



Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University Assembly

Minutes of the October 18, 2022 Meeting

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM

Room 401, Physical Sciences Building | Zoom

I. Call to Order

- a. Chair D. Cady called the meeting to order at 4:50pm in Room 401 of the Physical Sciences Building.
- b. *Members Present:* G. Akkan, M. Benda, R. Bensel, D. Cady, K. Cram, G. Dong, A. Haenlin-Mott, P. Hanley, M. Heeney, I. Hewson, D. Hiner, Y. Hua, A. Juan, M. McEntee, B. Milles, J. Sun, V. Valencia
- c. *Members Absent:* O. Akujuo, E. DeRosa (represented by C. Specht), D. Howell
- d. *Also Present:* E. Kalweit, K. Grabel, C. Lederman, T. Chen, C. Specht (representing E. DeRosa), B. Lewenstein

II. Land Acknowledgement of the Gayogohono (Cayuga Nation)

- a. D. Cady stated the UA's acknowledgment of the Cayuga Nation.

III. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

- a. D. Cady asked the Assembly if there were any late additions to the agenda. No additions were provided.

IV. Approval of the September 20, 2022, Minutes

- a. D. Cady asked the Assembly if there were any changes that should be made to the minutes.
- b. R. Bensel moved to approve the minutes; A. Juan seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

V. Open Forum

- a. Ombuds Office presentation by Bruce Lewenstein
 - i. B. Lewenstein provided a presentation to the Assembly on the Ombuds Office. His remarks included an introduction to his position as University Ombuds and to the position of Linda Falkson, Associate University Ombuds and Director of the Ombuds Office. He also shared his and L. Falkson's background and experience for their positions.
 - ii. B. Lewenstein informed the Assembly of the Ombuds Office's key principles of confidentiality, independence, informality, and impartiality. He also provided information on the Ombuds Office in its association with the



Cornell University University Assembly

- International Ombuds Association, and how the principle of the Ombuds Office, founded in the 1960s, outlive the establishment of the I.O.A.
- iii. B. Lewenstein stated that the Ombuds Office can help with ethical issues or concerns; job reclassification, reappointment, and review; workplace climate and culture; supervisory and advising relationships; harassment or bullying; unfair treatment; and interpersonal issues. He also stated that in these ways, the Ombuds Office can encourage faculty, employee, and student retention.
 - iv. B. Lewenstein stated that the Ombuds Office provides information to visitors on University policy and how to make the University aware of an issue. He also stated that the Office discusses visitors' options in addressing their issue.
 - v. B. Lewenstein stated that the Ombuds Office has the typical steady flow of visitors and is updating their charter to reflect rewording. He stated they are also seeking to increase outreach and encourage institutional feedback. He also stated that the Ombuds Office will request an endorsement from the University Assembly on their new charter.
 - vi. R. Bensel asked about the most difficult cases of the Ombuds Office and whether some are irresolvable. B. Lewenstein stated that the most difficult cases for the Office are those involving a deep fundamental disagreement between individuals, such as between a student and an advisor. He also stated that while some cases are irresolvable, the Office ensures that they are at least ensuring that individuals feel the process has been fair.
 - vii. D. Cady asked how the University Assembly could support the Ombuds Office. B. Lewenstein stated that letting constituents know about the presence of the Ombuds Office across campus, as well as other Assemblies and organizations on campus. He stated that more details on the Ombuds Office can be found at ombuds.cornell.edu.
 - viii. C. Lederman asked what the role of the other party in the process described by B. Lewenstein. B. Lewenstein stated that the office primarily works with the visitor and will coach them to speak with whomever is applicable to their situation and may get in contact with the other party as necessary.
- b. Committee Appointments
- i. D. Hiner stated that a faculty member reached out to him asking about the possibility of their membership on the Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment and asked what the procedure was for securing their appointment to the Committee.
 - ii. D. Cady stated that it is the discretion of the chairs of the Assemblies to determine membership on the committees. He also stated that since there



Cornell University University Assembly

are vacancies on the University Assembly committees, so long as there is no conflict with the head of the Assembly.

