



# Cornell University University Assembly

## Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the October 27, 2020 Meeting

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Call to Order
    - i. L. Kenney called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.
  - b. Roll Call
    - i. *Members Present:* V. Aymer, U. Chukwukere, H. Depew, C. Duell, D. Dunham, J. Feit, B. Fortenberry, T. Fox, J. Froehlich, A. Hong, C. Huang, L. Kenney, C. Levine, J. Pea, L. Smith, C. Van Loan, P. Thompson, J. Withers
    - ii. *Members Absent:* R. Howarth, B. Sherr
    - iii. *Special Guests:* G. Giambattista
- II. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda
  - a. No late additions to the agenda were proposed.
- III. Business of the Day
  - a. Introductions
    - i. The UA members introduced themselves.
  - b. Approval of Meeting Minutes
    - i. May 5, 2020
      1. U. Chukwukere motioned to approve an amended version of the May 5, 2020 minutes due to a discrepancy between what was stated in the recording and what was written in section xxxii.
        - a. J. Feit seconded the motion.
        - b. The motion **passed** with 16-0-1.
    - ii. May 12, 2020 and April 28, 2020
      1. J. Pea motioned to approve both the May 12<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> minutes.
      2. P. Thompson seconded the motion.
      3. The motion **passed** with 16-0-1.
  - c. Presentation on Robert's Rules of Order by Gina Giambattista
    - i. G. Giambattista spoke to the role of the Office of the Assemblies, the history of the Assemblies, Robert's Rules of Order, and how to create resolutions.
    - ii. G. Giambattista asked if there were any questions.
    - iii. T. Fox asked G. Giambattista for a copy of the presentation.



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- iv. G. Giambattista stated that she would email or post the presentation.
- v. L. Kenney asked if she could propose a friendly amendment or motion in the instance that she is a sponsor on a resolution and U. Chukwukere is chairing.
- vi. G. Giambattista affirmed that if L. Kenney is not chairing then she is welcome to amend a motion, especially if she is a sponsor on the resolution.
- vii. L. Kenney asked if P. Thompson would be comfortable chairing the meeting
- viii. P. Thompson agreed to be chair of the meeting.
- d. Approval of By-Law Changes (see Resolution 1)
  - i. P. Thompson asked L. Kenney, J. Pea, and B. Sherr to present their resolution
  - ii. L. Kenney said the resolution came as a result of the silence in the bylaws relating to chair-ship of the standing committees, membership, and how the elections should proceed in the future. She said the language speaks is in line with the discussion held at the last meeting.
  - iii. P. Thompson opened up the resolution for discussion.
  - iv. J. Feit motioned to vote on Resolution 1.
    - 1. L. Kenney motioned for a friendly amendment.
    - 2. L. Kenney proposed a correction that B. Sherr is an Undergraduate Assembly representative rather than a Student Assembly representative and to change the word “by” to “from” on line 21.
    - 3. J. Feit accepted the amendment.
    - 4. L. Kenney seconded the motion.
    - 5. The motion **passed** with 15-0-2.
  - v. L. Kenney reclaimed chair-ship.
  - vi. P. Thompson made a motion to proceed with the votes for the chair-ships without considering the positions as vacancies.
    - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
    - 2. The motion **passed** with 16-0-1.
- e. Elections of Committee Chairs
  - i. L. Kenney asked G. Giambattista if internal elections can be made within a public meeting.
  - ii. G. Giambattista stated that the governing documents do not specify.
  - iii. U. Chukwukere motioned to move to an executive session
    - 1. J. Feit seconded the motion.
    - 2. The motion **passed** with 15-0-2.
  - iv. Moved into an executive session at 5:13pm



