and sororities, Cornell has entered into contracts
26 with Sciarabba-Walker (S-W) and Student Management Corporation (SMC) to
27 implement Bursar charges by preparing weekly spreadsheets with a roster of students and
28 the amounts to be charged or credited under each category. SMC and S-W are
29 responsible for the accuracy of all billings and compete with each other to provide the
30 service to each chapter; and

31
32 **Whereas,** the Bursar pays 80% of the amount billed in the following month and 20% in the



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33 second following month regardless of the payment patterns of the individual students.
34 These charges are placed in a checking account that is monitored by S-W or SMC to
35 assure proper spending and prevent funds being used for drugs or alcohol. To the extent
36 that a house is Cornell-owned, 100% of the room charges are paid to a Cornell account
37 controlled by the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life as soon as they are billed; and
38

39 **Whereas**, the Bursar receives 0.75% of all billed charges as a fee to offset its costs and has
40 automated the processing of the data received from S-W and SMC with whom it has
41 established a long-standing trusted relationship; and
42

43 **Whereas**, the Bursar has a very low loss rate from students who do not pay their charges while
44 nationwide, living units at other campuses experience a 5% - 10% loss rate, which must
45 be recovered by increasing the fees paid by other students; and
46

47 **Whereas**, Cornell is proposing to terminate this arrangement at the end of this semester; and
48

49 **Whereas**, under Cornell's proposal, Bursar billing would stop for dining, program fees, and
50 damage deposits for Cornell-owned small living units, even though those charges
51 continue for Cornell-owned large dormitories. Yet, those charges could continue to be
52 collected if Cornell would provide broader coverage in the standard contracts that
53 students sign when they rent a room; and
54

55 **Whereas**, a group of concerned students and alumni have developed a plan as an alternative to
56 abandoning the Bursar's role in collecting such charges:
57

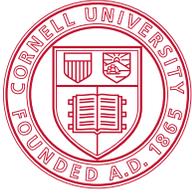
58 **Be it therefore resolved**, the University Assembly endorses this attached plan.
59

60 **Resolved**, the University Assembly urges the Cornell Bursar to give favorable consideration to
61 the attached plan; and
62

63 **Resolved**, the University Assembly urges the Cornell Bursar to take advantage of its long-term
64 relationship of trust with S-W and SMC in developing an efficient and low-cost solution
65 to collecting funds for the organizations listed above; and
66

67 **Resolved**, the University Assembly asks that for university-owned living units, when Cornell
68 writes contracts, it should provide the living units with flexibility to cover meal plans,
69 program fees and damage deposits, just as it does for traditional dormitories; and
70

71 **Resolved**, the University Assembly acknowledges the hard work of student organization
72 officers, particularly their Treasurers, and thanks them for their service in making Cornell
73 a vibrant living/learning community; and
74



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75 **Resolved**, the University Assembly extends its appreciation to the Bursar's Office continuing to
76 support this work to the maximum possible extent; and

77
78 **Resolved**, the University Assembly asks the Administration to consider the above plan and
79 respond in a favorable way for the student groups affected; and

80
81 **Be it finally resolved**, the Administration reconsider the aforementioned Bursar change and
82 provide appropriate living units with flexibility to cover meal plans, program fees and
83 damage deposits.

No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly (Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.

PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE GREEK HOUSE BILLING THROUGH CORNELL - CORNELLCARD

At present, we have a forty-year history of S-W and SMC entering into contracts with Cornell that allow them to open checking accounts for individual houses and then Bursar bill housing, dining, and other costs through the Bursar billing system. The Bursar charges 0.75% on all funds, and S-W and SMC account for all funds to ensure they are spent on the chapter and do not involve alcohol purchases.

The proposal is to transition the present system to CornellCard.

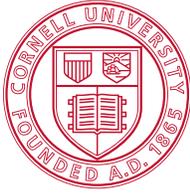
- Each student would sign a CornellCard agreement and Bursar agreement.
- Students would pay the current \$13 CornellCard fee.
- S-W and SMC would continue their present practice of collecting and submitting electronically the charges on behalf of each house.
- These charges would be debits on the CornellCard account rather than the main Bursar bill.
- If a student fails to pay the CornellCard charges, it would result in a "hold" on a diploma or course registration.
- Revenues would continue to be available 80% in the middle of the following month and 20% the month after that.
- Houses would have the option of using S-W, SMC or not participating in the program
- Any customer service inquiry or complaint would be handled by S-W or SMC and not by the OSFL staff.
- The greek charges would not count against the \$1,500 CornellCard limit on each student.

In the case of Cornell-owned houses, the SFR lease would be expanded to cover dining and other ancillary charges including parlor fees.

- Cornell-owned room rent and parlor fees would appear on the main Bursar bill and would be immediately credited to each chapter's house operating account (controlled by Kara and Terri).
- Cornell-owned dining fees would appear on the main Bursar bill and would be deposited in the chapter checking account on the 80% - 20% schedule that applies to dining fees now.
- All other charges from Cornell-owned chapters would appear on the CornellCard account of the student.

Chapters would continue to pay S-W or SMC professional fees for accounting and customer service

This proposal would be re-evaluated in two years to determine its effectiveness.



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U.A. Resolution #24

Making the UA Charter Gender-neutral

[05/04/2021]

1 **Sponsored by: Logan Kenney, GPSA**

2

3 **Whereas**, the Charter of the University Assembly uses the terms “he” and “she;” and

4

5 **Whereas**, section 5.3(c), states: If, after the floor is closed for nominations for specific officer
6 position, only one candidate is nominated to be an officer, he or she will be seated
7 immediately, unless a member of the Assembly opposes the nomination; and

8

9 **Whereas**, many individuals in the Cornell community do not identify with these terms; and

10

11 **Whereas**, this item affects members of the Cornell community and falls within the purview of
12 the University Assembly.

13

14 **Be it therefore resolved**, section 5.3(c) of the University Charter will now read: If, after the
15 floor is closed for nominations for specific officer position, only one candidate is
16 nominated to be an officer, they will be seated immediately, unless a member of the
17 Assembly opposes the nomination; and

18

19 **Resolved**, the University Assembly asks the Administration to consider this change to the
20 University Assembly Charter; and

21

22 **Be it finally resolved**, the University Assembly replace all language pertaining to gender with
23 gender-neutral language.

No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly (Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.