- iii. D. Cady stated that there was an email sent out to all Assembly leadership notifying them of committee membership vacancies.

VI. Business of the Day

- a. D. Cady stated that President Pollack will attend the November 15th meeting (?) and that questions for President Pollack are due by November 8th to dc932@cornell.edu or ua@cornell.edu.
 - i. E. Kalweit stated that he will send information to the Assembly about whether the President will be bringing a visitor.
 - ii. B. Milles asked if the President's visit was annual. D. Cady responded that the President's visit occurs once a semester.
- b. Vote: Should we make the November 15th meeting Zoom-only to accommodate a request from our speaker?
 - i. D. Cady stated that Laura Santacrose, the Associate Director of the Skorton Center, would like to engage the Assemblies for input on an upcoming Mental Health Review. He also stated that the Mental Health Review is initiating a follow-up effort from their initial Review in 2020.
 - 1. Note from L. Santacrose: "If possible, it would be preferable for the session to take place via Zoom and have everyone be able to participate via Zoom – this would allow everyone to have access to the chat feature to participate and for us to be able to capture people's thoughts, suggestions, and ideas. We have found that hybrid sessions (with some people in-person and others online) are not conducive to this process."
 - ii. E. Kalweit stated that the meeting coincides with President Pollack's visit on November 15th.
 - iii. P. Hanley asked whether the meeting could take place fully in-person. D. Cady stated that his understanding was that some members
 - iv. A. Juan asked whether L. Santacrose would be willing to change the date of her visit.
 - v. B. Milles stated that it is an important opportunity to meet with President Pollack in person.
 - vi. A. Hanelin-Mott also stated that an in-person meeting with President Pollack should be the priority. R. Bensel seconded A. Hanelin-Mott's remarks and asked for an explanation of the rationale for a fully Zoom meeting.



Cornell University University Assembly

- vii. D. Cady stated that he suspected that a hybrid Zoom meeting poses some issues to an open discussion.
- viii. D. Hiner stated that as mental health is an important discussion topic, having a hybrid option is important to allow everyone to participate. He also stated that the
- ix. A. Juan suggested to amend the vote asked whether the date could be changed and if not, whether a hybrid option is possible.
- x. C. Specht stated that it is important to ensure a hybrid option and that it would be best to follow the practices of encouraging in-person participation with a hybrid option.
- xi. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that she is not against a hybrid option, but rather the visit's cooccurrence with the President's visit, which should take place in-person.
- xii. D. Cady proposed two votes, one on changing the date of the visit of L. Santacrose and another on proposing the hybrid model to L. Santacrose again.
- xiii. C. Specht stated that the cooccurrence with President Pollack's visit may gain traction and that an increased body of people when having the conversation could be beneficial. She also expressed her support of a hybrid option.
- xiv. A. Juan opposed having the meeting on the same day due to the time constraint of the meeting. M. Benda seconded A. Juan's remarks, stating that President Pollack's remarks could take away from the mental health discussion.
- xv. D. Cady moved his two proposals to a vote
 - 1. Vote 1: who is in favor of changing the date of the visit?
 - a. In a vote of 17-0-1, the Assembly moved to request a change of date of the meeting for the visit.
 - 2. Vote 2: who is in favor of proposing a hybrid option to L. Santacrose?
 - a. In a vote of 14-3-1, the Assembly moved to propose a hybrid option to L. Santacrose.
- c. Vote: Should the UA host a Campus Forum on Campus Safety/Emergency Response presentation by Dave Honan, AVP for Public Safety, and Dan Maas, Associate Director of Emergency Management and Business Continuity?
 - i. D. Cady stated that the University Assembly can hold a forum with a simple majority vote and suggested that the Campus Welfare Committee oversee the planning of the forum.

