

Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the May 4th, 2021

Meeting 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

- I. Call to Order
 - a. L. Kenney called the meeting to order at 4:32PM.
 - b. *Members Present:* V. Aymer, H. Depew, N. Danev, D. Dunham, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, D. Hiner, A. Hong, L. Kenney, J. Pea, B. Sherr, L. Smith, C. Van Loan, J. Withers.
 - c. *Members Absent:* U. Chukwukere, C. Huang, R. Howarth, C. Levine, P. Thompson.
 - d. *Also Present:* M. Trauring, R. Platt.
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
 - a. B. Sherr proposed adding Resolution 25 to Business of the Day, item 3.
 - i. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 - ii. G. Giambattista made a point of order that there is a Late Addition section of the Agenda.
 - iii. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
 - b. J. Feit motions to add Resolution 26 to the Late Addition's section.
 - i. B. Sherr seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- III. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogohó:ño (Cayuga Nation)
 - a. L. Kenney recited the Land Acknowledgment.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes (4 /20/21)
 - a. N. Danev motioned to approve the minutes.
 - i. D. Dunham seconded the motion
 - ii. The motion passed with unanimous consent
- V. Business of the Day
 - a. Resolution 23: Resolution on Bursar Billing for Certain Student Organization
 - i. M. Trauring presented the resolution. The termination of Bursar Billing is an issue for organizations such as fraternities, and they present the Cornell Card as a possible solution.
 - ii. L. Smith noted that you exceed the monetary cap on the CornellCard.
 - iii. R. Platt stated that they are going through CornellCard as it avoids many Title IV issues.
 - iv. B. Sherr asked what the alternative would be.
 - v. R. Platt stated that only the room rent would be collected by the Bursar.
 - vi. B. Fortenberry asked if the payment collection would extend outside of rent,



Cornell University University Assembly

- including dining and program fees.
- vii. R. Platt affirmed.
 - viii. B. Fortenberry asked if there was a shift in Title IV.
 - ix. R. Platt stated there were many issues raised for Ivy League schools under the Trump Administration.
 - x. N. Danev stated that they should keep the system as it is proposed in this resolution to shield students from pressures from outside companies. He stated that the 1% loss rate is incredible as opposed to the usual 15%.
 - xi. B. Fortenberry asked if the resolution is asking the University to reinterpret Title IV to apply it in this manner.
 - xii. R. Platt stated over the years, non-Title IV expenses have been placed on the Cornell Card. The plan would expand the threshold of the CornellCard to these charges plus the current cap and it would rewrite the contract of every student living in Cornell fraternity housing.
 - xiii. B. Fortenberry asked about conversations with University leadership and Greek life leadership.
 - xiv. M. Trauring stated that outsourcing these due collections will create a larger financial barrier and might create rifts within the community, ostracizing whoever must collect the dues.
 - xv. R. Platt stated that they would be happy to meet with the Administration to make their case. The issue stems from the fact there are some students who can pay but do not. He states that the financial aid and collection pieces are different. They are trying to keep the loss under the 1% rate.
 - xvi. B. Fortenberry motioned to amend lines 81 and 82 to “Be it finally resolved, the Administration reconsider the aforementioned Bursar change and provide an opportunity to cover meal plans, program fees and damage deposits.”
 1. L. Smith seconded the motion.
 2. N. Danev asked if R. Platt if this is a friendly amendment.
 3. R. Platt affirmed.
 4. The amendment passed with unanimous consent.
 - xvii. N. Danev stated that this is a question of protecting undergraduates from direct collections from Greek life national chapters.
 - xviii. R. Platt mentioned a company “GreekBill” that charges around 25% for collections.
 - xix. N. Danev motioned to vote on the resolution.
 1. B. Fortenberry seconded the motion.
 2. The resolution passed with 13-1-1.
- b. Resolution 24: Making the UA Charter Gender-neutral
- i. L. Kenney turned over chair-ship to T. Fox.
 - ii. L. Kenney stated that the resolution changes “he or she” to the gender-



Cornell University University Assembly

neutral “they” in the Charter.

- iii. L. Kenney fixed a grammatical error, adding “a” in “for a specific officer position.”
- iv. B. Fortenberry called to question.
- v. L. Kenney made a point of order, Charter changes must be publicized for at least one week.
- vi. B. Fortenberry motioned to table Resolution 24
 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 2. The resolution was **tabled** with unanimous consent.

VI. Assembly Reports

a. Student Assembly

- i. L. Smith stated that they confirmed the new Student Advocate Office. Additionally, they heard the announcement for Slope day performers. Two resolutions were tabled, and one to be discussed later that day, mostly surrounding infrastructure.

b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

- i. D. Dunham stated that they elected a new GPSA president, James Roe, and executive vice president, Isabella Harnick. They also filled internal positions and heard from the Dean of the Graduate school on data for TA-ships and funding levels. They also re-elected Nickola Danev and elected Ian Akisoglu. The GPSA has two vacant UA representative seats that need to be filled. They also introduced a resolution that introduced standing rules and a resolution to allow a large amount of GPSA funds for pandemic relief.

c. Employee Assembly

- i. H. Depew stated that they were to have their organizational meeting tomorrow with Mary Opperman to present on fall workplace principles and remote working. They will be discussing the finance form in June. The EA will also discuss awards.

d. Faculty Senate

- i. C. Van Loan reported that Eve De Rosa will be the next Dean of Faculty. They will be the first women, person of color, and from the College of Human Ecology to serve in this role. The vote on the Center for Racial Justice and Equitable Futures passed through the Senate by a large margin. They are having discussions on seven alternatives to the faculty and student parts of that initiative.
- ii. D. Dunham asked how one would manage seven proposals that may be contradictory.



