

Cornell University
University Assembly

Cornell University's University Assembly

Agenda of the October 19th, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

700 Clark Hall | Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohono (Cayuga Nation)
 - c. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. [9/28/2021 Meeting Minutes](#)
 - b. [10/5/2021 Meeting Minutes](#)
- III. Open Forum
 - a. CUPD Chief Honan to visit the University Assembly, 11/2/21
 - b. Updates in the search for a new University Ombudsman
- IV. New Business
 - a. [Resolution #2 - Calling on Cornell University to Recognize Veterans Day](#)
- V. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - c. Employee Assembly
 - d. Faculty Senate
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology and the Environment
- VII. Liaison Reports
- VIII. Adjournment

If you are in need of special accommodations in order to fully participate, please contact Student Disability Services at (607) 254-4545 or the Office of the Assemblies at (607) 255-3715 or assembly@cornell.edu prior to the meeting.



Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the September 28, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Physical Science Building and Zoom

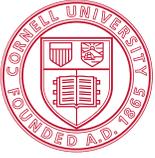
- I. Call to Order
 - a. B. Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.
 - b. *Members Present:* I. Akisoglu, V. Aymer, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, N. Danev, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, P. Hanley, A. Ononye, J. Withers, D. Howel, C. Levine, M. Louis,
 - c. *Members Absent:* E. DeRosa, T. Fox, D. Hiner, J. Richards, S. Tannis.
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogho:nq (Cayuga Nation)
- III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Approval of the Minutes (September 14, 2021)
 - a. R. Bensel made a motion to amend the minutes at section VII.d.i to read “the faculty for instruction and student safety in the classroom.”
 - i. N. Danev seconded the amendment.
 - ii. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - b. I. Akisoglu made a motion to amend the minutes at section IX.b.ii.1 to read “I. Akisoglu stated there are some liability issues, concerning New York state law, still under discussion”
 - i. R. Bensel seconded the amendment.
 - ii. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - c. R. Bensel made a motion to pass the minutes
 - i. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- V. Open Forum
 - a. Updates Regarding Potential Invitees and Guest Speakers
 - i. B. Fortenberry stated that they have invited Police Dep. Chief Honen to talk about their department and response to the Public Safety Advisory Committee recommendations.
 - ii. J. Feit stated that they are working on a resolution and will later ask for facilities to speak at the U.A. to facilitate more specific questions.
 - iii. J. Withers stated the Conflict Coaching and Mediation Services have visited the EA and are also a possibility.
 - iv. V. Aymer suggested inviting the University Architect, Margaret Carney, to give a presentation on changes with the baseball fields, the Engineering Quad, and the multidisciplinary building on Tower Road that will soon start construction.
- VI. Assembly Reports
 - a. Student Assembly
 - i. A. Ononye stated that they reviewed many resolutions: Res. 25 Defending Haitian Students and Dedicating Further Resources to Programs Helping



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Haiti; Res. 26 Approving Special Projects Funding to the Cornell Intellectual Property and Ethics Club (CIPEC) for the Accessibility Case Competition; Res. 27 Support for Interim Policy 6.3. The S.A. will also have Representatives of Title IX coming to speak. They updated their standing rules through codifying special projects funding applications. The SA also ratified their by-laws, adding an ex-officio seat for student athletes and changed the tri-council ex-officio seat. They also changed the agenda to be a consent agenda, finishing staffing committees, and will be hosting an open forum with Johnathan Burdick, who will speak to the state of financial aid on campus.

- ii. R. Bensel stated that the University had been using surplus funding from the admission of international students to subsidize domestic students in need of aid. They noted the administration was reluctant to discuss the discrepancy between the international and domestic students.
- iii. B. Fortenberry asked about the agenda change.
 1. A. Ononye stated that this will be an agenda with unanimous consent.
 2. D. Cady it is an additional piece of information that changes how resolutions are presented to President Pollock and published. They also note that the resolution will be in discussion for 2 weeks.
 3. J. Feit stated unanimous consent may not have the same weight of a unanimous vote.
 4. B. Fortenberry acknowledged a question by N. Danev asking for the resolution name and number. The body found it to be Res. 29 "Amending the Student Assembly Standing Rules to Establish the Consent Agenda."
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. P. Hanley reported the GPSA filled vacancies on their executive committee and are working to fill some voting member vacancies. They passed a resolution on the University providing accommodations for students during COVID and another resolution on facilitating more student engagement via listservs.
 - ii. N. Danev congratulated P. Hanley on fully staffing the GPSA.
- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. J. Withers stated that they are working to fill vacant seats, planning the President's address to staff, and reported the Welfare Committee is working on a resolution on diversity, inclusion, and belonging.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. R. Bensel stated that the Faculty Senate met last Wednesday. A resolution providing for stronger Faculty Senate participation in joint degree programs was introduced. This resolution stems from the University moving forward with a program, the Peking University Program, that the Faculty Senate had rejected.
 - ii. A. Ononye asked about the status of the Anti-Racism Committee.
 - iii. R. Bensel stated that there were four resolutions in the spring, but the two resolutions that passed that were contradictory. The president gave the issue