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- v. Returned from the executive session at 5:26pm
  - vi. L. Kenney stated that B. Sherr was elected to chair the CWC, B. Fortenberry was elected to chair the CJC, and J. Feit was elected to chair the CIC.
  - vii. L. Kenney identified three additional positions needing to be filled by UA members: The Carbon Neutral Campus Steering Committee, The Education and Engagement Steering Committee, and The Campus Operations Steering Committee. She stated that these committees began meeting in early October and would meet once a month.
  - viii. C. Levine asked if the positions were within the Sustainability Committee.
  - ix. P. Thompson said they are one-year term appointments, so the individuals who were on the committee last year would either need to continue to express interest or the UA would need to find new individuals to fill those roles. P. Thompson asked C. Levine if she would like to continue her position on the CSC so she could be re-appointed.
  - x. C. Levine expressed interest in Education and Engagement of the Cornell Sustainability Council (CSC) or any of the other positions stated previously.
  - xi. L. Kenney suggested that C. Levine notify P. Thompson by email, and thanked her willingness to serve.
- f. Constituent Assembly Updates
- i. Employee Assembly
    1. H. Depew reported that staff forums are coming up and they are working with Kristine Mahoney, the chair of the Welfare Committee, in partnership with HR to create a wellness series for staff members on the topic of mental and physical wellness concerns, creating community, parenting, childcare, and eldercare.
    2. H. Depew stated the EA would be partnering with Cornell Health to provide a COVID staff forum prior to Thanksgiving to discourage travel within staff if possible.
    3. H. Depew reported a potential resolution through the Welfare Committee recognizing and thanking students adhering to social distancing measures and mask mandates.
    4. H. Depew also stated that they are creating a priorities poll for staff.
  - ii. Faculty Senate
    1. C. Van Loan stated time-sensitive deadlines include the Mental Health Report that requires feedback within a week and the Campus Code that requires feedback before Thanksgiving.
    2. C. Van Loan reported that they would be having a discussion with Marisa O’Gara from the JCC and have identified the following main



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topics to address: the burden of proof, whether counselors can talk during the hearing, why JCC have to be law students, and whether the JCC's office is sufficiently independent.

3. C. Van Loan reported a resolution will be presented that renames the dorms in honor of Toni Morrison, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and Barbara McClintok.
  4. C. Van Loan said they talked about changes to the Academic Integrity Code driven by experiences in the spring semester.
    - a. He said they created a method for large cases, four or more individuals, of delegating the primary hearings that the instructor has to hold while respecting due process.
    - b. C. Van Loan said the changes allow staff members, instead of solely faculty, to serve as independent witnesses.
    - c. He said that another proposal addresses the issue of being convicted of a violation with regards to an S/U course.
  5. C. Van Loan said that another issue to be addressed are the rules surrounding RTE faculty as a percent of tenure track faculty. He said that some schools have a need for more clinical faculty as a result of their public health program. C. Van Loan said these changes would aim to match Cornell's clinical needs with the faculty hiring needs that square with admissions.
- iii. Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
1. D. Dunham reported that the GPSA heard presentations about the Code of Conduct from Christina Liang, an Associate Judicial Administrator, and Marisa O'Gara, a Judicial Codes Counselor.
  2. The GPSA also had the graduate student trustee candidates give presentations. D. Dunham noted that he would be moderating the forum for the candidates the next evening.
  3. D. Dunham reported that they had two new resolutions.
    - a. The first resolution, which was passed, condemns and calls upon the university to legally fight the proposed DHS ruling requiring a fixed period of stay for international students if it was to be implemented. The resolution also calls for the university to increase key staffing in key academic units that could be affected by this ruling, namely the Office of Global Learning, as well as hiring CAPS counselors who are trained specifically for international graduate students in these issues.





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2. T. Fox inquired how this would work with Robert's Rules of Order.
  3. L. Kenney recommended that they use the chat function sparingly.
  4. T. Fox proposes friendly amendment that specifies the assembly should endeavor to use the chat option as sparingly as possible
  5. P. Thompson accepted
  6. The motion **passed** with 15-0-1.
- IV. L. Kenney noted the time and called for a motion to adjourn.
- a. P. Thompson motioned to adjourn, seconded by J. Feit. The motion passed without any opposition.
  - b. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kassandra Jordan  
Clerk of the Assembly