Cornell University University Assembly

- iii. C. Van Loan stated that it was a result of the broadening diversity of ideas within the body and a desire not to pitting one against another through the constraint of one resolution.

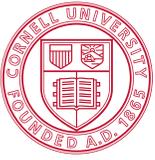
VII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. L. Kenney stated that they are entertaining a resolution.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. B. Fortenberry stated that they had R. Lombardi visit. They are still garnering responses from those who might extend their term in the UHRB. The OJA may hear cases over the summer. Next week, they will hear of the differences between the current Code of Conduct and the new Student Code of Conduct.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. B. Sherr stated that the Ad Hoc Committee of Veterans' Affairs met.
 - ii. L. Kenney stated that the meeting was an open space to workshop ideas. The resolutions touch veteran's resources, CAPS councilors, and tuition.
- d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. J. Feit stated that they used a virtual voting system and passed unanimously one petition to renew housing amenities. Another resolution, Tree-per-graduate was referred to the committee however there were several serious legal issues regarding the resolution so there will be a vote to table the resolution indefinitely.

VIII. Liaison Reports

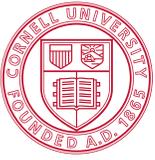
IX. Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. Resolution 25: Precluding Constituent Leaders from Serving on the UA Executive Board or as Chairs of Standing Committees
 - i. L. Kenney presented the resolution. They asserted serving on the University Assembly Executive Board or as Chair of a University Assembly Standing Committee may force constituent leaders to step outside of their campus roles for neutral consideration of topics.
 - ii. D. Dunham asserted that the resolution is not advisable as it restricts full members from serving in a leadership position. Additionally, it implies that one is not capable of being impartial. They do not understand why the leadership must be treated differently.
 - iii. L. Kenney stated that having one person to serve in two positions may go against shared governance.
 - iv. B. Sherr motioned to extend to 6:15pm.
 - 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.



Cornell University University Assembly

2. The motion passed by unanimous consent.
 - v. N. Danev stated that for the sake of representation of differing opinions it is important that different people assume these roles.
 - vi. D. Dunham stated that the president is not the only person who is supposed to represent their constituents' groups in the U.A.
 - vii. L. Kenney recounted a case in which someone served as both.
 - viii. B. Fortenberry stated that the case is a misconduct situation that could happen whether they were serving as the president or a member.
 - ix. B. Sherr stated that they believe it is an inherent conflict of interest.
 - x. J. Feit stated that this resolution may even garner more interest.
 - xi. B. Sherr motioned to table the resolution.
 1. J. Feit seconded the motion
 2. L. Kenney proposed a roll-call vote.
 - a. V. Aymer – yes.
 - b. H. Depew – yes.
 - c. N. Danev – yes.
 - d. D. Dunham – no.
 - e. J. Feit – yes.
 - f. B. Fortenberry – yes.
 - g. T. Fox – yes.
 - h. D. Hiner – yes.
 - i. A. Hong – yes.
 - j. J. Pea – yes.
 - k. B. Sherr – yes.
 - l. L. Smith – yes.
 - m. C. Van Loan – yes.
 - n. J. Withers – yes.
 - o. L. Kenney – abstain.
 3. The resolution was **tabled** with a vote of 13-1-1.
 - xii. B. Fortenberry motioned to extend the meeting for five minutes
 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
 2. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- b. Resolution 26: Petition to Renew Housing Amenities
- i. L. Kenney reclaimed chair-ship.
 - ii. J. Feit presented the resolution.
 - iii. B. Fortenberry asked if they had taken into account the North Campus renovations to both new and old buildings.



Cornell University
University Assembly

- iv. J. Feit stated that this was aimed to create a precedence for the future in ensuring that all appliances are up to date.
- v. N. Danev motioned to vote on the resolution.
 1. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 2. N. Danev retracted his motion.
- vi. N. Danev motioned to move the resolution to Business of the Day
 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 2. The motion passed with unanimous consent.
- vii. N. Danev motioned to vote on Resolution 26.
 1. D. Dunham seconded the motion.
 2. L. Kenney amended to a roll call vote.
 - a. B. Fortenberry – abstain.
 - b. D. Dunham – yes.
 - c. T. Fox – yes.
 - d. David Hiner – yes.
 - e. H. Depew – abstain.
 - f. J. Feit – yes.
 - g. J. Pea – yes.
 - h. J. Withers – abstain.
 - i. J. Smith – yes.
 - j. N. Danev – yes.
 - k. L. Kenney – abstain.
 3. The resolution passed with 7-0-4.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kassandra Jordan
Clerk of the Assembly