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back to individual colleges, and therefore outside of the Faculty Senate's scope – the intersectionality between colleges.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. J. Feit stated the Executive Committee invited the Office of Student Conduct and Community standards to speak.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. J. Richards reported that the CJC has been completely staffed by the assemblies and was able to form a quorum. They are working on a potential revision of the CJC governing docs to delineate between the old and the new cold.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. D. Howell reported their first meeting is scheduled in October and they are currently missing 5 voting members on the committee (EA, GPSA, SA, XXX).
- d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. I. Akisoglu stated the committee will be meeting soon.
- e. B. Fortenberry reminded the body that they will have a meeting next Tuesday due to fall break.

VIII. VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. D. Cady asked if they filled all the liaison groups
 - i. B. Fortenberry stated that they did not believe that all were filled but would send out a list of vacancies if present.

IX. IX. Adjournment

- a. R. Bensel motioned for adjournment.
 - i. J. Feit seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk of the Assembly



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Minutes of the October 5th, 2021 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Physical Science Building

- I. Call to Order
 - a. B. Fortenberry called the meeting to order at 4:35pm
 - b. *Members Present:* I. Akisoglu, V. Aymer, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, N. Danev, E. DeRosa, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, P. Hanley, D. Hiner, A. Ononye, J. Richards, J. Withers
 - c. *Members Absent:* D. Howel, C. Levine, M. Louis, S. Tanis
- II. Late Agenda
 - a. J. Feit motions to add committee appointments to the agenda
 - i. P. Hanley seconded the motion
 - ii. The motion passed with unanimous consent
- III. Open Forum
 - a. Updates regarding Potential Invitees and Guest Speakers
 - i. B. Fortenberry stated Police Chief Honan acknowledged he received the invite, and the PSAC voiced an interest in joining to report the work they have been doing.
 - b. Search for a new University Ombudsman
 - i. B. Fortenberry stated that K. Cunningham reached out to see if we would like to appoint a representative to aid in the search for a new University Ombudsman.
 - ii. R. Bensel asked who uses the Office of the Ombudsman.
 - iii. G. Giambattista stated that the Ombudsman makes a report to the assembly every year. They offer to see if they can find the minutes associated.
 - iv. B. Fortenberry stated that their goal is to have a member for every role in the assembly.
 - v. A. Ononye recommended D. Cady.
 1. D. Cady stated that they would be happy to talk with someone about the requirements and time commitments.
 - vi. R. Bensel asked if they intend to appoint an Ombudsman from outside or inside the university.
 - vii. T. Fox stated that it has always been a Cornell member.
 - viii. E. DeRosa stated that someone had recommended an individual who has been at Cornell for a long time and understands where to access resources.
 - ix. R. Bensel nominated D. Cady to be their representative.
 1. E. DeRosa seconded the motion
 2. D. Cady accepted under the understanding that they would learn more about the position and then make a more formal decision



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3. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.