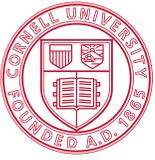


Cornell University University Assembly

- ii. A. Juan stated that as the chair of the Campus Welfare Committee, it is a good idea to spread information about campus safety and emergency response to the community.
- iii. D. Cady stated that the details of the forum would be at the discretion of a Resolution.
- iv. B. Milles stated that there is a lot of misinformation about what campus community members should do for emergency response and supported the Forum.
- v. D. Cady moved the proposal to a vote
 - 1. In a vote of 16-1-1, the motion to host a Campus Forum on Campus Safety/Emergency Response presentation by Dave Honan, AVP for Public Safety, and Dan Maas, Associate Director of Emergency Management and Business Continuity passed.

VII. Assembly Reports

- a. Student Assembly
 - i. V. Valencia stated that the Student Assembly has a new University Assembly representative, G. Dong. She also stated that the Assembly has filled its committee appointments and that the Assembly welcomed four new freshmen representatives and one transfer representative. She also stated that the Assembly passed a resolution condemning antisemitism.
- b. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly
 - i. P. Hanley introduced M. Heeney, the new University Assembly representative from the Graduate and Professional School Assembly. He also stated that the Assembly met last night, which included a discussion on fostering, and that the Assembly also hosted a weekend retreat since the University Assembly's last meeting.
- c. Employee Assembly
 - i. A. Haenlin-Mott stated that the Employee Assembly met last week, and that Gordon Burger attended the meeting to discuss insurance options for employees. She also stated that a Priorities Poll was sent out and is currently being promoted, despite the cooccurrence with Human Resources's survey sent to employees.
- d. Faculty Senate
 - i. C. Specht stated that the Faculty Senate met on October 12 and reached a quorum at the meeting. She also stated that there is now a cross-Cornell major in data science led by the Statistics and Data Science department, that the Senate passed a message of appreciation for those who provided help



Cornell University University Assembly

over the pandemic, and that there will be a forum on October 26th on academic communication. She also stated President Pollack will attend one of their meetings and that Student Disability Services. She also stated that David Honan presented on public safety to the Senate, that they received an update from the Committee for Academic Freedom and Professional Status, and that there was a presentation from Senator Ken Burman on a motion to reactivate Research Scientist titles.

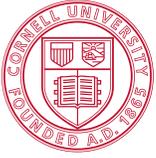
1. Motion to extend
 - a. M. Heeney motioned to extend the meeting by five minutes, B. Milles seconded.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. D. Cady stated that the Committee met with B. Lewenstein to prepare him for his presentation at this meeting.
- b. Codes and Judicial Committee
 - i. R. Bensel stated that the Committee now has five members and that they are interested in gaining members. B. Milles stated that other Assemblies will follow up about ensuring the Committee gains members.
- c. Campus Welfare Committee
 - i. A. Juan stated the Committee met for the first time last week and that the Committee is missing a Graduate and Professional School representative and a non-elected constituent representative.
- d. Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment
 - i. D. Hiner stated that the Committee met on October 5th and that the meeting included a robust discussion around transportation, technology, and sustainability.
 1. Motion to extend
 - a. M. Heeney motioned to extend the meeting by two minutes, A. Juan seconded.
 - ii. He stated that the Committee focused on improving parking for those who drive to campus and incentivizing electric vehicles with charging stations. He also discussed earth-source heating, which has been a success this year.

IX. Liaison Reports

- a. J. Sun stated that the Sustainability Operations Committee on September 26th in which the Committee found an increase in reusable dining containers and that the



Cornell University
University Assembly

Committee hopes to work on a Campus Sustainability guide, including work with Cornell Dining and analysis of recycling bin placement.

X. Adjournment

- a. R. Bensel motioned to adjourn the meeting, D. Hiner seconded.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

PJ Brown

Clerk of the Assembly