



Cornell University University Assembly

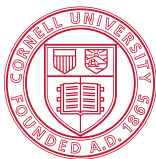
Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the January 25th, 2022 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Zoom

- I. Call to Order
 - a. J. Feit called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.
 - 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, D. Howell, M. Louis, A. Ononye, D. Sharp, J. Withers.
 - c. *Members Absent:* C. Levine, J. Richards
 - d. *Also Present:* O. Gustafson, T. Jordan, B. Lewenstein, T. Brant, S. Carson
- II. Land Acknowledgment of the Gayogoḥo:noḥ (Cayuga Nation)
 - a. J. Feit recited the Land Acknowledgement.
- III. Approval of the 11/30/2022 Minutes
 - a. R. Bensel moved to approve the meeting minutes.
 - i. E. DeRosa seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
- IV. Open Forum
 - a. B. Fortenberry related the upcoming visits listed in the agenda.
- V. New Business
 - a. Ombudsman Appointment
 - i. B. Fortenberry stated they received a letter from the president to recommend Professor Bruce Lewenstein.
 - ii. D. Cady and E. DeRosa spoke to the process of recommending an Ombudsman.
 - iii. B. Lewenstein introduced themselves and answered questions about their vision for the role.
 - iv. Discussion ensued on the office's status as a reactive versus proactive role, their willingness to report their findings to the U.A, and their aforementioned vision for the role.
 - v. D. Cady motioned to approve the ombudsman appointment.
 1. N. Danev seconded the motion.
 2. The motion **passed** with 18-0-0.
 - b. Earth-Source Heating (CUBO)
 - i. S. Carson, T. Jordan, O. Gustafson presented on Earth-Source Heating and the Cornell University Borehole Observatory (CUBO).



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- ii. Discussion ensued on earthquakes, consultation of the nearby colleges, the drilling depth, safety mechanisms, funding, and timeframes with data gathering.
- iii. B. Fortenberry stated that D. Sharp had entered after the vote but had voted in the affirmative. They also noted that C. Levine was overseas and wanted to express their support for the appointment of Professor Bruce Lewenstein.

VI. Assembly Reports

- a. Student Assembly
 - i. A. Ononye reported Resolution 35: Calling on Cornell to Eliminate Legacy Preference in Admissions has been submitted to the president and Resolution 37: Recommendation for the Student Activity Fee for 2022-2024 was accepted by the President.
- b. Graduate and Professional Assembly
 - i. P. Hanley stated the GPSA has not met.
- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. J. Withers stated they had their Spring Semester Meeting with President Pollack and Vice President Opperman about the semester start. They are planning to meet with Russell Reynolds, a firm that has been retained in the search for the new Chief Human Resource Officer. The Employee Welfare Committee is working on a resolution about employee onboarding. The Communications Outreach and Recognition Committee is reviewing 14 nominations for the Award for Staff Integrity and Inclusion. The Education and Development Committee received an update about the Employee Degree Program: 35 staff members completed their degrees.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. E. DeRosa stated they had their December Faculty Senate meeting. The Faculty Senate had two draft proposals presented: Part-time Bachelor's Degree for Non-traditional Students and Re-thinking the Honor's Distinction. They will vote on these resolutions in the Spring.
 - ii. B. Fortenberry asked if the Part-time Bachelor's Degree for Non-traditional Students would apply to Cornell employees as well.
 - iii. E. DeRosa confirmed. They also stated they are also considering the prison population and the military.
 - iv. J. Feit asked about the motivation behind removing the Dean's List.
 - v. E. DeRosa stated that it is applied differently across colleges, creating extremes where one may have 65% of students on the Dean's List and another college may only have 15%. In contrast, there will be GPA-based



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Honor's and Distinctions applied universally. However, they also reminded the body that this proposal is still under consideration.

- vi. J. Feit asked about the potential disadvantages students may have when pursuing high-profile employment, as they may be compared against other institutions and candidates that give the Dean's List.
- vii. E. DeRosa stated that their argument is to make the blanket policy from Cornell known as to not disadvantage students. E. DeRosa offered to ask that this resolution comes before the GPSA and the SA.
- viii. D. Cady expressed concerns about recruitment cycles if this blanket policy was created. They asked if the Faculty Senate would be open to presenting the resolution before the SA and the UA.
- ix. E. DeRosa stated that the slide decks, proposals, and related conversations are posted on their website.

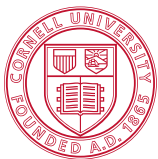
VII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. No updates were reported.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. No updates were reported.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. D. Howell stated they had their Spring Semester Kick-off meeting. They are working on a draft resolution in support of a natatorium at Cornell and a memo asking to collaborate with the SA and GPSA on a campus welfare resolution in response to campus crises last semester.
- d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. I. Akisoglu motioned to the meeting by 5 minutes.
 - 1. D. Sharp seconded the motion.
 - 2. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
 - ii. I. Akisoglu stated that the next CITE meeting will be opened to all members of the assemblies. There will be presentations facilitated by the Campus Sustainability Office for R5 and a representative from Big Belly.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. R. BenseI motioned to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. J. Withers seconded the motion.
 - ii. The motion **passed** with unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04pm.



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Respectfully Submitted,
Kassandra Jordan
Clerk of the Assembly