IV. Assembly Reports

a. Student Assembly

- i. A. Ononye stated that they discussed financial aid, the students who have not formally revived their financial aid packages, the Cornell Readership Program, and the slope day program. They also had the Professional Fraternity Council (PFO) come to speak about their charter. The PFO had been required to report diversity statistics to a PFC. At the beginning of the year, they attempted to remove the clause and the SA rejected the movement. They had an open forum with those returning PFO representatives as they requested to uphold their original request. They had a resolution in support of Orange Shirt Day. The SA will also be swearing in their new freshman and transfer representatives on Thursday.
- ii. J. Feit asked for the PFO's basis for wanting to remove the diversity statistics clause
 1. A. Ononye stated the PFO is a relatively new organization, and they umbrella all the professional student organizations on campus, which has struggled in the past with diversity. They are seeing organizations leave on that basis of being required to create diversity reports.
- iii. An individual in the chat asked for the meaning of the Orange Shirt Day
 1. A. Ononye gave the summation of the resolution, which can also be encapsulated by its abstract: "This resolution calls for Cornell University to declare Orange Shirt Day, or National Day of Remembrance for the U.S. Indian Boarding Schools, an official day of recognition and solidarity. In its declaration, it promotes awareness and active engagement in educational resources and an acknowledgment of the current 6,509 Native American children's gravesites/bodies recovered in the U.S. and Canadian residential schools." This day is formally recognized by the United States, however, they would also like the University to formally recognize this day.
- iv. B. Fortenberry asked if they had any insight on the issues with financial aid.
 1. A. Ononye reported that during the forum they gleaned that the Financial Aid and Bursar Offices are severely understaffed and as a result, they were not able to get to the financial packages in a timely manner. They are trying to ensure it will not happen again. Another issue arose in the form of bursar holds as if a student was late in paying tuition it would result in a hiring freeze.
 2. D. Cady stated that in order to negate this issue from happening in the future, they are trying to train up their new members and achieve full office capacity.



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- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. P. Hanley stated that they had not met since last week and were focused on staffing.
- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. J. Withers stated that they also had not met since the last meeting, however, they are looking at a resolution in support of Interim Policy 6.3 tomorrow.
 - ii. R. Bensel asked what Interim Policy 6.3 entailed.
 - 1. J. Withers reported it was the policy on consensual relationships and they extended it to ban romantic relationships between staff and undergraduates.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. E. DeRosa reported that they had two senate meetings. One was a special senate meeting around faculty concerns on teaching in person. In their first meeting, they passed two resolutions: one on accommodations and another on faculty digression to teach online. During the second meeting they had updates on the Anti-Racism Initiatives on the university level and the new department in the College of Human Ecology. They had four new resolutions, one was from the University Faculty Committee, which resolved the processes of the approval process of international dual degrees programs. This was resolved over the summer and so it was motioned to be withdrawn. Two resolutions were on title changes within the ILR school. The last resolution was a senate-sponsored proposal that all new university programs should be approved through the state.
 - ii. D. Cady asked about the university's response to the first resolution on accommodations for faculty, staff, and students due to COVID.
 - 1. E. DeRosa reported that President Pollock stated that it is the universities prerogative to be a student-centered, residential experience, in-person teaching university. They will post the response with the resolutions as to be publicly available.
 - iii. N. Danev asked if the university acknowledged the Faculty Senate's position and inquired about the scope of programs that would be approved through the senate.
 - 1. E. DeRosa stated that there was no direct response from the University when going against the recommendations of the Senate for the Dual Degree International Double Degree Program. But the five steps recommended by the Senate are part of the approval process and are the reason for the withdrawal of the aforementioned resolution.
 - 2. R. Bensel stated the Faculty Senate rejected the Peking Dual Degree program and the university approved the program without reporting to the Faculty Senate. There are two resolutions for the Dual Degree



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programs, the one currently being voted on provides that all the information about the program and proceedings will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate before being sent to the provost. R. Bensel stated the second proposal was created privately between the Dean of Faculty and the central administration. This resolution will go into effect if the first resolution is rejected. In this resolution, the Faculty Senate does not have the ability to amend, advise, or participate in the join program.

- iv. A. Ononye asked about the Anti-Racism Initiative progress
 - 1. E. DeRosa stated that the concrete plans will soon be announced.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. J. Feit stated there was nothing to report.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. J. Richards stated that their first meeting will be this Friday. They will be discussing their new role and hearing from the new Hearing Panel Chair,
 - ii. B. Fortenberry asked about appointment statuses.
 - 1. J. Richard stated that they have not appointed anyone yet.
- c. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology and the Environment (CCITE)
 - i. I. Akisoglu reported the CCITE received 2 appointments from the GPSA and 2 appointments from the Student Assembly. Currently, they are missing a voting member from the Employee Assembly.
 - ii. J. Withers stated that they will be voting on liaison appointees in the next meeting.

VI. Liaison Reports

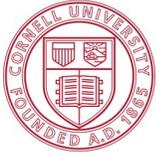
- a. Campus Planning Committee (CPC)
 - i. I. Akisoglu reported that the CPC talked on the topics of construction of a new building funded by the National Science Foundation Grant; the hot water master plan and earth source heating is on schedule to begin construction of a test well in the Spring of 2022; Fernow Green modifications to the stair scheme; and back up to the Deiseal Generator will be in Grand Field Hall.

VII. Adjournment

- a. R. Bensel moved to adjourn.
 - i. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clerk of the Assembly



Resolution 2:

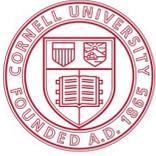
Calling on Cornell University to Appropriately Recognize and Honor Veterans Day

Abstract: This resolution calls on University Administration to establish Veterans Day as a University-holiday where courses are canceled and veteran staff are not required to work.

Sponsored by: Logan R. Kenney CHE '15, JD '21, Past Chair, University Assembly (UA), Past President, Cornell Law Veterans Association (CLVA), Cornell Military Network (CMN); Weston Boose MBA '22, Vice President, Johnson Association of Veterans (AoV); Duncan Cady ILR '23, Representative, UA, Students with Disabilities Representative, Student Assembly (SA); Nikola Danev PhD Candidate, CVM, Ranking Member, UA, Counsel to the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GPSA); Jacob J. Feit CALS '22, Executive Vice Chair, UA, Former Chair, UA Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment; Michael Glenn CALS '24, Co-Founder & Vice President, Veteran's Social Club (VSC), Cornell Undergraduate Veterans Association (CUVA); Isa Goldberg MBA '22, Vice President of International Veterans, AoV; Preston Hanley MPA '22, President, GPSA, Representative, UA; Dakota Johnson HADM '22, Co-Founder & Treasurer, VSC, Former Representative, UA Ad Hoc Committee for Veteran Affairs, CUVA Member; Dan Meyer CAS '87, Sphinx Head Society, CMN, Past President, CUAIFC, Past Delegate, CUGALA Cornell Federation; Mark Minton AAP '23, Vice President, CUVA, Past Cornell Student Veteran Ambassador; Roland Molina A&S '22, President, CUVA; Patrick O'Neal CALS '19, Past President, CUVA; Anuli Ononye A&S '22, President, SA; Caleb Perkins MBA '22, President, AoV; Konner Robison MBA '21, JD '24; James Rowe MBA '14, JD '22; Michael Sanchez ILR '23, Affairs Coordinator, CUVA; Patrick Shaffer MBA '22, Past President, AoV; Bennett Sherr ILR '21, Past Undergraduate Representative, UA; Andy Shin CALS '23, Representative, Student Congress South Campus; Samantha Weil CALS '24, Midshipman, Cornell Naval ROTC, Resident, Cornell Veterans House

Whereas, each year, Veterans Day is nationally recognized in the United States of America on November 11th as a day of reverence.

Whereas, November 11th represents the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the day, time, and hour that signaled the end of World War I.



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31 **Whereas,** Veterans Day was originally recognized as Armistice Day, with Congress passing a
32 resolution in 1926 for an annual observance.

33 **Whereas,** in 1938, November 11th became a national holiday, followed shortly thereafter by
34 New York State’s own declaration of November 11th to be recognized as “Veterans Day.”

35 **Whereas,** Cornell University is currently home to over 400 veterans among its staff, faculty, and
36 students.

37 **Whereas,** the University benefits in the form of gifts and income derived from the global
38 economy veterans have sacrificed to maintain.

39 **Whereas,** without official University recognition, Cornell’s veteran community are annually
40 forced to spend their vacation or personal time-off in order to participate in Veterans Day events.

41 **Whereas,** Veterans Day honors all American veterans, giving thanks to individuals who
42 honorably served and sacrificed for our country. Furthermore, a debt incurred is a debt to be
43 repaid.

44 **Be it therefore resolved,** the University must fully acknowledge and honor our country’s
45 veterans, both past and present, especially those affiliated with Cornell University.

46 **Be it finally resolved,** the Cornell University Administration will cancel both course attendance
47 and required work for veteran staff each academic year on November 11th, the date of the
48 nationally recognized holiday.

49 Respectfully Submitted,

50 Jacob J. Feit

51 Executive Vice Chair, University Assembly